

# NEWS DIGEST

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1999

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## Crisis in Kosovo

# Refugee relocation planned

## NATO nations plan to absorb thousands

BLACE, Macedonia (AP) — Living amid squalor and knee-deep mud, tens of thousands of refugees in a miserable no-man's land along the Macedonian border struggled Sunday against hunger and freezing temperatures.

Their desperate plight — and that of tens of thousands of other refugees flooding out of Kosovo — is spurring NATO nations to offer temporary refuge to take the pressure off neighbors of the southern Serbian province that are overwhelmed by the refugee influx.

Some of the worst of the suffering could be seen at a squalid encampment on the Macedonian-Yugoslav border. In only days, it has become a refugee city, with wisps of smoke wafting over a landscape of shelters made of plastic or blankets.

With no latrines in the camp, human feces were ground into the mud underfoot. Some refugees walked into a half-empty field near a river, many washing themselves in the freezing cold water.

"It is like nothing I have ever experienced," said one woman who identified herself only as Lora, with tears in her eyes.

After days of waiting, some aid was arriving at the squalid camp. Aid workers distributed boxes of cookies and cartons of juice. Blankets and plastic sheeting were also supplied.

For some, the help was coming too late. Julia Taft, U.S. assistant secretary of state for refugees who visited the camp Sunday, said 11 elderly people had died there in the past few days.

"It is very grim," she said. In response to the burgeoning crisis, NATO nations prepared to begin taking in the refugees, while stressing it was only a temporary measure. Germany is ready to accept 40,000; the United States, 20,000; and Turkey, 20,000, NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said in Brussels, Belgium on Sunday.

NATO is marshaling planes, food, shelter, medical and other aid for Macedonia and Albania, which are dealing with an estimated 135,000 refugees and 190,000 refugees respec-



**AN ETHNIC ALBANIAN BOY shows a peace sign as he travels on a bus after being expelled from Kosovo on Saturday. As NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia continue, tens of thousands of Kosovars are being forced to flee to neighboring countries and NATO-member nations.**

DARKO BANDIC/NEWSMAKERS

tively. Montenegro, the smaller of the two republics that make up Yugoslavia, has taken in another 32,000 Kosovars who say they are fleeing Serb atrocities.

Taft said she had received assurances from President Kiro Gligorov that Macedonia's border would remain open to those fleeing Kosovo, provided other nations would take them in.

Fearing political instability as a result of the influx, Macedonia said it could allow no more than 20,000 refugees to remain. But it agreed Sunday to allow arrivals to be ferried from the muddy border field to a tent city being set up by NATO forces near its capital, Skopje.

At the edge of the encampment, long lines of buses were taking away an estimated 300 refugees an hour, or about 5,000 a day, slowly shrinking the encampment whose size had swelled to 70,000 refugees.

A few were already being flown

out of Macedonia on the return legs of arriving aid flights, and Macedonia's deputy prime minister, Radmilla Kiprijanova, said Sunday that large-scale airlifts using military transport would get under way from the Skopje airport.

The airlift was to have begun Sunday night, but by nightfall no flights had left, and officials said they were hoping to start Monday.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who met Sunday with Macedonian officials, accused Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic of deliberately seeking to destabilize neighboring states by flooding them with Kosovar refugees.

"The essence of what has happened is that in addition to the outrage that President Milosevic is perpetrating against the people of Kosovo, he is also using refugees as an instrument of war, as a weapon against the stability of neighboring states," Talbott said. "He

will not succeed."

NATO is trying to reassure the front-line states that they will not be left to shoulder the burden alone. On Monday, a NATO delegation led by the alliance's Deputy Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino, leaves for Romania and Bulgaria, then will travel on to Macedonia and Albania on Tuesday to consult about refugee problems.

Some questioned whether NATO might be exacerbating the problem by providing temporary shelter outside the region.

"We should not disperse people all over," European Union Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Emma Bonino said Sunday. "We should not cooperate in any way with ethnic cleansing."

NATO stressed it remained the alliance's aim for refugees to return to Kosovo — but acknowledged that would not be easy and until peace and security were established in the province.

## Law faculty tables motion on long-hair controversy

By JOSH KNAUB  
Staff writer

The faculty of the University of Nebraska College of Law tabled a motion Friday relating to long-haired third-year student Thayne Glenn.

Glenn was denied access in January to a program sponsored by the law college and County Attorney Gary Lacey's office because of the length of his hair.

The motion, which did not mention Glenn, would affirm that the College of Law complied with the university's non-discrimination policy, which includes hair length and require the college to not participate in any program that did not comply with the

policy.

Law Professor John Snowden, the motion's chief sponsor, has previously questioned whether students could be discriminated against based on their appearance.

Kevin Ruser, the faculty coordinator of the criminal clinic from which Glenn was barred, was not able to attend Friday's meeting and requested a delay until he could be present.

The motion to table passed 18-4 after an amendment to delay action until the next regularly scheduled meeting, slated for August, failed 11-10.

Nancy Rapoport, dean of the college, said the faculty would meet again "within a couple of weeks" to discuss the issue.

## World and Nation DATELINES

### United Kingdom Ticket sales lagging for Princess Diana tours

LONDON (AP) — Sales of tickets to visit Princess Diana's ancestral home and her final resting place have been slow so far this year, and nearly half remain unsold three months before the gates are opened to the public.

Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, will open the Althorp estate, and the museum he created in her memory, from July 1 through Aug. 30, the day before the second anniversary of Diana's death in a 1997 Paris car crash.

The tickets went on sale in January and more than 70,000 of the 152,000 available tickets remain unsold, a spokeswoman for the earl said Sunday.

### Texas

#### JFK Memorial vandalized

DALLAS (AP) — The John F. Kennedy Memorial was defaced by vandals with spray paint who caused thousands of dollars worth of damage.

The black and red graffiti on the interior walls of the downtown memorial might have been done by a hate group, said Officer Leroy Quigg of the Dallas police gang unit. The painted images included a swastika.

Police believe the vandalism occurred late Friday night or Saturday morning.

Cleanup should be completed in a few days, officials said.

The monument attracts about 500,000 visitors annually. It was also vandalized in 1997.

The memorial, built in 1970, consists of 50-foot-high white concrete walls that surround a square black marble slab bearing the name of the president who was assassinated nearby in 1963.

### Israel

#### Christians, Muslims fight over proposed plaza

NAZARETH, Israel (AP) — Easter Sunday turned violent in the town of Jesus' boyhood when clashes erupted between Christians and Muslims, angry over the planned construction of a plaza for millennium Christian pilgrims near a mosque.

Thousands of young Muslim men gathered at the disputed site near the Church of the Annunciation where Muslims have been holding protests for nearly a year.

More than 70 Israeli police in riot gear soon arrived but made little effort to stop the violence.

### Russia

#### Cargo ship successfully docks with Mir space station

MOSCOW (AP) — A cargo ship docked smoothly with Russia's Mir space station Sunday, bringing with it 5,364 pounds of food, water, fuel and equipment for scientific experiments, Russian news agencies reported.

The Progress cargo ship had blasted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Friday.

The Mir's current crew of two Russians and a Frenchman is possibly its last. If outside investors cannot be found to foot the 13-year-old station's \$250 million yearly costs, the cash-strapped government will discard it in August.

Russia's space chief has said private investors have come forward, but the United States still wants the government to dedicate its attention to the International Space Station.

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