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Study Abroad Office, 161 Bizzell Hall West, 845-0544

Russian leader suffers from heart ailment

Yeltsin to take leave from work

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, who skipped a parliament session last week because of a heart ailment, will take a leave from work that could last two weeks, Soviet media reported Tuesday.

The reports renewed speculation about the reasons for recent changes in the 60-year-old Yeltsin's schedule. With the absence of official word from Yeltsin, the reasons circulating in rumor mills range from Yeltsin's fatigue to his reluctance to face criticism about decrees he issued during and since the failed Aug. 18-21 coup.

Yeltsin, 60, reaped enormous power and prestige by successfully leading opposition to the coup. He is the most popular politician in the Soviet Union and if he were to become seriously ill, die, or step down from office, it would further destabilize an already chaotic situation.

Soviet television said that Yeltsin will "travel for a rest" on Wednesday. His destination was not revealed.

The independent Interfax news agency quoted Yeltsin's spokesman, Pavel Voshchanov, as indicating "the leave could last for a couple of weeks."

Officials have said an unspecified heart ailment forced Yeltsin to miss a session of the Supreme Soviet legislature last Thursday and Friday, where he was supposed to deliver a speech.

The acting chairman of the Russian legislature, Ruslan Khasbulatov, told lawmakers Yeltsin was not seriously ill.

Aides and officials close to Yeltsin also dismissed suggestions that the president suffers from any serious illness, and attributed Yeltsin's sudden sickness to his

strenuous work schedule.

On Friday, Yeltsin traveled to the Caucasus Mountains to mediate a cease-fire in the disputed area of Nagorno-Karabakh, claimed by both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

He returned to Moscow early Tuesday morning and later met the visiting president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, Gerald Corrigan, to discuss financial and banking reforms, the Tass news agency said.

Yeltsin apparently has not taken a break since the failed coup, when he led a standoff with Soviet tanks at Russia's parliament building in Moscow.

Yeltsin issued a series of sweeping decrees asserting his authority over many aspects of the central Soviet government and bypassing legislative review.

Many officials later questioned

their legality. Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, in his capacity as chairman of the new Soviet Economic Management Committee, wrote a letter last week, Yeltsin requesting that some decrees issued during the coup be suspended, news reports said.

The reports didn't specify which decrees Silayev objected to, but apparently he objected to those giving Russian control over formerly Soviet facilities on its territory.

On Monday, the Cabinet drafted a statement saying the Silayev's letter contradicted the Russian lawmakers' decision to take over control of facilities on territory, the independent Interfax news agency said.

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Military cuts cause minimal affect on Corps

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"There wasn't any growth though, that was the negative," he said.

Freshmen and sophomores in the Corps must join an ROTC program, but at the junior and senior level, only those under contract remain in the ROTC.

Fifty to 55 seniors were commissioned in the Air Force last year. Crumbliss said the number will be similar this year.

"All the service have to adjust their size," Crumbliss said. "The

Air Force, as all the rest of the services, are only going to commission the officers needed to do the job."

He said the cuts will create a lack of opportunity for an individual who wants to join the services.

Col. Jim Woodward, a professor of military science, said despite Army cutbacks of 520,000 to 720,000 people, A&M's Army ROTC has been given free rein to commission cadets.

The Army ROTC program grew from 29 to 33 percent of the Corps this year.

Col. Bill Barba, a professor of naval science, said the Naval ROTC program, which includes the Navy and Marines hasn't shown a change since the announcement of military cuts.

"I think the Navy is down-sizing by 89,000 to 90,000 personnel, and the Marine corps by 20,000," Barba said.

The Navy and Marine branches commission 50 to 70 officers from A&M every year.

He said a large part of those commissioned into the Navy from here are fifth-year seniors who

graduated from the Corps the previous year.

Crumbliss said nothing is to be gained from future decreases. This is a long review process, before a final decision is made to close base, he said.

