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# INTERNATIONAL

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The Battalion

Thursday, September 23

## Diplomats expel Yugoslavia from U.N.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS — Security Council diplomats were laying plans Wednesday for a new war crimes resolution to punish "ethnic cleansing" and attacks on civilians by warring parties in former Yugoslav republics.

The pole that bore Yugoslavia's flag for decades was bare Wednesday morning after the U.N. General Assembly voted 127-6 the night before to expel it from the assembly for arming and encouraging rebel Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The flag was raised around noon — "provisionally" — General Assembly spokesman Alexander Taukatch said.

Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic has requested U.N. membership as a new state, but the 15-nation Security Council was not expected to

review Yugoslavia's status until December.

The flag-raising confusion reflected Yugoslavia's unclear status in the 179-member world body, which had not suspended a member in its 47-year history. The Yugoslav desk was empty Wednesday, but the "Yugoslavia" nameplate remained.

The wars that broke out as Yugoslavia disintegrated have been characterized by campaigns of terror against minority ethnic groups, followed by attacks, massacres and shelling of besieged cities.

The war flared this year in Bosnia after fighting died down in Croatia. Slovenia and Macedonia seceded from Yugoslavia quietly, and only Serbia and Montenegro still belong.

More than a million people have been driven from their homes as a result of the conflict and "ethnic cleansing" campaigns, in which

one ethnic group is driven from an area to make room for another. It is the worst crisis in Europe since World War II.

Reports by the United Nations have blamed all groups — Serbs, Croats and Muslims — for such outlawed tactics.

Many — including the U.S. government, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the U.N. Human Rights Commission special envoy on Yugoslavia, former U.S. Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki — have urged the Serbs as the chief aggressors.

Mazowiecki has urged the creation of an international commission to investigate crimes. Croatia and Bosnia have called for international war crimes tribunals, and Germany has demanded that Serb leaders be tried under a 1948 U.N. resolution that pledges signs to prosecute those accused of genocide.

## Storm ravages Europe, flood causes 30 deaths

France reports 50 people still missing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VAISON-LA-ROMAINE, France — France's deadliest storm in 34 years killed at least 30 people, including 21 in an ancient town devastated by a flash flood, officials said Wednesday.

Hundreds of rescue workers searched for nearly 50 missing people.

Torrential rains and violent winds swept through southern France on Tuesday, ruining crops and damaging roads and buildings in scenic Vaucluse, a popular destination for French and foreign vacationers.

"It's an indescribable tragedy," said Claude Haut, mayor of Vaison-la-Romaine, one of the towns hardest hit.

Weather forecasters said the same storm system struck England on Wednesday, swelling rivers in the south and central regions.

No deaths were reported but highways and rail lines were flooded, and thousands of commuters were stranded.

Italian authorities reported two people were missing when flash floods swept the Savona area on the coast north near the French border.

French officials put the number of deaths in northern Vaucluse at 25, including five Belgians. Twenty-one of the victims were killed in Vaison-la-Romaine, a town of 5,000 dating to Roman times, 25 miles north of Avignon.

Two were killed in the town of Aubignon and two in Gigondas.

Of the nearly 50 people reported missing, five were Belgian, two German and one Dutch, officials in Avignon said.

Elsewhere, a postman drowned in the Drome region and four people were killed in Ardeche, between Lyon and Avignon, including a young man who tried to save his father from the swollen Ardeche River, authorities said.

It was the highest death toll from a storm in France since October 1958, when 36 people were killed by flooding in the neighboring Gard region.

In Vaison-la-Romaine, witnesses recounted seeing camping vans being carried down the Ouveze River with people inside screaming for help.

A wall of water swept through the town about 4 p.m. Tuesday, causing damage as much as 50 feet above the normal level of the river.

## U.S. Task force searches for missing Vietnam vets

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DANANG, Vietnam — A little diplomacy and a lot of digging count for more than derring-do in the joint U.S.-Vietnamese effort to account for Americans missing from the Vietnam War.

For four years, with little fanfare, Americans have been regularly conducting searches, hacking their way through jungles — real and bureaucratic — to painstakingly collect evidence to help resolve the fates of the 1,658 servicemen unaccounted for from a war that ended 17 years ago.

Members of the Pentagon's Joint Task Force-Full Accounting unit last week concluded their 19th joint mission with their Vietnamese counterparts. Fifty-one analysts, anthropologists, mortuary specialists, medics and ordnance experts from the Army, Navy and Air Force took part.

The task force is the official U.S. body charged with accounting for the 2,266 Americans listed as missing from the Indochina War.

Besides those lost in Vietnam, 519 are missing in Laos, 81 in Cambodia and eight in China. "The work is not cut-and-dried," says Air Force Senior

Master Sgt. Gary Flanagan, Ballinger, Texas, interviewed the task force's component Hanoi. "It involves a lot of hard work on the part of the diers in the field."

The U.S. effort was upped nine months ago, with an increase in personnel from 142, and a change in emphasis from analysis to operations.

Task force members say changes brought renewed energy to their work. Flanagan postponed his retirement because now has hopes of seeing the completed.

The task force teams in three-fold mission. Investigation teams, through interviews, site surveys, pinpoint areas excavation; recovery teams locate such spots, which are generally crash sites and burial grounds.

Intelligence specialists search so-called live sightings, the tantalizing accounts of mysterious Westerners sighted in post-war Vietnam who might possibly be former prisoners-of-war.

Task force members are careful to distinguish the different types of cases on which they work.

In Vietnam, searchers have a list of more than 100 priorities they are determined to investigate by the end of January.

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## Japan spends least amount on education

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Africa spends only an average portion of its money on education, compared with other industrialized nations.

Japan spends the smallest percentage but gets the most for its yen, a study of the world's 24 wealthiest industrial democracies showed Wednesday.

Denmark and Finland are spending public funds for education, followed by Norway, Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, said the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, an international agency in Paris monitors the world's economies.

The OECD report is the first to compare education systems among industrialized nations and represents the most comprehensive and reliable set of national education indicators ever published.

"We have never before had a comparable database" because of the differences both in education systems and in methods of data collection, said Albert Tuijnman, of the OECD Secretariat.

Tuijnman, who helped prepare the report, said in an interview the countries began about five years ago to standardize definitions.

They agreed to use 1988 as the base year for the national income, dividing it by the entire population, and then adjusting for what the money really buys.

This measure of the nation's wealth of a country is known as the gross domestic product.

According to the report, the United States is the wealthiest industrialized nation, followed by Canada, Switzerland, Norway and Luxembourg, Sweden and Germany.