

# World & Nation

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The Battalion

Wednesday, April 1, 1992

## U.N. imposes embargo on Libya

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council on Tuesday branded Libya a terrorist state for shielding six men accused of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 and a French airliner, approving sanctions that ban flights and arms sales to the North African country.

Wearing black for mourning, relatives of some of the 270 victims of the 1988 Pan Am bombing watched from the visitors' gallery as the council imposed the sanctions by a 10-0 vote.

It was only the second time the Security Council has imposed

## Security Council approves banning of arms sales, flights to 'terrorist state'

sanctions on a single country for flouting its demands on peace and security. The first was after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

George Williams, whose son Jordy died when the plane blew up over Scotland, said: "Libya has been indicted, the finger has been pointed at them as having been deeply involved in the bombing of Pan Am 103."

Susan Cohen, whose 20-year-

old daughter Theodora also died in the Pan Am bombing, said: "It's not nearly enough. We need an oil embargo. We won't get the truth unless a lot more goes into this."

Although the resolution prohibits the sale of arms, airplanes and aircraft parts to Libya, it includes no broad trade embargo, meaning Libya's oil exports will not be affected. The resolution also calls on member states to expel most Libyan diplomats.

Hours before the vote, U.S. diplomats said Libya was pressuring some foreigners from leaving the country, raising fears that they could be held as hostages. State Department said more than 500 to 1,000 Americans in the country were having trouble leaving Libya.

The sanctions are scheduled to take effect April 15, but will be imposed if Libya surrenders six suspects sought by France, Britain and the United States. The U.S. takes steps to fulfill all the demands of the resolution.

## U.S. economy gains vigor; analysts say rise is weak

WASHINGTON (AP) — The needle on the government's main economic barometer rose 0.8 percent in February, pointing toward a renewed revival, but one that analysts agree will be weaker than normal.

Analysts said the second straight increase in the Commerce Department's Index of Leading Economic Indicators, released Tuesday, suggested the recovery was under way again after virtually stalling out late last year.

But they cautioned that the index also had risen in the first half of 1991 and could falter — as it did last year.

Analysts also were heartened by a report Tuesday that showed a large rebound in consumer confidence last month.

The Conference Board, a New York-based business organization, said its Consumer Confidence Index soared to 54 in March, up seven points from February and the biggest increase in a year.

## Navy retires America's last active battleship Veterans salute 'Mighty Mo'

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Taps were sounded and Old Glory brought down and veterans of three wars paid tribute Tuesday to "Mighty Mo," the USS Missouri, as America's last active battleship was retired.

The ship where Japan formally surrendered in 1945, and which pounded Iraqi forces with one-ton shells during the Persian Gulf War was decommissioned because of defense cuts and a diminished Soviet threat.

Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., spoke from the deck. He warned that too much disarmament was dangerous, and expressed regret that the Navy did not ask for the money to keep the ship battle-ready.

"Those who would slash our military even further than the planned 25 percent reduction... lack an understanding of history's lessons," said Skelton, a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

"Time and time again, in this century we have followed the dangerous and costly path of demobilization, disarmament, and unpreparedness, only to regret that course of action a few short years later,"

he said. Threatening skies cleared for the ceremony at Long Beach Naval Station. Hundreds of Missouri seamen and veterans of World War II and the Korean and Persian Gulf wars stood at attention as a cannon fired 19 shots.

Red, white and blue bunting draped the battleship's rails. A yellow Operation Desert Storm flag flew high above.

Its 16-inch guns were capped and hatches were ready for storage.

The ship's captain, Cmdr. Albert L. Kaiss, thanked the crew. "Stand tall and always be proud," he advised them.

Kaiss, who also retired Tuesday, read the decommissioning order and ordered the ship's name lowered. The ship's chaplain read a benediction and Kaiss ordered the colors hauled down. The American flag was lowered, taps sounded, and crew marched off.

The Missouri was the last of four Iowa-class battleships mothballed by Pentagon cuts.

## Supreme Court ruling decentralizes efforts to integrate public schools

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Tuesday racial integration of public schools may be achieved piece by piece, making it easier for federal judges to stop supervising broad desegregation efforts.

The 8-0 decision permits an end to federal court supervision over student enrollment in DeKalb County, Ga., even though schools there have never been fully integrated.

A five-member court majority also emphasized it generally is not unlawful for blacks and whites to attend different schools if they live in different neighborhoods.