A lot of people think that's what's happening in the Soviet Union translates into a less threat to us, he said.

"We need to keep an eye on their capabilities and not their intentions," Crumbliss said. "We shouldn't beat all our swords into plowshares."

U.N. officials remain in captivity; suspected to have nuclear plans

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to let it take away papers and photographs of documents gathered in an unannounced search at the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission. Iraqi officials said the inspectors would not be allowed to leave unless they surrendered the material.

David Kay, the American head of the U.N. nuclear team in Baghdad, reported that the inspectors were holed up in six cars and a bus outside the commission, refusing to surrender their evidence. He said they were blocked from leaving by 60 armed Iraqi security men at midday and were still surrounded more than 12 hours later.

Kay said the team had "no intention of giving up that film," and was prepared for a long standoff. The inspection teams routinely videotape and photograph the documents they examine.

Kay spoke in several live interviews with Cable News Network from Baghdad, using a portable satellite telephone.

"It's essential for the international community's long-term stability that inspectors have the right to freely inspect, to collect data, to remove it for analysis," Kay said.

He said the team was in contact with U.N. officials in New York and Vienna, Austria.

Asked about Aziz's charge that he is an American spy, Kay said: "It's completely ridiculous and untrue."

Iraqi officials claimed the team took routine personnel records unrelated to Iraq's nuclear research program.

Kay said, "We were taking information on the top personnel in the Iraqi nuclear weapons program and clandestine uranium enrichment program as well as the financial data on their procurement abroad of items for their clandestine program."

He said the team also found documents on long-range missile production.

The team is "very close to finding out the true scope and nature of the Iraqi program," Kay said.

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President negotiates cease-fire

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The sides announced Tuesday they agreed to put down the guns immediately and restore limited self-rule by Jan. 1 under Russian and Kazakh supervision, the news agency Tass said.

A joint communique signed Monday said Soviet army and Interior Ministry troops would remain in the region as peacekeepers.

The new reformist Soviet defense minister, Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, took part in the talks.

The sides agreed to "ensure the eventual return of all deported people to their homes" and guarantee their safety; to release all hostages within two weeks and to reopen all railways and highways.

The communique was signed by Yeltsin, Nazarbayev, Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian, with "participation" by Nagorno-Karabakh officials.

Whether the agreement would end bloodshed in the conflict was impossible to determine.

It "doesn't fully satisfy the demands of the Armenian side as much as the Azerbaijani side," Ter-Petrosian told his parliament later, "but to wait for fulfillment all the demands would not have been realistic." His comments were reported by the Interfax news agency.

Yeltsin on Tuesday also sent a delegation to try to resolve a dispute between ethnic Chechen and Avari groups in Dagestan, a southern region in Georgia, news reports said.

Crisis in Gulf evokes U.S. response

Continued from Page 1

intended to make the weapons available from its stocks. The number and the timing of the deployment, however, remained uncertain.

There were reports that the Saudis demanded the missiles in return for allowing the United States to stage protective cover flights for the U.N. inspectors in Iraq, but Pentagon officials declined to comment on the reports.

The official said that the missiles would depart from Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

Last week, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said that the anti-missile weapons were requested by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia because the Saudis "feel threatened" by Iraq.

He said the Saudis expressed concern because Baghdad "continues to try to sidestep the U.N. Security Council resolutions on destroying their ballistic missiles."

The Pentagon has said repeatedly that Iraq has "a long way to go" in meeting its post-Gulf War agreement to disclose the full range of its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs,

as well as the extent of its ballistic missile program.

Last week, Williams said the Patriot deployment had symbolic as well as protective value.

"This is a deterrent to make clear to our friends and to the Iraqis that the United States is prepared to do whatever is necessary to defend its interests and the interests of the allies in the region," Williams said.

A number of Patriot missile launchers were kept in Saudi Arabia after the end of the war, but that the American soldiers who fired them had long since been returned to their home bases.

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