

More troops sent to Kosovo

WASHINGTON (AP) — France is sending 600 to 700 more troops to help quell the rising violence in a divided city in northern Kosovo, and the United States may send in a Marine unit, U.S. and French officials said Wednesday.

France has decided to dispatch an Army battalion to the city of Kosovska Mitrovica, in a part of Kosovo controlled by French peacekeepers, French Defense Minister Alain Richard said at a news conference with William Cohen, the U.S. defense secretary.

"It is simply normal military business to decide ... to make the real provisions so that we take control of the situation there," Richard said.

France already has about 4,500 troops in Kosovo.

Cohen said no decision has been made on whether more American troops would go. But a senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a Marine Expeditionary Unit was on standby for possible movement into the French sector of Kosovo.

"We frankly don't anticipate that

"It is simply normal military business to decide ... to make the real provisions so that we take control of the situation there."

Alain Richard
French defense minister

this is going to be a long-term problem but rather a flashpoint that has erupted in the last few days or weeks, and that's the reason we think that a greater show of force and a greater capability is going to be essential," Cohen said.

The Marine unit normally has about 2,200 Marines aboard amphibious ships. It was not immediately clear how many Marines might be called upon if the United States decided to commit more troops to Kosovo.

The rising tensions in Mitrovica over the past three weeks prompted the North Atlantic Council, NATO's governing body, to call a special meeting for Friday in Brussels, Belgium, to dis-

cuss Kosovo, the southern province of Serbia from which Yugoslav forces were pushed by a NATO bombing campaign last spring.

A U.S. official said Army Gen. Wesley Clark and the German general in charge of the NATO peacekeeping operation in Kosovo had requested three additional NATO battalions for the French sector.

That would be roughly 1,800 to 2,000 soldiers, in addition to the approximately 30,000 NATO troops in all of Kosovo now.

Richard said France immediately would dispatch one battalion. NATO authorities were to meet later this week

to decide how to allocate the other two battalions Clark said are needed to control the ethnic violence.

Several NATO countries had designated units as a strategic reserve in case a problem, such as the one in Mitrovica, arose. The reinforcements include units from Italy and Poland, plus the U.S. Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Cohen said reinforcing NATO's peacekeeping operations will complicate efforts by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to heighten ethnic tensions in Kosovo in defiance of the June agreement to end NATO's bombing.

"Milosevic will take advantage of every opportunity he can" to undermine NATO's authority and to foment ethnic unrest, Cohen said.

The defense secretary said NATO needs to add to its existing force in order to show Milosevic that he cannot get away with such actions.

"With this robust reinforcement, we think we will send the right signal" to both Milosevic and the ethnic Albanians, Cohen said.

Prison riot claims life of one inmate

CRESCENT CITY, Calif. (AP) — Guards shot 13 inmates, killing one, to quell a race riot Wednesday at a prison that houses some of California's most dangerous criminals, a prison spokesman said.

About 200 black and Hispanic inmates with handmade weapons began fighting in a yard of the highest-security wing of Pelican Bay State Prison, Lt. Ben Grundy said. The violence ended a half-hour later after guards, who first used tear gas and pepper spray, opened fire, he said.

Grundy did not know what sparked the violence, although he noted, "We've had racial incidents in the past."

The maximum-security prison was built for 2,280 inmates but has 3,400, many of whom were sent there after being involved in violence or escape attempts at other prisons. About 1,200 of the inmates are in permanent lockdown.

The 12 prisoners wounded by guards were taken to hospitals, and one

was in critical condition, said Grundy, who would not give details on the others' conditions. KIEM-TV reported that 19 inmates suffered injuries related to the melee, such as stabbings and beatings. No guards were hurt.

The prison, which opened in 1989, is situated on 270 acres of forest land 20 miles south of the Oregon state line.

Guards were able to put down another riot at Pelican Bay last August by firing tear gas and rubber bullets. A guard suffered a fractured cheekbone, but no inmates were seriously hurt.

In 1997, six inmates were killed in clashes between cellmates at the prison.

In an apparently unrelated case, two former guards are charged with violating the civil rights of Pelican Bay inmates. A federal grand jury indictment made public Wednesday accuses E. Michael Powers and Jose Ramon Garcia of conspiring to arrange assaults on prisoners, one of them fatal.

Garcia is already serving a state prison sentence on similar charges.

Bush's campaign methods criticized

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shaken by defeat, Republican leaders allied with George W. Bush strongly criticized his campaign tactics Wednesday and warned that rival John McCain is a serious threat to the hobbled GOP front-runner.

