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# Kurds claim capture of base

air base and camp in northern Iraq, but said there were signs Saddam Hussein's forces were preparing for an assault on a key rebel-held city.

A statement from the Kurdistan Democratic Party said the Iraqi army was massing forces in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit to launch an attack on the northern oil city of Kirkuk, which was seized by the insurgents.

The statement, sent to The Associated Press in Nicosia, Cyprus by telex, could not be independently confirmed.

Saddam has been struggling to quell rebellions in the north and

ZAKHO, Iraq (AP) — Kurdish rebels claimed Wednesday they had seized a government-held Rebels say Iraqi army preparing counter attack

south that flared after his defeat down as fairly doubtful at this Party said in a statement issued dam's forces have largely sucby the allies in the Persian Gulf War, which halted with a ceasefire a month ago.

President Bush said Wednesday it was unlikely that Saddam will remain in power for long because the Iraqi people "are fed up with him."

"There's enough dissent and disorder but it appears the Iraqi citizens are trying to do some-thing about this," he told reporters in Bethesda, Md. "We'll wait and see how it plays out but I think we'd have to put him

Kurdish leaders reported gains in northern Iraq. They said guerrillas overran an Iraqi air base near Kirkuk on Tuesday and captured two Soviet-made warplanes, a MiG-21 fighter and a Soviet-made Sukhoi bomber.

The rebels also said they seized a government camp at Faardiya, on the road from Dohuk to Mosul. They said the two installations were among the last that government forces controlled in northern Iraq.

The Kurdistan Democratic

in London that the attack on the Khalid military air base was launched to stop the bombing of rebel-held areas.

The statement said more than 1,000 people were killed in the past week in air attacks on the northern cities of Kirkuk, Kefri, Dohuk, Kalar and Tuz Khor-

The Kurds said they feared a new threat - starvation. The only supply route now open is over the short Syrian border,

In southern Iraq, where Sad-

ceeded in putting down rebellions by Shiite Moslems, hunger was causing desperation among thousands of refugees fleeing into allied-controlled areas.

In the Iraqi border town of Safwan, food riots broke out Wednesday as Saudi Arabian food trucks arrived.

"We tried to be organized, but the people are just too hungry," said Maj. Youssef Ali Albouri of the Saudi military. "They see the food and they go crazy."

No serious injuries were re-

ported in the rioting.

At the United Nations, a new Security Council resolution would hold Iraq liable for the environmental havoc caused by tactics such as dumping millions of gallons of oil in the Persian Gulf and setting Kuwait's oil wells alight.

The permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union met in private to refine their checklist of conditions the Baghdad government must meet before a permanent cease-fire is approved.

Under the measure, Iraq would have to let U.N. experts destroy its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and would still face an arms embargo.

## North Dakota Senate passes stringent anti-abortion bill

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota Senate on Wednesday approved what could become the nation's most restrictive state abortion law and sent it to Gov. George Sinner, who has hinted he will veto it.

Senators voted 32-21 to endorse the bill, which bans abortion except in cases of rape, incest and endangerment of a woman's life.

The proposal already had passed the

"All life, born and unborn, is sacred," state Sen. Donna Nalewaja said during the 34-minute floor debate.

Opponents castigated the measure. "By voting yes, we are showing a complete lack of respect and confidence in

the women of this state," said state Sen. William Heigaard, the Senate's Democratic majority leader.

Sinner has three days to sign or veto the bill, or let it become law without his signature. He has said he thinks the "goes too far" by declaring that life begins at conception.

Two-thirds of the members elected

in each chamber would have to agree to override a veto.

The Senate vote falls four short of the 36 needed to override. The House voted 64-39 in favor of it, falling short of the two-thirds majority of 71.

Utah, since January, has had the toughest state abortion law. The bill doesn't take effect until April 28.

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## Filipino Christians mark Easter week with ritual singing

PILILIA, Philippines (AP) — Here, private families usually Chanting floats through the sponsor the singing. They set up night in this town and thou-sands like it as Filipino Chris-neighbors gather beneath stattians mark Easter week with ritu- ues of saints to chant the liturgy als blending religion, pageantry from sunset until dawn. and socializing.

