

April 22, 1991
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 STAY AWAY FROM ME. DON'T COME NEAR ME. I HAVE A SHARP PENCIL.
 Kowalski
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World & Nation 9

Monday, April 22, 1991

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Baker supports international talks in Arab-Israeli disputes

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Secretary of State James A. Baker III said Sunday he's not putting



James Baker said he would not pressure Israel.

pressure on Israel to compromise its stand on peace talks with the Arabs, but made it clear there should be "an international characteristic" to any negotiations. While Baker waited to hear from Jerusalem, he flew to Saudi Arabia to discuss a sharply lim-

ited role for the oil-rich kingdom in resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"I do not anticipate that they would be there in the context of the political discussions between Israel and her Arab neighbors and the political discussions between Israel and Palestinians," he said at a news conference in Cairo.

In Jiddah, Baker was to hold talks with Saudi Arabian King Fahd and Prince Saud, the foreign minister. Baker met Saturday with Jordan's King Hussein and Sunday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In the meantime, Baker's strategy seemed geared to placing

the responsibility on Israel to keep his peace mission from disintegrating.

"We have heard no responses to the suggestions that we made in my last visit," Baker said.

He has refused to spell out the proposals he left Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy.

But Baker has said the Soviets should co-sponsor the peace talks with the United States and he's leaning publicly in the "direction of Arab and European demands for an international conference."

"There is an international characteristic to any meetings

that would involve five, or six, or even seven countries from different parts of the world," Baker said in Cairo.

Baker said he called Shamir on Saturday, not to get answers but to "give him my own personal debriefing of my visit to Jordan."

"We do not intend to press or obviously to pressure for an answer," Baker told reporters.

Baker's aides told reporters Saturday that he would not return to Jerusalem after he ends his tour of Arab countries in Syria on Tuesday. But Levy was quoted in Jerusalem as saying Baker would return Tuesday night and hold meetings there Wednesday.

Marines build settlement for refugees

SILOPI, Turkey (AP) — U.S. Marines on Sunday began building the first safe-haven settlement for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq, despite more bitter denunciations from Iraq.

As Marines moved into the area of Zakho, Saddam Hussein's troops withdrew as agreed, some even offering smiles and waves to the arriving Americans.

But the Marines were surprised to find 200 Iraqi police in the city. The police pulled out as well, but some U.S. officials objected to the fact that they had been sent to Zakho at all.

"We are very concerned about this new development, the introduction of police forces, which we think is contrary to the spirit of our agreement," Lt. Col. Bob Flocke, a U.S. military spokesman, said.

However, Marine Col. James Jones, head of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which arrived in northern Iraq on Saturday, said he did not find the brief police presence "particularly disturbing."

The United States and its allies are bringing in thousands of soldiers to protect the Kurds, who fear bloody reprisals from Iraqi government troops for their uprising against Saddam.

Throughout Sunday, swarms of U.S. helicopters ferried troops and supplies into Zakho, 17 miles from the Turkish border settlement of Silopi.

By afternoon, 32 blue-and-white tents provided by the Agency for International Development had been set up in a lush green meadow, and an American flag flew over the town.

"We will rapidly build this small neighborhood into an entire community," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jay M. Garner, the senior U.S. commander on the ground in northern Iraq. He set up headquarters in the newly abandoned garrison of the 44th Iraqi division.

"We are in the job of saving lives, and we're going to save lives and do a good job of it," Garner said.

Iraq's state-run press denounced the use of American troops to set up and guard camps for Kurds. More than 1,400 Marines are in Zakho.

"This provocative behavior is blatant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and a flagrant violation of international law," the government daily Al-Thawra said.

Activists ask Congress for forest protection

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmentalists urged Congress Sunday to slow logging on national forests and called on President Bush to live up to his claim to be the "environmental president."

About 100 activists rallied in front of the Capitol in celebration of the birthday of 19th century naturalist John Muir and in support of a Texas congressman's proposal to end ecologically harmful clear cuts of all federally owned forests.

"John Muir led a lifelong crusade to protect rivers and forests from misguided exploitation schemes," said Mark Winstein, co-director of the coalition Save America's Forests. "Now is the time for all concerned Americans to come to the defense of our country's natural heritage."

"Action must correct 100 years of environmental and economic devastation caused by the destructive clear-cutting and mismanagement of

our nation's forests," he said during a speech in light rain.

Leaders of forest protection groups from Texas, Illinois, Oregon and New York pleaded to make national forests off-limits to clear cuts — the practice of harvesting all commercial timber from an area at approximately the same time.

The protestors said U.S. tax dollars should not be used to strip away forest ecosystems and turn Forest Service lands into tree plantations for the wood and paper products industry.

A bill which Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, plans to introduce on Monday, would ban clear cuts "and other extreme methods of forest management" on all federal lands.

Bryant said clear cuts cause soil erosion, nutrient loss, reduction of habitat diversity and impairment of hunting and fishing.

Scud attack in Afghanistan kills up to 300, reports say

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Searchers dug through debris Sunday, trying to unearth bodies after a missile strike on a crowded bazaar in eastern Afghanistan. Reports said up to 300 people were killed and 700 hurt.

At least two Soviet-made Scud missiles slammed into Asadabad, capital of Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province, late Saturday, said Qaribur Saeed, a spokesman for the radical Hezbi-Islami, or party of Islam, guerrilla group.

Radio Kabul, the voice of Afghanistan's Communist government, monitored in Islamabad,

was silent on the reported attack. It rarely acknowledges Scud strikes on guerrilla positions.

Pakistan's official news agency said 300 were killed and 700 were wounded in the attack. Another report from a pro-rebel Afghan agency said 100 people had died in the attack and several hundred were wounded.

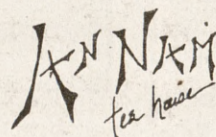
Because of the town's inaccessibility, the claims could not be verified independently.

For 13 years, Pakistan has been the staging area for the Muslim resistance fighting to topple successive Soviet-allied governments in Kabul.

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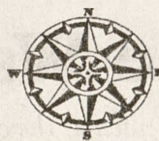
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