

World & Nation 5

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The Battalion

Soviets desire military debris

U.S.S.R seeks information about U.S. arms, equipment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union, in search of an intelligence bonanza, is eager to sift through the debris of U.S. weapons and equipment that landed in Iraq, a senior U.S. intelligence officer says.

Thousands of tons of bombs and missiles, as well as a handful of shattered allied aircraft, rained down on Iraq during the six-week conflict. The Soviets "want those bits and pieces," the officer said.

The Soviets want to learn as much as they can about the Americans' highly touted, high-tech weaponry that won the day — if the Iraqis give them access to its remnants, said the officer,

who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Soviets intelligence officers usually are so eager to obtain such weaponry debris that they "are willing to pay for it," the official said.

The Soviets, once active sponsors of President Saddam Hussein and a major arms supplier backed the U.N.-sponsored alliance's effort to reverse the occupation of Kuwait.

Even so, the Kremlin tried to mediate a cease-fire in the days before the ground war, but failed.

Since the allied victory in the gulf, the Soviets have moved to be part of the postwar settlement in the region. While the White House has welcomed the move, it has also stopped short of offering Moscow a major role.

Although warmer relations

with Moscow helped bolster the coalition against Iraq, the Soviets sought advantages from the war as well, the official said.

Throughout the war, the Soviets "were gathering intelligence. ... Their efforts were to gather as much intelligence as they could," the official said.

However, no Soviet intelligence-gathering flights over Iraq were conducted during the war, the official said.

"It wasn't healthy," he said.

Primarily, their efforts were directed to "just keeping track of what was happening in the war," he said, but also against allied war-fighting capabilities.

Kuwaiti banks reopen to citizens; offer city newly-issued currency

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Banks reopened Sunday for the first time since Iraqi troops shut them down in December, and thousands of cash-poor Kuwaitis snapped up the emirate's new currency by the bundle.

In a move aimed at putting the world's richest per capita economy back on its feet, the Central Bank of Kuwait announced that the newly issued dinar would trade at \$3.48.

That was almost exactly the

same rate as on Aug. 1, 1990, the day before Iraqi tanks rolled into Kuwait and the seven-month occupation began. The Iraqis subsequently put the Kuwaiti dinar on a par with the Iraqi dinar, reducing the value of Kuwait's currency by more than 90 percent, and then outlawed the currency.

One of the few banks to hold American dollars reported a run Sunday on greenbacks.

Markets in several areas of

the city also opened their doors, some for the first time since Kuwait was liberated by allied troops on Feb. 27.

Hot items were food and especially chocolate, which many Kuwaitis feel is worth its weight in gold.

The giant Sultan Center supermarket was doing a fast business in turnips, potatoes, grapefruits and squash. Bubble bath and facial mud packs, favorites of Kuwaiti women, also were bestsellers.

Specialists blame lack of control for assault

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A videotape of police beating a motorist exposed a management breakdown that permits violence in a department out of touch with the city it serves, say specialists in police behavior.

It could happen anywhere, but Los Angeles, a sprawling battleground for the nation's war on drugs and for thousands of armed gang members, offers plenty of reasons for an officer to forget his training in self-control, they say.

"The sense of isolation, an insufficient budget, insufficient resources, that whole idea that they are in a hopeless situation ... if not addressed by appropriate management ends up in aberrant behavior," said Kenneth Moran, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

Los Angeles Police Academy recruits are trained to seize control of a developing situation such as a pursuit that can threaten their lives.

But they also have to seize control of themselves, said Lt. Gary A. Lee, an academy instructor in tactics.

"I go over chases where the adrenalin is flowing very heavily, you're keyed up and you need to control yourself," Lee said. "If you can't control yourself, you can't control the situation."

That training appeared to break down in Lake View Terrace on March 3 after a high-speed pursuit of a car driven by Rodney G. King.

Twenty-two police officers, all but four of them from the Los Angeles city department, were at the scene as at least three colleagues pummeled King with nightsticks. No one stopped it; King was hospitalized.

Four policemen were charged in the attack — three who allegedly did the beating and the supervisor who is accused of failing to stop it. The other 21 are still under investigation.

WORLD/NATION BRIEFS

California governor defends L.A. chief

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gov. Pete Wilson defended Police Chief Daryl Gates, describing calls for his ouster as an "attempted lynching" over the videotaped police beating of a black motorist.

Number of crime victims increases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans victimized by a violent crime rose to 2.3 million last year even as the total number of personal and household crimes fell by 1 million, according to Justice Department estimates released Sunday.

Mali soldiers fire on marchers

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Soldiers fired on thousands of pro-democracy protesters in Mali on Sunday, killing at least seven.

Palm Sunday

JERUSALEM (AP) — Christian pilgrims from around the world opened the Easter season with a Palm Sunday procession down the steep slope of the biblical Mount of Olives.

Japanese research 'quantum chips'

TOKYO (AP) — In the back corner of an aging campus building, University of Tokyo researchers are on a quest for a new class of semiconductors thousands of times faster than chips now in use.

The researchers, using a dust-free "clean room" and nearly \$8 million worth of equipment, are combining microscopic layers of materials only a few atoms thick to make it easier for electrons to zip around.

Their new compounds are experimental forms of "quantum chips" that someday may allow supercomputers to become as small as laptop computers, team leader Yasuhiko Arakawa said.

Researchers also hope to use the chips, which may be ready for the market in a decade, for high-efficiency lasers, amplifiers and high-sensitivity communication equipment.

Much of the private work on the new chips is being done in Japan and researchers say it may increase the dominance of large, rich Japanese semiconductor makers that already control much of the world chip market.

"This kind of research will take a long time before it results in a commercial product, and therefore it's probably difficult for non-Japanese semiconductor

makers to fund it," Arakawa said in an interview. "There's a good chance the technology will be held primarily by Japanese companies."

According to quantum mechanics, the study of the behavior of extremely small particles that gave the new chip its name, electrons resemble beams of light, acting sometimes like particles with mass and sometimes like waves.

In the chips used now, electrons behave like particles as they flow through tiny circuits etched onto the surface of semiconducting materials. These semiconductors are expected to encounter physical limitations as manufacturers cram more and more components onto each chip.

Japanese semiconductor makers already have developed experimental 64-megabit memory chips the size of a thumbnail with as many as 140 million tiny transistors and capacitors linked together in circuits only 0.4 micron wide, about four-thousandths the width of a human hair.

Fujitsu researchers have developed an experimental quantum chip they say is capable of up to 1 trillion computations a second.

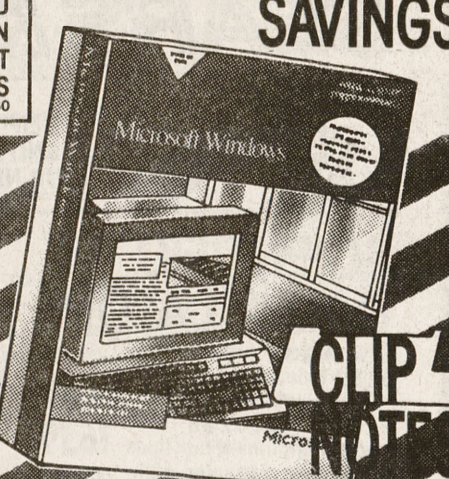
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