



The Battalion

Rumors of war

Nation hopes, prays for peace

Associated Press

Church bells pealed for peace. Demonstrators pleaded for peace. But the United States on Tuesday was a nation preoccupied with war.

As the hours dwindled before the expiration of a United Nations deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, police across the nation prepared for terrorist strikes and soldiers' relatives prayed and waited.

Even Mister Rogers, the children's television show host, joined the grim preparations by taping messages designed to help children cope with war.

Anti-war protests continued in virtually every large city. In San Francisco, more than 400 people were arrested by riot-clad police who used clubs and chemical Mace to clear the streets of demonstrators.

The arrests occurred after several thousand protesters, some zipped into body bags, blockaded the entrance to the downtown Federal Building. Among those arrested was Associated Press photographer Sal

Veder, who was covering the demonstration and was caught in the police sweep.

Estimates of the crowd size ranged from 3,000 to 10,000.

"This is our only hope," said Darla Rucker, a spokeswoman for the anti-war group, Pledge of Resistance. "We're on our way to war, and civil unrest is the only thing that will stop it."

"It's a desperate time. We did what we can," said Brian Terrell, one of two demonstrators who disrupted Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad's state-of-the-state address in Des Moines.

Protesters in some cities took note of the fact that Tuesday was the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., although the federal holiday commemorating his birth is not until next Monday.

About 100 protesters gathered in downtown Chicago to take turns reading from sections of a speech of King's against the Vietnam War.

"It is appalling that Martin Luther King's birthday should be used as the date when George Bush says this

country is going to go to war," said Barry Romo of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, which organized the demonstration.

In Washington, National Park police arrested 55 demonstrators who sat and lay on the sidewalk in front of the White House. They were taken to National Park Service headquarters and released without charges, according to Maj. William Sprull of the Park Police.

The protesters at the White House included students from George Washington Junior High School who chanted, "One, two, three, four, we don't want your stupid war." Some marchers substituted an obscene word for "stupid."

In New York City, more than 5,000 people gathered outside the United Nations for a demonstration sponsored by the African American Coalition Against U.S. Intervention. At least 30 people were arrested for blocking traffic and disorderly conduct, police said.

In part of a worldwide appeal for peace, church bells rang at noon at Atlanta's historic Shrine of the Im-

maculate Conception, where a small crowd of demonstrators rang hand bells and prayed.

Airports, nuclear power plants and military installations improved security and increased surveillance. In Washington, extra police were posted at the Capitol. Even members of Congress were required to show identification cards.

Detroit's Big Three automakers announced they were tightening security at their plants worldwide. The New York Stock Exchange began double-checking IDs and barred lunch-time food couriers.

The Coast Guard announced it was improving security to defend against seaborne incursions.

"The Coast Guard is taking seriously the threats that have come from the Middle East," said Chief Warrant Officer George Hornbeck, commanding officer of the guard's Yaquina Bay Station in Oregon.

Advertisers began reconsidering whether they wanted to spend more than \$800,000 for a 30-second commercial in the Jan. 27 Super Bowl. Fans might be preoccupied with war.

Gulf Developments

- The State Department ordered all but four Iraqi diplomats to leave the country by midnight Jan. 15, to prevent them from "orchestrating" terror acts.
- Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez called for the impeachment of President Bush Tuesday, saying the massive military build-up in the Persian Gulf and potential for tens of thousands of civilian casualties amount to an unconstitutional "king-made" war.
- In the hours before Iraq's deadline for abandoning Kuwait, the price of oil slid back Tuesday as traders clung to hopes of a last-minute peaceful solution.

U.S. increases security against terrorist threat

WASHINGTON (AP) — From the dome of the Capitol to the skyscrapers of Wall Street, Americans braced Tuesday for the unfamiliar threat of terrorism.

Iraqi officials have warned that a U.S. attack would unleash a wave of terrorism against Americans. And government officials say that although most their information points to attacks on Americans abroad, they're not taking any chances.

"There is increased security" at the White House, said presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, including more uniformed officers and closer inspection of people entering the grounds. A chest-high fence was erected on Pennsylvania Avenue across from the White House, where anti-war protesters gathered.

The Pentagon canceled all unscheduled building tours as it improved security.

New York City police opened a terrorism 911 hotline and a joint command center with 15 other agencies, including the FBI, to gather intelligence and help businesses and government agencies with security problems.

The New York Stock Exchange double-checked IDs and barred lunch-time food couriers.

"It's been our experience that they (the Iraqis) don't always make empty threats," said one counter-terrorism official.

Neil Gallagher, an FBI counter-terrorism expert, said Iraqi agents in the past have attacked Iraqi dissidents in the United States. He declined to elaborate.

Lack of experience with terrorism and the open nature of U.S. society make Americans particularly vulnerable.

An unattended bag left in a subway car or post office in major U.S. cities may not elicit any reaction.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has not taken any special steps to deal with the possibility of a terrorist attack on public transit in the nation's capital, said spokeswoman Marilyn Dicus.

Iraqis support Hussein's plan

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Thousands of Iraqis marched in cities across the nation Tuesday and pledged to give their lives for Saddam Hussein in a war against the allied forces.

Thousands of others crammed buses and cars to flee the capital in the last hours before the U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait elapsed at midnight Tuesday, or 8 a.m. local time.

"The holy war is about to begin," said one demonstrator in Baghdad, waving his AK-47 rifle. His son, who was about 10 years old, held a shoulder bag brimming with ammunition.

Officials of the ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party said similar demonstrations were held in the major cities of Karbala, Basra and Mosul, and that altogether at least 5 million of Iraq's 18 million people took part.

In Baghdad, a city of 4 million, the marchers included government officials, students and housewives.

"We will die for you, Saddam," women carrying rifles shouted.

Others in Arab robes danced with pitchforks and swords. Most shops in Baghdad were closed.

War threatens to weaken United Nations coalition

HOUSTON (AP) — The pressure to break up the American-led multinational coalition against Iraq will escalate the longer the war continues in the Persian Gulf, former defense secretary James Schlesinger said Tuesday.

"We must recognize we are fighting a coalition war and it is essential to maintain the cohesiveness of the coalition," Schlesinger said in an address to The Forum Club of Houston. "Otherwise, the Middle East will turn more hostile to us."

"The longer the bombardment goes on, the greater the strain on the coalition. As soon as the victims of damage from the American bombardment are seen on Stockholm TV, on Parisian TV ... support is likely to fade. From the day the war commences, the coalition is in trouble," said Schlesinger, also a former Central Intelligence Agency director and secretary of energy.

Schlesinger, now with the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a senior adviser to the investment banking firm of Lehman Brothers,

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— James Schlesinger, former defense secretary

ers, was CIA director from 1973 until he took over the Defense Department in 1975. The following year, he became assistant to President Carter and set up the Department of Energy, where he served as secretary until 1979.

Schlesinger predicted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would embark on terrorism and sabotage and try to lure Israel into the fighting as a means of dismantling the fragile United Nations coalition against Iraq.

"He is prepared for what for him is likely to be a suicidal war," he said, adding that Saddam would view a strike against Israel as very attractive.

Schlesinger said Syria could turn against the coalition and that the pressure would be great on Egypt to do the same.

"Israel is perceived as an enemy of the Arab peoples," he said. "If the Israelis are smart, they will wait for the U.S. to demolish the air defense capabilities of Iraq. In my judgment, the Israelis will follow a prudent course."

Echoing sentiments of President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, he said Saddam miscalculated when Iraqi forces moved into Kuwait in August.

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