

## Note confirms fears of crew's loved ones

The letter revealed that sailors remained alive for many hours after the Kursk sank.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MURMANSK, Russia** — Huddled in a destroyed submarine on the sea floor, a Russian sailor wrote a terse account of how he and 22 comrades tried in vain to escape, then scrawled a last message to his family, Russian naval officials said Thursday.

The note was found in the pocket of Lt. Dmitry Kolesnikov, whose body was one of the first recovered from the nuclear submarine Kursk that sank Aug. 12 with 118 men aboard. The message was the first firm evidence that any of the crew initially survived explosions that shattered the submarine.

Written a few hours after the sub plunged to the bottom of the Barents Sea, the note tells a horrifying story in eerily straightforward sentences.

"All the crew from the sixth, seventh and eighth compartments went over to the ninth. There are 23 people here. We made this decision as a result of the accident," Russian navy chief Adm. Vladimir Kuroyedov quoted the note as saying.

"None of us can get to the surface," the message continued.

Kolesnikov's handwriting in the first part of the note was neat, Kuroyedov said during a meeting with the victims' relatives. But after the submarine's emergency lights went out, the 27-year-old seaman from St. Petersburg began to scrawl and desperation set in.

"I am writing blindly," Kuroyedov quoted the latter part

*"I had a premonition my husband didn't die instantly. The pain I felt then has come true."*

**Olga Kolesnikov**  
widow of Kursk victim

of the note as saying.

The rest of the note was private and would be shown to Kolesnikov's family, said Vice Adm. Mikhail Motsak, the Northern Fleet chief of staff.

Most of the Kursk's crew apparently died instantly in the explosions that tore open the Kursk's first six compartments or within minutes as water roared into the submarine.

But the knowledge that some remained alive for hours revived the horror that gripped the nation after the sinking.

"I feel pain, enormous pain," Kolesnikov's widow, Olga, said on the NTV television channel. "I had a premonition my husband didn't die instantly. The pain I felt then has come true."

In excerpts of a documentary shown on NTV Thursday, Olga also said her husband had penned her a mournful poem in the days before he went on the Kursk's final voyage and left it.

"Shortly before he went to sea, he wrote a poem to me that says 'When the hour to die will come, although I try not to think about it, I would like to have time to say, 'My darling I love you,'" she said in a documentary made by Norway's TV2. Parts of it were shown on NTV Thursday.

The recovered bodies were to



A 1997 file photo shows Russian Lt. Dmitry Kolesnikov, the commander of the nuclear submarine Kursk's turbine section, in this image from television. A note found in his pocket was recovered with the bodies of three other crewmen from the nuclear submarine.

be flown on Saturday to Severomorsk, the Northern Fleet's main port, for a memorial service. However, fierce winds forced the divers to suspend operations Thursday, and it was unclear when bodies could be brought to the surface, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

The Russian government has been widely criticized at home for a slow and seemingly confused response to the disaster.

Russian mini-submarines

tried unsuccessfully for days to open the Kursk's escape hatch. There were reports that noises from the wreckage could have come from trapped sailors banging on the hull.

Two days after the Kursk went down, Russia made the sinking public. Although Western countries quickly offered to help, it was another two days before a Norwegian diving team was asked to assist. The Norwegians quickly opened the hatch but determined

that the sub was flooded and the crew dead.

Kolesnikov's note gives no indication of whether any of the crew survived beyond a few hours. At least some of the 23 were injured, and the compartment showed signs of fire, Kuroyedov said.

Motsak said the note was completed by 3:15 p.m. local time, less than four hours after ships in the area registered two powerful explosions.

## Relief plan requires Democratic support

Republicans say the package would alleviate tax burden and raise the minimum wage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — Defying yet another veto threat from President Clinton on tax cuts, congressional Republicans forged ahead Thursday with a 10-year, \$240 billion tax relief package that would also raise the minimum wage by \$1 and restore Medicare cuts for health care providers.

Barely 24 hours after Clinton offered the GOP a compromise on the tax bill, the president complained that Republicans ignored his priorities in assembling the final 900-plus-page product. Republicans, on the other hand, portrayed the measure as chock full of popular

items and warned Democrats not to anger the public just before Election Day.

