

# World and Nation

## Iran accuses Iraq of stalling talks

GENEVA (AP) — Iran accused Iraq Sunday of stalling peace talks and said the negotiations to end their eight-year war "could drag on for years."

The two countries resumed talks after a one-day break "for reflection," but both sides remained far apart over the disputed Shatt-al-Arab waterway and other key points.

Iraq accused Iran of blocking the peace process by "making groundless accusations" against Baghdad.

Sunday's talks began with separate consultations between U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuel-

lar and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz, U.N. officials said.

"It is not a deadlock and it is moving," Francois Giuliani, spokesman for Perez de Cuellar, told reporters. "The secretary-general would like the talks to move faster but there is no sense of frustration, dismay or despondency."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said Perez de Cuellar suggested setting up an impartial committee to identify the aggressor in the Iran-Iraq war and to release its

findings by the end of November.

The report, monitored in Nicosia, was confirmed by Western diplomats. Iran has insisted that Iraq be branded the aggressor. Iraq invaded Iran in September 1980 after border skirmishes.

IRNA said the three-man committee would be headed by a member of the International Court of Justice in the Hague, the Netherlands. Iran and Iraq each would send a liaison officer, it said.

Perez de Cuellar called for a "day of reflection" Saturday after both sides set out their divergent positions Friday. He said he hoped "flexibility will start on Sunday."

The talks between Velayati and Aziz are the first official contact between the two sides since war broke out in September 1980.

Sources close to the negotiations said the talks were delayed Sunday morning because some members of the Iraqi delegation flew to Baghdad for consultations.

In Tehran Sunday, Iran's deputy foreign minister, Javad Mansouri, accused Iraq of undermining negotiations by claiming sovereignty over

the disputed Shatt al-Arab waterway.

He also repeated Iran's demand for formation of an impartial committee to determine which side started the war. Iran says Iraq must be the aggressor before there can be lasting peace.

"Iraq continues to have designs on Iran's territorial integrity," Mansouri was quoted as saying by IRNA.

The pace of negotiations was slow, he said, "that they may drag on for years."

In Baghdad, the official Al-Basrah daily accused Iran of "stalling the process of peace by making groundless allegations" against Iraq. It called on Iranian leaders to "take themselves of the historic opportunity . . . to establish a lasting comprehensive peace."

The key problem in negotiations has been the question of sovereignty over the Shatt-al-Arab waterway boundary between the two nations.

Baghdad demands sovereignty over the entire channel, which is actually its only outlet to the sea.

## Bentsen's voting at odds with party

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twenty-seven times this year Sen. Lloyd Bentsen has voted against the majority of his Democratic colleagues in the Senate on a variety of issues, including Star Wars, abortion and immigration policy, and some of his votes put him at odds with his running mate, Michael Dukakis.

When 77 percent of Senate Democrats voted on Feb. 4 against granting \$60 million to rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government, Bentsen was on the opposite side. On July 13, 75 percent of Democrats voted against allowing oil drilling in parts of the eastern Gulf of Mexico, but Bentsen voted for it.

Those votes were an exception for the Texas senator, who now is his party's nominee for vice president.

During 17½ years in the Senate he has usually been found in the middle of the pack. Of 212 substantive votes Bentsen has cast this year, 185, or 87 percent, sided with the majority of Democrats.

In 1987, Bentsen voted on 408 roll calls, and 90 percent of the time — on 365 votes — he sided with most other Democrats.

Averaging his annual ratings by the Americans for Democratic Action and the American Conservative Union would produce a lifetime score that pleased liberals 38 percent of the time and conservatives 41 percent of the time.

Bentsen's record is under question now because on certain issues the Democratic vice-presidential nominee is at odds with the head of the ticket.

The most current: aid to the rebels in Nicaragua. Dukakis has repeatedly called U.S. government support for the rebels "a failed and illegal policy." Most of Bentsen's votes have been for financial aid.

"We have to keep the pressure on the Sandinistas," Bentsen has said, referring to the leftist government in Nicaragua.

Dukakis favors federal financing of abortions. Bentsen calls the issue one of the toughest for him but generally supports federal money only in the case of rape or incest or when the mother's life would be endangered by carrying a baby to term.

On the basic question of abortion, Bentsen says, "It's a woman's right to make that decision after consulting her physician, and hopefully her pastor or priest."

Dukakis apparently is unequivocally opposed to capital punishment. Bentsen has voted for it, most recently on May 16, when the Senate approved the death penalty for certain drug-related murders. More than half the Democrats opposed that bill.