"Racial balance is not to be achieved for its own sake," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote. "Residential housing choices and their attendant effects on the racial

composition of schools present an ever-changing pattern, one difficult to address through judicial remedies."

Christopher Hansen, the American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who represented black parents in DeKalb County, said, "It's a difficult decision to comprehend, but we are very disappointed by it and its overall tone."

"It seems the court's majority is growing weary of its commitment to racial justice. It is not prepared to abandon that commitment, but it is clearly frustrated."

Kennedy, writing for the court, said, "Federal courts have the authority to relinquish supervision and control of school districts in incremental stages, before full compliance has been achieved in every area of school operations."

Kennedy said judges should give "particular attention to the school system's record of compliance."

No one in DeKalb County, a middle-class suburban area east of Atlanta, argues that the county's schools ever have been fully integrated. Today, about 60 percent of the county's 77,000 public school students are black. More than half of them attend schools 90 percent or more black.

The county's schools were racially segregated by law until 1966. It was not until black parents sued in 1969 that any significant desegregation efforts began.

Blacks comprised 6 percent of the county's student population then. Over the next decade, thousands of black families moved to southern DeKalb County.

## Russia plans for stable future

### Signing of treaty by leaders helps affirm Yeltsin's efforts

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin scored a political victory Tuesday as regional leaders from across Russia signed a treaty he said will help protect the country from "chaos, lawlessness" and disintegration.

"At this critical moment that Russia is experiencing, we found the strength, reason and responsibility to remove the danger of fragmentation looming over Russia, and to do it together," Yeltsin said.

For Yeltsin, signing the pact marked the end of a winter that was milder than forecast and less tumultuous than expected.

Although consumer prices have quadrupled since Jan. 2 under Yeltsin's economic reforms, the winter passed without the widespread demonstrations or food riots that had been predicted by members of Yeltsin's own government.

No one is reported to have died of starvation or frozen to death because of the reforms, despite rising numbers of unemployed and homeless people.

Yeltsin faces plenty of political storms ahead, however, as reflected by the resignation on Tuesday of a top aide, Vice Premier Sergei Shakhrai, a victim of political infighting in the days before the opening of parliament on Monday.

The parliament, or Russian Congress of People's Deputies, will be holding its first session since the Soviet Union collapsed

last December. In addition to criticism from Russian lawmakers, Yeltsin is encountering disputes over military issues with Ukrainian leaders.

Ukraine is the second most populous and wealthy nation in the Commonwealth of Independent States that replaced the Soviet Union.

Yeltsin, whose approval rating has plummeted since he lifted price controls last January, was certain to wave the Federation Treaty as a banner of victory in parliament. But in his speech, he ignored the refusal of two of Russia's autonomous republics to sign the treaty.

The dissenting states were the mostly Muslim republics of Tatarstan, whose voters on March 21 voted for independence, and Chechen, which has declared independence.

Signing the treaty along with the 18 autonomous republics were 49 oblasts and six kraies — different forms of administrative units established under the former Soviet system.

Yeltsin said the treaty, which gives regions greater autonomy, "will make it possible to liberate the vast and varied experience of Russia, the initiative and enterprise of its citizens."

## Researchers to explore island for oil reserves

HOUSTON (AP) — Marathon Oil Co. and Russian officials have agreed to study the feasibility of exploring for oil and gas off Sakhalin Island.

Houston-based Marathon, McDermott International and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. signed what they called a definitive agreement Monday with the Russian ministry of fuel and energy.

The agreement covers only a study of the area, but the companies involved expect the pact will lead to an exploration program.

Marathon previously has estimated Sakhalin exploration would cost \$10 billion, making it the biggest deal ever for Marathon and the most extensive collaboration yet between foreign energy companies and Russia.

Shortly after the proposed deal was announced, local officials in Sakhalin protested. They claimed they had been elbowed out of the negotiations by Russian energy officials.

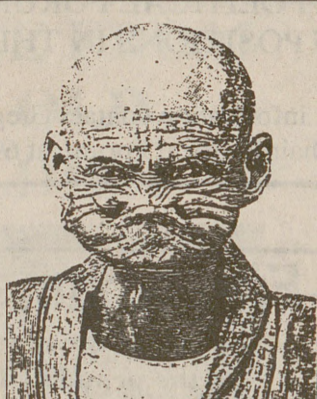
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