"The president is going to have to explain to an awful lot of Americans, again, why he is opposed to giving them tax relief," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas. "We can't negotiate with him forever."

The House voted 237-174 to pass the bill Thursday, with 33 Democrats in favor but short of the two-thirds margin necessary to override a veto.

The Senate began debating the bill Thursday night but postponed a vote until Friday at the earliest.

Several Democrats criticized the massive bill as hastily- and ill-conceived, pointing out a GOP mistake that technically would cause the current \$5.15-an-hour minimum wage to lapse for six months, until the first of two annual 50-cent increases kicked in on Jan. 1.

The legislation, including several popular tax measures previously passed by the House with strong Democratic support, contains tax breaks to help people pay for long-term health care, save for retirement and help business pay for a \$1 minimum wage increase over two years.

The bill also would provide new tax incentives to revive economically depressed areas, help U.S. exporters avert a trade war with the European Union and restore \$30 billion over five years for 1997 Medicare cuts to health care providers.

## Cole investigators threatened

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ADEN, Yemen** — Machine-gun mounted military vehicles surrounded a port-side hotel, and civilian traffic was kept away Thursday, after a bomb threat targeted Americans investigating the attack on the USS Cole.

The U.S. ambassador to Yemen, Barbara Bodine, also was staying at the hotel, and the threat was considered serious enough to wake her to inform her early Thursday. Bodine has temporarily moved from the embassy in San'a to monitor the investigation.

The U.S. Defense Department said Tuesday that American forces in Bahrain, Qatar and Turkey are on heightened alert because of new evidence of terrorist threats in the region.

In Aden, Yemeni security officials said the telephoned bomb threat from an unknown caller came in around midnight. Yemeni and U.S. security officials held an emergency meeting before dawn and adopted the new security precautions, including preventing civilian traffic from getting within 500 yards of the hotel.

In Washington, Defense Secretary William Cohen and Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, held a private video conference with U.S. military commanders around the world, urging them to shore up weak points in troop security.

The Oct. 12 attack on the Cole killed 17 U.S. sailors and wounded 39 others. Officials believe two suicide bombers maneuvered a small boat next to the destroyer and detonated it.

The bomb threat at the hotel came as FBI investigators finished gathering evidence from the ship to send back to the United States for analysis.

About 80 FBI evidence technicians had returned home by Thursday after completing their work, said a federal law enforcement official in Washington. More than 20 other FBI agents remain in Yemen, including investigators and security and communications experts, the official said.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno told a news conference the experts were leaving Yemen as soon as they completed their work.

"We're bringing them out and trying to do it in an orderly way that will ensure security," Reno said.

The Cole is to be carried back to the United States on a special "heavy-lift" ship that is expected to reach Aden on Sunday.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Wednesday that one of the two suspected bombers has been identified by witnesses as an Egyptian and that a number of Arab veterans of Afghanistan's war against Soviet troops had been detained in connection with the blast.

Saleh said those being detained were senior members of the Muslim militant group Islamic Jihad, including Yemenis, Egyptians and Algerians.

Terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden was prominently involved in the Afghan resistance and now lives in Afghanistan, but Saleh declined to say whether the attackers or detainees had any connection to bin Laden's Al-Qaida group.

Saleh spoke on MBC televi-

*"We're bringing them out and trying to do it in an orderly way that will ensure security."*

**Janet Reno**  
U.S. attorney general

sion, a Saudi-owned satellite channel broadcast from London.

If terrorism is proved, the Cole bombing would be the deadliest terrorist attack on the U.S. military since 19 Air Force personnel died in a 1996 truck-bomb explosion in Saudi Arabia.

A representative in the United States of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban said that "if the U.S. government or any other government provided us evidence, we are willing to take (bin Laden) to trial, according to their desire and their demands."

But Abdul Hakim Mujahid — making a rare public speech at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Massachusetts on Wednesday — said he doubted there was any evidence tying bin Laden to the attack.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Hussein Mohammed Arab said Thursday that the investigation into a grenade attack on the British Embassy in San'a is nearing conclusion.

He said the Islamic Jihad member suspected of throwing the grenade onto the embassy grounds one day after the Cole attack will be referred to the prosecution next week.

