

# Battalion Classifieds

The Battalion

# WORLD & NATION

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## Mosbacher plans growth of U.S. business exports

"We have an opportunity to . . . open up to a greater extent the rest of the world for our goods and services and this we must push."

— Robert Mosbacher  
Commerce Secretary-designate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Commerce Secretary-designate Robert Mosbacher vowed Tuesday to vigorously enforce laws to protect U.S. businesses from unfair foreign competition and said building exports will be his top priority in reducing the trade deficit.

"We have an opportunity to . . . open up to a greater extent the rest of the world for our goods and services and this we must push," Mosbacher said at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee.

The 61-year-old Texas oilman was well received by members of both political parties. His nomination is expected to win easy approval when the panel votes next week.

Asked his strategy for addressing the U.S. trade deficit, which hit an all-time high of \$170.1 billion in 1987 but has improved somewhat since, Mosbacher said, "We must build our exports first."

He called for greater efforts to educate U.S. businesses about export opportunities and for reduced red tape in granting export licenses for items whose sales would not harm national security or strategic interests.

"Everything that is not in those two categories should be given (a) license . . . as soon as possible," he said.

American exports have strengthened as the weaker dollar has made U.S. manufacturers' products more competitive overseas. But analysts believe the dollar would have to decline further to spur more export gains.

In stressing the need for increased exports, Mosbacher pledged to vigorously enforce the sweeping trade law enacted by Congress last year to ensure American businesses can fairly compete abroad and at home.

"While we certainly do and have opened our nation to the goods of

the world, we expect that to be reciprocated," he said. "If it is not, I don't see that we have any course but to strongly, fairly, objectively, totally enforce" the laws governing international trade.

Mosbacher, a longtime friend and fund-raiser for President Bush and one of four Texans named to the Bush Cabinet, comes to Washington without government experience and after making his fortune in the oil business.

A passing reference by Mosbacher to fellow Texan John Tower, nominated to be defense secretary, prompted Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., to rework Bush's no-tax slogan and protest in jest: "Read my lips: No new Texans."

## 'Endless' funerals, searches dominate in quake aftermath

MOSCOW (AP) — Mountain villagers in "endless" funeral processions Tuesday buried their dead from the Tadzshikistan earthquake that killed up to 1,000, and rescuers slogged through muddy rubble in a desperate search for survivors.

New warnings were issued for more possible landslides caused by thawing snow in the Central Asian republic 1,800 miles south of Moscow that was hit by Monday's pre-dawn earthquake.

In northwestern Armenia, which was devastated by a Dec. 7 quake that killed 25,000 people, a powerful aftershock was reported Tuesday. An Armenian official said the population had been warned and no casualties were reported.

A 40-second tremor, which U.S. seismologists registered as 5.4 on the Richter scale, hit before dawn Monday. It loosened layers of mud that cascaded onto mountain villages in a rural area about 20 miles southwest of the republic's capital of Dushanbe.

Workers using shovels and bulldozers continued digging for survivors, Tass said, but a local official said the efforts might be in vain.

"There is little hope because of the flood of dirt and mud," Erkin Kasymov, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of Tadzshikistan, said by telephone. "But while there is any hope, the rescuers will keep digging."

In one village, Sharora, more than 100 bodies have been hauled from the mud and wreckage, Tass said. It said rescuers found only one survivor, Sergei Muratov, 27.

Muratov, reported to be in grave condition, was rushed to a hospital, where "surgeons are fighting for his life," Tass said.

However, Vitaly Zhukov of the republic's official news agency and chief of a press information center set up in the wake of the tragedy, told the Associated Press no survivors were found during excavations Tuesday.

Zainiddin Nasreddinov, editor-in-chief of the news agency, estimated that about 600 people, or about Sharora's entire population, had been killed in the village.

Tass on Monday estimated that 1,000 people had been killed, and official reports said more than 100 people were hospitalized in Dushanbe.

The predominantly Moslem villagers buried their dead, and "the funeral processions seem endless," the Tass news agency said.

Zhukov said 11 people died overnight in hospitals. Late Tuesday, amid reports that casualties might not be as high as initially reported, he said the preliminary estimate remained at 1,000 dead.

He added, however, that it was still too early to determine how many people had been buried in the slide.