Dukakis favors handgun control; Bentsen is on the other side. On the most recent vote on the issue, in

1987, Bentsen opposed an amendment prohibiting firearms that cannot be detected by airport security devices. Seventy-four percent of Democratic senators voted for the amendment.

Dukakis and Bentsen appear unconcerned about their differences. "I didn't pick Lloyd Bentsen to be a clone of Michael Dukakis," the presidential nominee explained. "We agree on most things but we disagree on some."

Bentsen was in the minority on April 20 when the Senate, on a 61-35 vote, killed an amendment that would have required a balanced federal budget before any financial reparations could be paid to Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. Only eight other Democrats were with Bentsen on that vote.

## Bentsen gives Quayle praise during show

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said Sunday that Sen. Dan Quayle probably could grow into the job of being president if it became necessary.

It was the faintest of praise from a 67-year-old Texas Democrat seeking to contrast his experience with that of a 41-year-old Indiana Republican — and to make the difference a major issue in their campaign for vice president.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet The Press," Bentsen was asked whether Quayle was qualified to be president.

"Frankly, he would not have been on my short list as I look over my Senate colleagues," said Bentsen. "He obviously was on the short list of the hard right."

"Now, I wouldn't say that he couldn't grow into the job; he probably could. But if a tragedy befell a president, you'd have to be able to move in immediately and take over and do what has to be done in facing whatever issues that confront you at that time."

Among the four candidates, Bentsen dominated the public political stage Sunday.

Quayle attended church in Sacramento, Calif., and then made the cross-country flight home to Washington for a couple of days of rest and planning for this week's swing through Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

## World briefs

### 'Killer bees' heading for United States

TAPACHULA, Mexico (AP) — Africanized "killer bees" are spreading north and will arrive in the United States in less than two years despite efforts to stop them or alter their behavior, officials say.

The bees killed one resident of Tapachula, a town near the Guatemalan border, when a man tripped on an unseen hive. They also have harassed herds of cattle and made grazing difficult.

The Africanized bees are descendants of African bees that escaped during an experiment in Brazil. They mate with local bees, spawning new generations that are more aggressive and danger-

ous to handle, make less honey and pollinate crops less efficiently.

"Mexico will be Africanized without a doubt. It is a fact we cannot change," said Dr. Maria Noemi Zapata, president of the Tapachula Agricultural Association, in a recent interview. She said the bees will continue north "as far as the cold allows."

"Hundreds of hives migrate to the north, but we don't know how many," beekeeper Gil Tolosa said.

Since honey is Mexico's second biggest agricultural export, the invasion has researchers searching for ways to protect the industry.

### Law limits time banks can freeze funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Starting this week, a new federal law will put limits on the number of days that banks and other financial institutions can place holds on checks which customers deposit in their accounts.

The law has been hailed by consumer groups, who charged that Americans were losing millions of dollars annually because banks were freezing funds for undue amounts of time.

Banks, however, complain that the new guidelines are confusing, proving costly to implement and will subject them to greater risks of fraud.

The controversy is being

stirred up by the Expedited Funds Availability Act, which goes into effect Sept. 1.

Under the law, banks, savings and loans and credit unions must give customers access to deposited funds within one, three or seven days, depending on the type of check.

While many banks have been operating voluntarily under strict deadlines, consumer groups argued that a law was needed because too many banks were freezing funds for periods as long as two weeks even though 99 percent of the time they were getting credit for the money within two days.

### Graffiti artists join Denver program

DENVER (AP) — Hoping to curb the spread of graffiti, the city of Denver has brought 60 to 70 graffiti artists into a program that gives them artistic tips and a sanctioned place to display their spray-painting skills.

The construction walkway at the new Denver convention center will be the canvas for participating "taggers," known for their stylized signatures, and "writers," who specialize in flashy murals.

"Graffiti started in prehistoric days (with cave writings) . . . but it didn't really become vandalism until someone owned the walls," says Amy Lingg, communications

director for the Denver Department of Public Works.

Lingg, who got her artistic training at the Colorado Institute of Art, is supervising the anti-graffiti program.

Taggers and writers have emerged from underground to work on "pieces" (short for masterpieces) in a makeshift studio at a Public Works facility.

Working on boards donated by convention center contractor Hensel-Phelps and using donated spray paints (Krylon is the graffiti artist's favorite), taggers and writers are coached by artists from the Denver Art Museum's neighborhood artists program.

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