

Dole returns from Mexico after NAFTA discussions

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole and other Republicans returned Monday from Mexico saying President Carlos Salinas de Gortari is convinced U.S. political opposition won't block passage of a free trade agreement. "Obviously he's very concerned about it, but he's also a very positive person and he still believes that because we're

right we'll prevail," Dole said during a rally in San Antonio.

Dole of Kansas and Republican Sens. Phil Gramm of Texas, Orrin Hatch of Utah and Judd Gregg of New Hampshire plus Republican U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla of San Antonio met with business leaders upon returning to Texas and toured the Holt Company's heavy equipment plant. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., also went with the group to Mexico. Earlier, after meeting with Salinas,

Dole said it would be "devastating" should President Clinton fail to win passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which would link Mexico, the United States and Canada in the world's largest trade zone.

The Republican senators suggested an easy Senate win for NAFTA would strengthen Clinton before a tougher House fight. U.S. Rep. David Bonior of Michigan, a key Democratic opponent of NAFTA, said Sunday as many as 75 per-

cent of Democrats in the House oppose the agreement.

Bonilla, the only House representative on the Mexico trip, said he believes that estimate is high and that many House members have not yet committed on the issue.

Dole said his delegation warned Salinas "to get ready for a lot of hot rhetoric from some of the opponents that might be offensive to people in Mexico, might be offensive everywhere else."

Cult

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Federal investigations examining the raid, standoff and fire are expected to be released in mid-September.

So far, in discovery proceedings, prosecutors have shown defense lawyers rifle stocks and other ammunition charred from the fire.

The 33-year-old religious leader for years had preached that Armageddon would come to their so-called Ranch Apocalypse home in a bloody showdown with government authorities.

Defense lawyers said they are puzzled at how their clients have been pinpointed out of more than 100 Branch Davidians who were inside the prairie fortress the day of the shootout.

Agents and Davidians alike have described the 45-minute gunbattle Feb. 28 under rainy skies as a dizzying exchange of gunfire in which bodies were ducking for cover and bullets whistled from more than 50 locations.

"I am always impressed by the government and their thoroughness," said attorney Buck Harris, who is representing defendant Renos Avraam. "It's kind of like cotton. If it's there, they will pick it clean."

"But I will be interested to see how they can determine which round came from which gun from which window. That gets a little difficult to track. At some point in all this, someone has to show a weapon was in a person's hands and have them firing at an officer."

Stanley Rentz, attorney for Davidian Graeme Craddock, said, "Some of these people have been indicted and they weren't even on the premises when this thing happened. Really, I think the main characters in this thing perished in the fire."

One of the defendants, Paul Fatta, was in Austin at a gun show the day of the shootings.

Defense attorneys said they are still contemplating motions to move the trial from Waco. But most said they are leaning toward keeping the proceedings near the site of the tragedy.

Hurricane

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swells and 40 to 50 mph wind along the coastline from Virginia to New York's Long Island.

If Emily moves farther inland over North Carolina before veering north, it might weaken to tropical storm status — with sustained wind below 74 mph — but could bring heavy rain and high wind to big East Coast cities, Zaleski said.

There also was the question of timing — whether the storm would hit near high tides at around 8 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. Wednesday. A full moon will make the tides even higher.

Residents and tourists alike evacuated the Outer Banks and low-lying coastal areas of North Carolina. Officials estimated there were more than 150,000 people in the area, three-fourths of them tourists, before the storm threatened.

Most evacuees left Sunday and early Monday, clogging the few highways on the narrow islands.

If the storm aims at Virginia, about 200,000 people in flood-prone areas of Hampton Roads could be evacuated, said Mike LaCivita, a spokesman for the Department of Emergency Services.

The Navy was moving at least 18 ships, including the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, from their piers at Virginia's Norfolk Naval Base to about 300 miles off the coast. The Marine Corps' New River Air Station and Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina planned to move aircraft to safer ground.

A hurricane warning was posted from Bogue Inlet, 20 miles southwest of Morehead City near the Marine Corps' Camp Lejeune, to the Virginia state line, meaning the hurricane could hit by Tuesday afternoon, forecasters said.

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