Zhukov said the republic will need about 400 prefabricated houses for survivors in the stricken villages. He told the AP, however, that although several neighboring republics and rescue teams from Armenia had offered assistance, local authorities had not yet determined just what help would be needed.

## German gas warfare history may be resurfacing in Libya

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Charges that West German companies helped Libya build what may be a poison gas plant recall horrors from two world wars and images of what a politician called the "evil, self-deceiving German."

Germany shocked the world in World War I by wiping out 5,000 Allied soldiers April 22, 1915, with chlorine gas, introducing the era of chemical warfare. The Nazis later used Zyklon B gas to kill millions of prisoners at the Auschwitz death camp.

In addition to lessons of the past, the current debate dwells on moral standards in a nation that has developed an arms export industry in the last 15 years that ranks fifth in the world.

"German profits have grown much more quickly than ethical standards," said the Rev. Friedhelm Hengsbach, a social sciences professor at St. Georgen Theological University in Frankfurt.

"The Germans are very smart in the sense of economic realities, but they're not that shrewd when it comes to ethical responsibility and political realities," the Jesuit priest said.

Norbert Gansel, a member of Parliament for the opposition Social Democrats, put the problem succinctly: "Now, our history has caught up with us again. The evil, self-deceiving German is back."

Government statistics say West German companies legally sell about \$16.6 billion worth of guns, submarines, munitions and other arms overseas each year. That puts the country in fifth place behind the United States, Soviet Union, France and Britain.

Several state and local investigations are under way to determine the amount of arms and arms-related goods sent abroad illegally.

Included are inquiries into reports of West German involvement in Iraqi poison gas production in addition to allegations that West German companies helped build the plant at Rabta, south of Tripoli, that Libya says makes medicines and the United States says is for producing chemical weapons.

Iraq acknowledged using poison gas during its war with Iran, in which a cease-fire was reached in August, and has been accused of using it on minority Kurds.

Reports arise frequently of West German companies evading export restrictions, as Gansel reminded a noisy parliamentary debate on the Libyan matter last week.

Joachim Perels, a political science teacher at Hanover University, said in an interview, "It is a question of current-day morality and the Nazi past. You just can't lose sight of that second point. It would be better if West Germany didn't supply Libya with any materials that could be used for war."

## Report shows widening gap between races

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economic gap between blacks and whites widened during the Reagan years, National Urban League officials said Tuesday while finding encouraging signs that President Bush may take steps to improve conditions for black America.

"I expect the Bush White House to be a very different place from the Reagan White House," John E. Jacob, the president of the National Urban League, said. "I am hopeful that he will implement policies that close the tragic gap that puts African Americans on a separate and unequal track from white Americans," he said.

The Urban League, releasing its annual assessment of the status and conditions of blacks in America, cited statistics that, it said, show racial inequality is growing and that blacks face increasing misery from poverty, crime and drugs.

Jacob said blacks were the only major ethnic group whose unemployment rate rose during the 1980s. He said housing segregation increased, and black life expectancy at birth began to decline.

"Blacks did not share the prosperity and got more than their share of the misery" during the 1980s, Jacob said at a news conference at which he released the study.

The report, "The State of Black America, 1989," is the 14th annual assessment of black America by the league, a 78-year-old organization that conducts research and is an advocate for minorities.

In a summary of economic conditions, David H. Swinton, dean of the business school at Jackson State University in Mississippi, wrote that no progress was made during the Reagan administration to reduce economic disparities faced by blacks.

"In fact, racial inequality in American life actually increased by many of the standard indicators," he wrote.

Jacob said some blacks benefited from the economic growth during the Reagan administration, but he said that was confined to those who were the most educated and best trained.

He said Bush's Cabinet appointments "have been wise, and there are people at key departments with whom we can work." He called on Bush to adopt as a goal achieving economic parity between whites and blacks by the year 2000.

The report contains a grim assessment of the outlook for black children in America. Marian Wright Edelman wrote that compared with 1980, black children are more likely to be born into poverty, lack early prenatal care, have a single mother, have an unemployed parent and not go to college.

A black baby is three times as likely as a white baby to be born to a mother who has had no prenatal care and is more than twice as likely to die during the first year, she said. A black male teen-ager is six times as likely as a white male teen-ager to be the victim of a homicide, she said.

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