

# STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT CANDIDATE DEBATE

Come hear the views of the 1988-89 Student Body President candidates Brian Banner and Jay Hays

Monday, March 28th  
607 Rudder  
8:30 p.m.

Open question and answer session immediately following debate

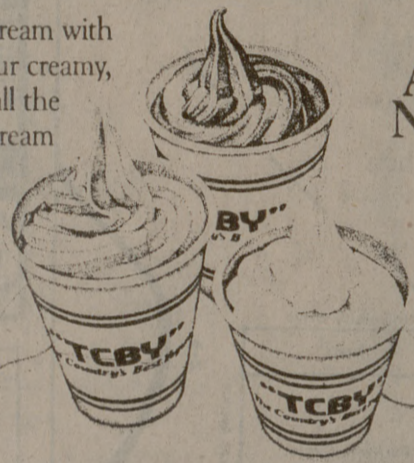
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# ANNUAL DRESS SALE

# World and Nation

## Chemical warfare fires conflicts in Middle East

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The slaughter of Kurdish civilians in Iraqi poison gas attacks and Iranian warnings of retaliation underscore the growth of the chemical warfare arsenals of major Middle East powers.

Despite efforts to curb such weapons, their spread has added a dangerous new dimension to conflicts in the Middle East. Their use, but not their production, is banned under a 1925 Geneva agreement.

The London-based *Jane's Defense Weekly* noted in a recent study that the use of poison and nerve gases since 1984 in the 7½-year-old Iran-Iraq war has "changed the rules of war in the Middle East."

Tehran charges that Iraqi warplanes have dropped chemical bombs on several villages in northwestern Iraq after Iranian forces

overran the Kurdish area in a ground offensive.

Western correspondents in Iran have reported evidence to substantiate Iranian claims that 5,000 Iraqi Kurds were killed and another 5,000 injured when Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on towns captured by the Iranians in northeastern Iraq last week.

Nicholas Beeson of *The Times of London* reported from Halabja, one of the towns, that "hundreds and possibly thousands" of the Kurds, who have been rebelling against Baghdad for years, were killed.

Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of Iran's Parliament and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, warned Thursday that Iran will be forced to use chemical weapons in retaliation if the Iraqi attacks continue.

The intensity of Tehran's accusations against Iraq in recent days has heightened fears that the Iraqis may be seeking to justify the use of chemical weapons of their own.

U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Wednesday there was evidence Iran may already have fired chemical shells into Iraq. He declined to elaborate.

Iraq, a signatory to the 1925 Geneva agreement, has been condemned by the United Nations four times since 1984 for using chemical weapons. The Iraqis claim the Iraqis have launched around 100 chemical attacks in that period, mainly against Iranian troops.

Sources said there are indications that the Iraqis are also working on germ warfare weapons.

## High opposition figure comes out of exile to battle Noriega

PANAMA CITY (AP) — A leading opposition figure returned from exile Thursday and rejoined an increasingly desperate struggle to topple Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"We have but one objective: to get rid of Noriega and build reconciliation and democracy in Panama!" Ricardo Arias Calderon, the president of the Christian Democratic Party said in an address to a chanting, cheering crowd of about 300 people who greeted his flight from Costa Rica.

"I am profoundly moved to be back in my own land," he said.

The return of Arias Calderon, considered a presidential aspirant in elections scheduled for May 1989, came on the fourth day of a nationwide general strike aimed at ousting Noriega, who is the head of the 15,000-member Defense Forces and

is the power behind the civilian government.

Despite almost unanimous support for the strike by business and industry, Noriega remained defiant, saying Wednesday night his opponents at home and in the United States don't "have the capacity" to overthrow him.

That feeling appeared to be shared by some strike leaders, who said it might take a revolt by fellow officers to remove Noriega as head of the Defense Forces.

"There are growing pockets within the Defense Forces that are against Noriega," Jose Mulino, an attorney and opposition leader, said. "What we don't know is if they will act," he said.

But in his speech to a group of about 500 supporters, Noriega claimed the military was maintaining "its high moral and patriotic beliefs" despite a failed barracks coup last week.

Eleven officers were arrested that foiled plot. Noriega dismissed more than a dozen officers and shifted the assignments of other personnel.

Still, the members of the Defense Forces are due to be paid Friday and opposition leaders said they would not pay Noriega if they don't get their paychecks.

Panama is out of cash because Washington cut off the supply of U.S. dollars, the Panamanian national currency, in a bid to drive Noriega into exile. The general was indicted in the United States a month on federal cocaine trafficking charges.

