

Baker meets with Iraq's Aziz

Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Iraq's foreign minister on Wednesday conduct the highest-level talks between the two nations since the gulf crisis began, and the United States said the meeting may be the last chance for peace.

Baker stopped in Paris, Bonn and Milan on Tuesday in a show of unity with allied nations before the meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva.

But Baker likely was disappointed in Paris, where he met with President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Dumas said France supported the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or face a possible military strike. However, he reiterated support for linking Iraq's withdrawal from the emirate to a Mideast peace conference.

In Geneva, Aziz said it was premature to comment on the talks. But he added: "Iraq is open to a genuine exchange of views about the situation in the whole region. ... If there is a

genuine, sincere, serious intention to make peace in the whole Middle East, we are ready to reciprocate."

President Bush, in a message beamed to 127 nations, called Baker's mission "possibly the final chance" to resolve the Iraqi conflict peacefully.

The U.S. Congress, meanwhile, was racing to vote on the U.S. administration's Persian Gulf policy before the Jan. 15 deadline. The House and Senate are expected to begin deliberations Thursday that likely would force lawmakers to choose between backing the president's war threat or risk deflating it.

Embassies and U.S. military facilities in the Middle East and Europe continued preparations for a possible war. Military officials planned security measures, diplomats shredded documents and more airlines canceled flights to the region.

Jordan's King Hussein arrived in Bonn, Germany for talks on his own peace initiative.

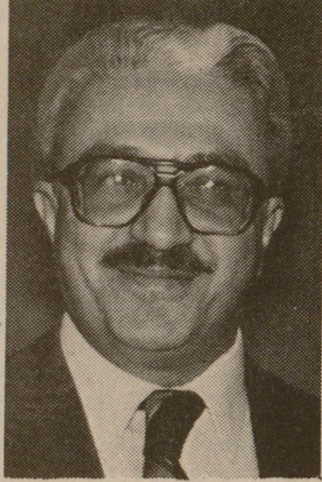
Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich

Genscher of Germany told Hussein there was no backtracking from demands that Iraq surrender Kuwait. He said, however, the European Community had promised to work toward settlement of other Middle East conflicts if Saddam Hussein agrees to withdraw.

Baker conferred in Bonn with Genscher and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and said of the Geneva talks: "I think this is the last, best chance for a peaceful, political solution."

Earlier Tuesday in Paris, Baker said he remained hopeful the Geneva talks could produce a breakthrough. But he emphasized there would be no negotiations with Iraq.

Aziz on Tuesday reiterated Iraq's refusal to budge from Kuwait without U.S. concessions. Saddam has tried to link his withdrawal from Kuwait to Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The U.S. has refused to discuss any such linkage.



Tariq Aziz

Houston selected Party makes Bush's hometown 1992 GOP convention site

WASHINGTON (AP)—Houston was selected Tuesday by Republican officials as the site for the 1992 GOP National Convention.

The party's site selection committee chose the Texas city, which is President Bush's hometown, over New Orleans and San Diego. The recommendation is slated to be ratified by the 165-member Republican National Committee when it meets on Jan. 25.

"The committee conducted a very careful review of all aspects of the three bids and though it was very close, it was clear that Houston offered the most complete package when you looked at the criteria from housing to convention facilities," said Jeanie

Austin, co-chairman of the RNC. The selection of Houston was made in a conference call that included all members of the selection panel.

When party spokesman B. Jay Cooper was asked if Bush played a role in the choice, he replied, "This is an RNC selection."

Houston apparently won out on the strength of superior facilities, particularly the availability of the Astrodome for the convention sessions.

Some Republican officials had been concerned about going to the Texas city after Democrat Ann Richards was elected governor.

ROTHER'S

BOOKSTORES

SAVE MONEY WITH MORE USED BOOKS

ACCENT HIGHLIGHTERS
BUY ONE
GET ONE FREE
WHILE SUPPLIES
LAST

SIGNATURE SERIES
PAPER & NOTEPADS
HALF PRICE

\$5⁰⁰ OFF
ALL AGGIES
SWEATSHIRTS

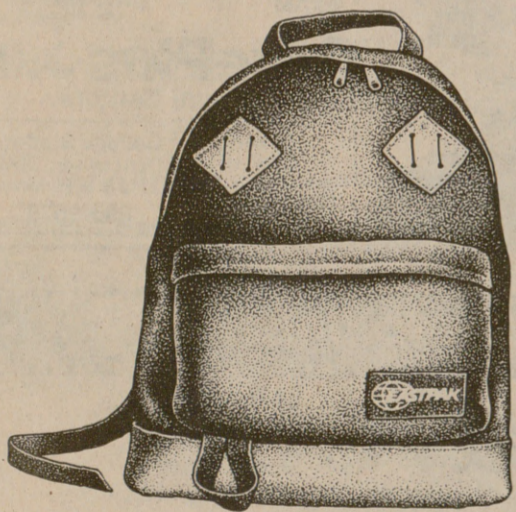
BLINN BOOKS
•AVAILABLE AT
WOODSTONE
LOCATION

FULL CASH REFUNDS
•THROUGH 2nd WEEK
OF CLASSES

TEXAS A&M
ONE SUBJECT SPIRALS
3 FOR 2.99
REGULARLY \$4.00
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

OPEN LATE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

We Accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express



Sling it.

You can bring an Eastpak bag places you shouldn't go. Because unlike you, it comes with a lifetime guarantee. Waterproof cordura nylon. And it's also available in a variety of colors and styles. Eastpak. Buy it.



ROTHER'S BOOKSTORE

340 GEORGE BUSH DR.
ACROSS FROM UNIV. POLICE
696-2111

901 HARVEY ROAD
WOODSTONE CENTER
764-3969