Governors, fund-raisers and ranking GOP officials second-guessed Bush and his strategists in the aftermath of McCain's sweep of Michigan and Arizona in Tuesday primaries. The complaints ranged from his decision to visit a conservative South Carolina university — which one governor called "stupid" — to the \$1 million TV ad campaign in McCain's home state.

"I think there's a learning curve happening right now in terms of running a national campaign," said Chris DePino, chairman of the Connecticut Republican Party and a staunch Bush supporter.

The allies said they still believe Bush will prevail in upcoming primaries. "When it comes down to it, and they actually have to choose a nominee and a president, voters are going to be looking for the guy who had done stuff and not just look at the slogans and a lot of rah rah," said Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. "That's when Governor Bush will prevail."

But their willingness to critique the campaign underscores a growing concern about the candidate they anointed a front-runner long before the first votes were cast.

McCain, meanwhile, crowed about his "overwhelming and phenomenal victory" during a Washington state swing, as both campaigns drew up strategies for a two-week stretch of contests in 16 states and four American territories.

Republicans were hit with the stark realization Wednesday that they may be in for a long, expensive race that could produce a weakened nominee.

"There's a lot of people who signed on early with Governor Bush who are wondering why this is going on so long," said New Hampshire party chairman Steve Duprey.

"I think there's a learning curve happening right now in terms of running a national campaign."

Chris DePino
chairman, Connecticut Republican Party

The sentiment was echoed throughout GOP circles, as the fallout from the Michigan defeat engulfed Bush's closest allies.

DePino, one of Bush's early fund-raisers, sighed loudly into the telephone when the subject of Arizona spending came up. "I just wish I had a little more input on how they directed some of this money," he said.

Bush struggled to defend the Arizona spending, telling reporters, "I never expected to win Arizona. It was just part of our overall strategy."

Bush's fast-spending ways are a constant complaint now that public records show McCain has narrowed his financial advantage.

McCain is counting on a sweep of New England states, victories in most of New York's congressional districts and a triumph in California to force Bush to compete well past a six-state showdown March 14.

Bush believes he can slow his rival March 7 by winning California, most of New York, Ohio, Georgia and Missouri, a state that McCain may not contest. Bush hopes to put McCain away March 14, when votes are cast in six states — including Texas and the home of his brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Barbara Alby, a member of the Republican National Committee in California, said McCain is now a serious contender for the state's 162 delegates.

World and Nation Datelines

Atlanta Man returns to United States after presidential pardon

ATLANTA (AP) — A black man who refused induction into the Army in the 1960s because the all-white draft board wouldn't address him as "Mr." was returning to the United States for the first time in 39 years Wednesday after receiving a presidential pardon.

Preston King, 63, fled his hometown of Albany, Ga., in 1961 after being sentenced to 18 months in prison. Over the years, he made a life for himself as a professor in England, where his daughter is a member of Parliament.

On Monday, President Clinton granted King a pardon so he could return to Albany for the funeral Thursday of his oldest brother, Clennon W. King Jr.

East Timor Peacekeepers withdraw; nation nears statehood

DILI, East Timor (AP) — Wrecked and burned out, but peaceful at last, East Timor moved a little closer to nationhood Wednesday when Australian-led peacekeepers withdrew five months after ending a wave of pro-Indonesian militia violence.

The departure of the International Force in East Timor, called Interfet, leaves a U.N. force of blue berets in control of the half-island territory, which remains several years away from independence.

U.N. administrators temporarily governing East Timor said the new force would maintain peace so that desperately needed reconstruction could proceed.

Canada Police break up riot that arose from youth meeting

QUEBEC CITY, Quebec (AP) — Police in riot gear fired tear gas and dodged Molotov cocktails and billiard balls Tuesday evening, during a clash with about 2,000 protesters outside a meeting of young people and civic leaders.

The crowd eventually dispersed, and there were no reports of arrests.

The meeting — bringing together politicians, business leaders and youth groups to advise the government on youth policy — was called off for the day.

Police said the violence began as the protesters, who included activists, students and communist party members, gathered as the meeting was about to open in the city's Grand Theater.

New York Deliberations begin in trial of police accused of murder

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The jury began deliberating Wednesday in the case of four white police officers charged with killing an unarmed black man, after the judge said the jurors could acquit if they believed the officers acted in self-defense.

The officers could be cleared if jurors believe their claim that they fired 41 bullets at Amadou Diallo because they thought he had a gun and wanted to shoot them, Justice Joseph Teresi said.

"A person who acts in self-defense is not guilty of any crime," he said.

The judge spent more than three hours going over the legal instructions for each of 24 criminal counts before deliberations began.

WEATHER	
TODAY	TOMORROW
Partly cloudy high 53, low 48	Breezy, showers high 61, low 39

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