The chants are from the Pabasa, or nightlong ritual singing of the Passion of Christ. The Passion recalls the Biblical story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

It is one of several folk rituals surrounding the week leading up to Easter in the Philippines, Asia's only predominately Christian country. About 85 percent of the 60 million Filipinos are Ro-

Other traditional rituals include religious processions, Passion plays, self-flagellation and even reinactments of Jesus' crucifixion, where devotees are nailed to wooden crosses.

Most widespread is the Pabasa, which is practiced in villages, towns and urban barrios throughout this archipelago na-

Spanish missionaries brought Christianity in the 16th century, and each of the country's eight major linguistic groups has its own version of the Pabasa.

In this Tagalog-speaking town consider it as an act of charity to of 30,000 people 40 miles southfeed the people and to pray." east of Manila, residents sing a version based on a 300-page lit-

MSC

In a gesture toward modernity, some sponsors set up electronic sound systems provided by relatives working abroad. Whole families take part, from grandparents to small children.

Sponsors provide food to those who stop by to take part in the ritual. That gives the ceremony a festive atmosphere, an whom are convicted killers." opportunity for neighbors to socialize while fulfilling religious duties.

But sponsorship carries a fi-ancial burden. Food and other Northwest, nancial burden. Food and other expenses for the week can run as high as \$535 — more than three months' salary for many ordinary farmers or factory workers.

Statues of saints, virtually a must at a Pabasa, can cost up to \$2,100. Poor sponsors sometimes borrow statues from wealthier relatives or friends.

"It's only once a year," said Socorro Aneno, 51, whose family has been sponsoring Pabasas here for generations. "But we

Several sponsors said their families began hosting such rituurgy written early in the 19th als to fulfill religious vows, such century by a teacher, Mariano Pi- as the recovery from illness or births of children.

MSC Political Forum and the

American Institute of Aeronautics

and Astronautics present:

The Future of The

Stealth Bomber

Henry Spence

Vice President of B-2 Program

LTV Aircraft Products Group

Dr. Jonathan Nagler

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Texas A&M University

Thursday March 28, 1991

301 Rudder

8:00 pm

refreshments to follow the program

The News presented in this program do not necessarily represent the views of

Political Forum or the MSC

contact Terry at 845-1515 for more information



ruptcy Code. sota-based Northwest declined to comment on whether there

"We never identify whether we're in discussions with an other airline, but we're always examining all options to grow our airline," said spokesman

Doug Miller. Northwest's interests could center on Continental's Pacific operation, including its routes to Australia and a subsidiary known as Continental Air Micro

Continental also could sell its System One computer reserva-tion system to Worldspan, the reservation system operated by Northwest, Delta and Trans World Airlines. Combined, the reservation system would be sec-

Virginia said other assets of possible interest to Northwest are Continental's Newark, N.J. hub, and the troubled carrier's landing rights at Washington National in Washington, La-Guardia in New York and Chi-

## U.N. condemns Israeli actions of deportation

UNITED NATIONS (AP) -The Security Council on Wednesday deplored Israel's plan to deport four Palestinians involved in the uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and

The president of the Security Council read out a non-binding statement opposing Israel's deci-

The United States backed the statement. All presidential statements from the council must be agreed upon by all 15 members of the body.

Austrian Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner, Security Council president this month, said council members "call upon Israel to desist from deporting Palestinians and to ensure the safe return of those deported."

A statement from Israel's U.N. mission said it "regrets the presidential statement from the Security Council, which selectively censures Israel for issuing orders to expel four terrorists, two of

# Continental plan merger: papers report

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) Northwest Airlines Co-chairman Alfred Checchi is interested in possibly buying parts of Continental Airlines, newspapers the Twin Cities have reported.

reorganizing its finances under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bank A spokesman for the Minne

are talks between the two air

nesia, which links Japan, Guam and surrounding islands.

ond largest in the industry.

Paul Turk of Avmark Inc. in cago's O'Hare airport.