

## Bush tells ambassador, staff to hang tough Baker emphasizes proposal for regional security structure

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush telephoned the besieged U.S. Embassy in Kuwait on Wednesday to encourage the ambassador and his skeleton staff to hang on under "most difficult circumstances." Separately, Bush told lawmakers he would consider further moves if economic pressure fails to push Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the White House brushed off Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's statement that "the children of Iraq are dying" because of the U.N.-supported economic embargo.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said there was no evidence to support the statement and dismissed it as simply "another rhetorical diatribe."

Bush, who met privately with more than 30 senators and House members, will address a public joint session of Congress next Tuesday night after returning from his weekend summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Fitzwater said.

At the Capitol on Wednesday, Secretary of State James A. Baker III wound up a second day of congressional questioning — repeating his proposal for plan-

ning of a new "regional security structure" for the Middle East — and was leaving Wednesday night for Saudi Arabia.

He said anew that Americans should not expect any quick resolution of the standoff which has brought tens of thousands of U.S. troops to the Saudi desert, across the Kuwaiti border from an even larger force of Iraqis.

Current U.S. efforts, aimed at weakening Saddam's resolve through the economic embargo, "are going to take some time, and that is what we ask most of the American people: Stand firm, be patient and remain united so that together we can show that aggression does not pay," Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

However the current situation plays out, he said, "this is not the last crisis of this nature we are likely to face in this region. ... It is worthwhile to begin considering regional security structures ... that would guarantee an equilibrium in this region that will produce peace" and "create a more durable order." He gave no details and said such planning was in a very early stage.

## Representative American citizen shot; injuries not yet known proposes way to save money

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government could save \$27 billion next year simply by turning off lights and cutting back on trips and phone calls, a Texas congressman said Wednesday.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, said those steps would save 10 percent of the \$270 billion projected overhead budget next year. And it passes three crucial tests: no tax increase, no program cuts and no layoffs or pay cuts, Smith said.

Over five years, with an estimated inflation rate of 5 percent, \$141 billion could be saved, he said.

"I firmly believe this is a proposal that is what people want," he said. He called it a "radical change in the way to look at government spending."

"Everybody focuses on what programs we spend the money on and who gets the money," Smith said. "We do not focus on how the money is spent."

Administration budget officials and Congressional leaders are to meet later this week to forge a compromise on the president's 1991 \$123 billion budget proposal.

President Bush put the so-called budget summit together in May amid warnings that the federal deficit may be \$100 billion over next year's \$64 billion target.

Failure to meet the target would trigger automatic across-the-board reductions under the Gramm-Rudman budget balancing law.

There is some talk on Capitol Hill of changing the deficit reduction target because of the costs of the U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf. Smith said he's heard the government may only try to cut the deficit by \$30 billion, which he feels is reasonable.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Wednesday night it had received a report that an American citizen was shot by an Iraqi soldier in Kuwait while trying to avoid capture.

"We have no information on how serious his injuries might be," the department said in a statement. Diplomats at the blockaded U.S. Embassy in Kuwait city spoke with officials at the hospital where they were told the American had been taken, but "hospital officials said they had no knowledge of the incident," the statement said.

"The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad has been instructed to contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to demand consular access to this citizen," said the statement read by Tom Dougherty, a spokesman.

Dougherty said the family of the man believed to have been shot had been told of the report

but he was not at liberty to identify him.

"Attempts by our embassy in Kuwait to obtain more information from Iraqi officials in Kuwait have been in vain," Dougherty said. "We will continue to press this case."

Though the statement spoke only of "a report" of a shooting, Dougherty said the department believed it was a well-founded report.

Iraqi soldiers have been rounding up westerners in Kuwait ever since their Aug. 2 takeover of the country. Embassies have been ordered closed and diplomats transferred to Baghdad.

The United States and several other countries have refused to recognize the closure order. Iraq has cut off access to the embassies, stopped water and power service, and has told diplomats there they have lost their diplomatic immunity.

## Truck crushes, kills 12 in India; victims mostly schoolchildren

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A speeding truck crushed to death 10 schoolchildren who were waiting at a bus stop to go home Wednesday, a news agency reported.

Two other people at the bus stop also were killed, it said.

Press Trust of India said at least 19 children were injured in the accident in Tamil Nadu state's Tiruchirappalli district, 1,200 miles south of New Delhi.

It said the injured were in serious condition.

The news agency did not give details about the children but said they were in elementary school, indicating they were between five and 10 years of age.

A woman and an unidentified person also were killed.

Press Trust quoted local police as saying the truck driver was arrested.



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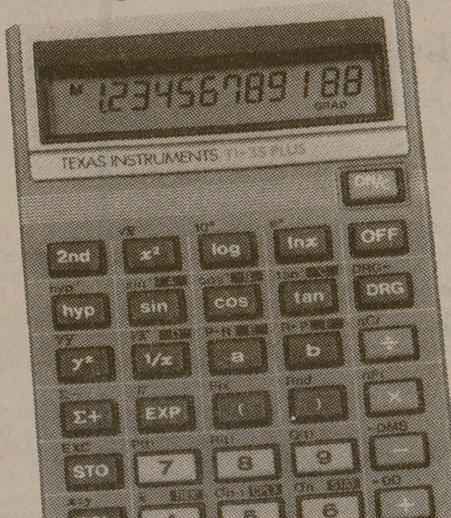
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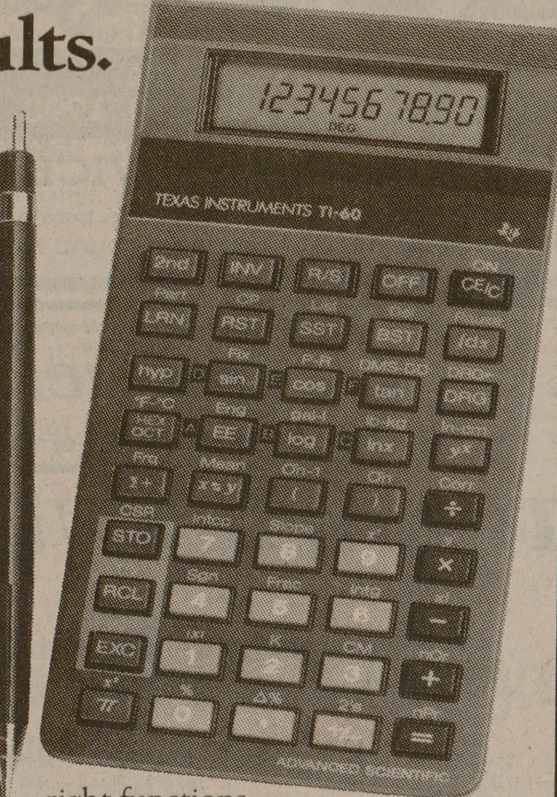
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