### World/Nation

The Associated Press

#### Washington, D.C.

**Query: Census Bureau didn't violate rules**

Congressional investigators have cleared the Census Bureau of violating any federal guidelines by participating in an event tied to the Democratic National Convention.

Because the role of Census officials appeared to have been "informational in nature" and did not amount to "publicity or propaganda, the Bureau's participation in the symposium did not violate appropriations act restrictions," the General Accounting Office report said.

The investigation had been requested by Rep. Dan Miller, R-Fla., after The Associated Press reported the agency's participation in the event in Los Angeles on Aug. 12, just before the Democratic convention.

#### New York City

**Court: Woman can't visit mistake baby**

A state appeals court has denied visitation rights to a white woman who gave birth to a black couple's baby after an embryo mix-up in a fertility clinic.

The New York Appellate Division ruled 5-0 Thursday that the birth of Robert and Deborah Perry Rogers' child to Donna Fasano was a mistake and that she and her husband, Richard, had no right to seek visitation with the child.

In its unanimous 17-page ruling, the court said the case was akin to a hospital's "mix-up of two newborn infants, which should simply be corrected at once," than a case in which the birth mother might claim the same rights as the genetic mother.

The Rogers family of Teaneck, N.J., got the news from their lawyer, Bernard Clair. "They were weeping, both of them, with happiness," he said. "They were very emotional. They've been on tenterhooks for quite some time."

David Cohen, a lawyer for the Fasanos, who live in Staten Island, said his clients would be disappointed by the decision and would likely appeal.

#### New York City

**Kissinger in hospital following heart attack**

Former Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, remained hospitalized Thursday after suffering a heart attack one day earlier.

"He's doing well, and is expected to be there for a few days," said Kathy Robinson, spokeswoman for the New York Weill-Cornell Medical Center, where Kissinger was admitted Wednesday.

Robinson said Kissinger suffered a heart attack but she provided no details.

Kissinger, 77, who had bypass surgery in 1982, was secretary of state in the Nixon and Ford administrations. He has since worked as a consultant and written his memoirs and several books and newspaper articles.

Kissinger was expected to attend a dinner Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is planning next Wednesday for former secretaries of state.

#### Rhode Island

**Egypt Air agrees to bring crash relatives to service**

PROVIDENCE — EgyptAir agreed Thursday to bring the relatives of 89 Egyptians who died in the Flight 990 crash to a U.S. memorial service marking next week's anniversary.

The airline had said it would pay only for North American families traveling to Newport next Tuesday, one year after the plane went down in sea off Massachusetts.

Relatives of the Egyptian victims complained and the airline relented. Airline officials had said they simply wanted to save Egyptians the trouble of traveling abroad and had planned a separate service in Cairo. That service is now postponed.

The crash killed 217 people. Its cause has not been determined.

**Weather**

**TODAY**  
Partly cloudy  
high 67, low 53

**TOMORROW**  
Showers  
high 63, low 50

**SUNDAY**  
Showers  
high 67, low 45

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DAILY NEBRASKAN

## Parkinson's cure one step closer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — A gene therapy experiment relieved severe symptoms of Parkinson's disease in monkeys, and experts say the technique offers promise for treating the 1.2 million Americans who suffer from the disease.

A virus that had been joined with a gene that prompts production of dopamine, a chemical neurotransmitter, was injected into the brains of monkeys who had chemically induced Parkinson's disease.

Three monkeys that had severe symptoms of Parkinson's were restored to near normal by the gene therapy, said Jeffrey H. Kordower, first author of a study appearing Friday in the journal Science.

"We are able to stop the disease in its tracks and to keep it from progressing," said Kordower, the director of the Research Center for Brain Repair at the

Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago.

"The experiment showed dramatic protective effects," said Dr. Ted M. Dawson, head of the Parkinson's Disease Research Center at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center. "It is promising, but I would be only cautiously optimistic."

Parkinson's disease, which affects about 1.2 million Americans, is a progressive disorder that affects brain cells that make dopamine.

The loss of dopamine causes the classic Parkinson's symptoms: trembling, slow and stiff movement of limbs, a halting walk, speech difficulties and loss of balance.

The cause of the disease is unknown and there is currently no cure.

Before the gene therapy could be tried in humans, questions about safety would have to be answered, Dawson said.