World & Nation

Friday, September 20, 1991

Yeltsin complains of ailment

Speculators question real reason behind 'slight illness'

Federation President Boris Yeltsin was described as "slightly ill"

from an unspecified heart ailment Thursday and he canceled his engagements second

straight day.

The acting chairman of the Russian legisla-ture, Ruslan

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Khasbulatov, Yeltsin told lawmakers the 60-year-old Yeltsin could not speak to the opening session of the legislature as planned because his doctors told him to rest for a day.

He said Yelstin was not seriously ill and still planned to visit Azerbaijan this weekend.

There was no public talk that Yeltsin might be seriously ill, and speculation grew in the legislature that he might be feigning illness to avoid a debate with lawmakers angry at this transfer of powers to the executive branch.

Yeltsin issued a series of sweeping decrees after the failed Aug. 18-21 coup, asserting his au-thority over many aspects of the central Soviet government and bypassing legislative review. Many viet Union and would destablize lawmakers have questioned their an already unsettled situation.

'Many legislators regard the absence of Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin) at the session as an attempt to avoid open confrontation with the parliament," the Tass news agency quoted lawmaker Vladimir Lisin as saying.

"He would have to answer some unpleasant questions about his decrees," said Lisin, chairman of the subcommittee on humanitarian issues.

If Yeltsin did turn out to be seriously ill, the incapacitation of the most popular politician in the So-

Yeltsin has supported the groups pushing for more liberalization and democracy, and his loss could be a boon to factions that have opposed reform.

Under Russian law, Vice President Alexander Rutskoi would replace Yeltsin if he became disabled, either until Yeltsin could resume office or until his five-year presidential term expires in June

Because Yeltsin is thought not to be very ill, there has been no public discussion about this possi-

Faction says Israel must free prisoners

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) - A pro-Iranian kidnapping faction said Thursday it would not free any Western hostage until Israel releases 20 more Lebanese pris-

"The Revolutionary Justice Organization is sorry to freeze the hope of an imminent release of a few hostages until the pic ture becomes clearer about the Israeli position and the United Nations movement," said a communique from the group.

The handwritten Arabic-lan-guage statement, delivered to An-Nahar newspaper and a western news agency, was accompanied by a picture of American hostage Joseph Cicippio, 61, of Norristown, Pa., who is held by the group along with British hostage Jack Mann.

The photograph was a poor quality reproduction of an old color photo of Cicippio, shown from the chest up with a bushy beard and without his glasses.

The 32-line statement dashed hopes raised this week that Mann, 77, a former World War II

pilot, was about to go free. Also Thursday, Shiite Muslim leaders seeking a hostage-for-prisoner swap said two German captives may be excluded from the proposed deal, in an at-tempt to bargain for the release of Lebanese terrorists jailed in

The Shiites, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said two of the 11 Western hostages — an Italian and Briton - had died in captivity

Numerous previous reports have suggested British writer Alec Collett and Italian business man Alberto Molinari died years

U.N. Security Council allows Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council on Thursday approved a plan allowing Iraq to sell up to \$1.6 billion worth of oil and use some of the profits for civilian supplies and war repara-

The six-month arrangement would be the first export of Iraqi oil since the Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait. It was not immediately clear if Baghdad would consent to the plan.
The 15-member Security

Council approved the plan 13-1, with Cuba voting no and Yemen abstaining.

Under the resolution, Iraq would have no control over the sale of the oil or the proceeds, to be used for food, medicine and humanitarian supplies.

Up to 30 percent of the revenue can be used to pay war reparations. The United Nations will also use some of the money to cover costs of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, as

required under the Persian Gulf constitute a weakening of U.N.

War cease-fire accords. Iraqi's U.N. ambassador, Abdul Amir al-Anbari, complained to the council that the plan did not provide enough income for humanitarian aid for Iragis.

He later told reporters the plan "is totally unworkable," but declined to say how Baghdad

Oil industry sources say Iraqi officials have been making inquiries about resuming oil sales.

Iraq has consistently bridled at the directives issued by the Security Council since the end of the Gulf War.

This week, the United States warned Baghdad that renewed attacks were not out of the question if it failed to allow U.N. helicopters to fly freely around Iraq in search of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said the oil sale did not

sanctions against Iraq.

A key element of the resolution, he said, is that no funds generated by the oil sale will ever pass into the hands of the Iraqi govern-

'The sale of Iraqi oil and the procurement and distribution of supplies will be conducted under close supervision of the United Nations," he said.

"If Iraq has any concern about the fate of its people and the hardship that they are facing, this is a way for them to see that the people get what they need," he said. The Iraqi oil would be sent

through the pipeline to Turkey, where it would be stored for sale. The pipeline can carry about 1 million barrels a day.

'In terms of the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, there is no question it has to be done. And it will be done," said the council's president, French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee.

President says no "Son of Desert Storm" planned

Bush reaffirms warnings to Saddam

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a day of trying to quell talk of a new war with Iraq, President Bush interference with the helicopters of U.N. weapons inspectors. "He should not miscalculate again."

issued warnings to Sad-dam Hussein and new reassurances to the American pub-

To Saddam, Hispanic journalists in Los

Angeles Thursday to say, "I've never been more determined" about ending

To Americans, Bush said he was not planning "Son of Desert Storm," but would rely on air

power if necessary. To allay the concerns of troop movements. ... What we are talking about, i required, is ac companying helicopters with some air power," he said. "And we've got a lot of air power

The president's remarks reversed the course of a day in

which Bush had ducked questions about his ultimatum to Saddam the day before.

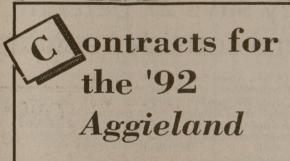
At one point, Bush was told that Iraq's state-run news media had accused the United States of spreading false information ... to America, I would simply say justify its resumption of aggres-we're not talking about massive sion," and replied, "I'm not looking for a fight with anybody.

> man Pete Williams refused to comment on the alert status of any U.S. forces, saying the Pentagon doesn't comment on "contingency

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