The government was unable to fully meet a \$33 million payroll of 130,000 public employees earlier this month, touching off strikes and demonstrations by workers considered loyal to Noriega.

## Nicaraguans react with hope to cease-fire

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Nicaraguans on Thursday reacted with hope tempered by memories of war to an agreement between the government and Contra rebels that may bring peace for the first time since 1981.

Both sides kept their guns silent by mutual consent. A business leader in the much relieved country of Nicaragua said that the cease-fire accord signed Wednesday night was a miracle.

During three days of negotiations in a border town that resulted in an agreement Wednesday night, both sides had said it was the last chance for peace in Nicaragua. The formal cease-fire is to begin April 1.

Virgilio Godoy, president of the opposition Independent Liberal Party, said Thursday: "I believe that the agreement is a hope... It is not a question of saying now who won and who lost in the agreement, but that Nicaragua and thousands of mothers who have sons in the war won."

Alonso Moreno, who owns a shoe store and has three nephews in the army, said: "This is the most important thing that has occurred since 1979 when the Somoza dictatorship was overthrown."

In a broadcast Thursday, the rebel Radio Liberacion said, "The (Nicaraguan) Resistance has taken an initial step to end the hostilities in critic, called the pact 'a miracle,' and added: 'Perhaps the Sandinista Front will finally comply with its word.'"

Rebel leader Alfredo Cesar told journalists that, "It is not just a chance to achieve peace and harmony, but the only chance."

Leaders of the Sandinistas and the U.S.-sponsored Contras stood side-by-side on a makeshift dais Wednesday night in Sapoa, sang the national anthem together and signed the cease-fire.

During the three days, both sides retreated from hard positions, especially the Sandinistas, who stand to gain the most from an agreement that would virtually end the insurgency.

The Contras agreed not to accept military aid and to receive non-lethal supplies exclusively from neutral organizations. They also agreed to the repression demanded by the rebels, and to permit all exiles to return home.

## World Briefs

### House approves trillion dollar budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved with rare bipartisanship Wednesday a \$1.1 trillion budget that would tighten domestic and military spending but boost high-profile items including AIDS research, education, the space program and the war on drugs.

The fiscal 1989 plan, which follows the outlines of last fall's budget summit between President Reagan and congressional leaders, was approved 319 to 102. A

majority of both Democrats and Republicans voted in favor of the package.

The House brushed aside criticism from Reagan's budget director, who said the plan used accounting gimmicks to stay within the prearranged spending limits. It also rejected three alternative budget proposals.

Many members conceded they were putting off tough deficit-reduction decisions until next year, but Republicans and Democrats praised the plan.

### Irish allow officers to attend funerals

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Police on Wednesday said they were abandoning their policy of staying away from IRA funerals, following the slayings of five people — including two British soldiers — at rites last week.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher joined grieving relatives at Northolt air base near London as the bodies of two British soldiers arrived home and were lifted from a transport plane to the strains of Chopin's "Funeral March."

It was the first time a prime minister attended such a function since Britain deployed troops in Ireland.

In central Belfast, police mounted heavy patrols at the Cenotaph as 25,000 people turned out for an emotional service for the soldiers.

On Saturday, the two corporals were dragged from their unmarked car, beaten, stripped and shot after they drove up to an Irish Republican Army funeral.

No police had been assigned to the funeral.

### Disintegrating checks cause losses

CHICAGO (AP) — Checks treated with a chemical that causes them to disintegrate into confetti shortly after being deposited have shown up in at least two states, costing banks nearly \$70,000 since the beginning of the year, police said Thursday.

A check clearinghouse said it has warned 142 banks to be on the lookout for the dissolving checks, which may have an unusual odor and feel oily.

The checks have turned up at five or six banks in the Chicago

area and at one bank in Tennessee, Capt. James Zurawski of the Chicago Police Department's financial crimes division said. Authorities also are checking a report of a possible dissolving check in Indiana, Zurawski said.

"The one I've got in front of me looks like a handful of ashes," Zurawski said.

The checks, supposedly drawn on personal accounts at banks in California and Tennessee, have been reported in about 12 incidents in recent weeks, costing banks about \$70,000, he said.

### Shultz says Soviets must end aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz on Wednesday night ruled out any agreement to end the 7½-year war in Afghanistan until the Soviet Union suspends military aid to the Marxist government there.

Shultz said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze had rejected a U.S. proposal for

moratorium on new weapons shipments while the Soviets withdraw their troops and for three months afterward.

He said the United States offered to suspend its support for the Afghan resistance during the same period.

"They didn't feel they could agree to that," Shultz said at a news conference at the windup of three days of talks.