

WORLD BRIEFS

Rebels release hostages after Russian concessions

BUDYONNOVSK, Russia (AP) — Chechen rebels holding 2,000 hostages in a hospital began releasing captives Sunday after the Russian government agreed to halt combat operations in Chechnya and allow the gunmen safe passage.

Some 200 hostages, mostly women and children, left the hospital after the agreement was reached. The hostages, looking dazed and exhausted, emerged in two groups and were taken in ambulances to nearby clinics.

Sunday's hostage release came after Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin reached an agreement with rebel leader Shamil Basayev to halt combat operations in Chechnya. He also agreed to allow the rebels safe passage to nearby Chechnya by bus or plane.

Thousands of civilians and soldiers have been killed so far in the war in Chechnya. The war is unpopular in Russia, and Yeltsin has faced harsh criticism around the world for prosecuting it.

U.S. investigators find no prison, POWs in Vietnam

HUONG NON VILLAGE, Vietnam (AP) — U.S. investigators found no prison and no American prisoners of war in a daylong search Sunday prompted by an activist's claims that hundreds are still being held two decades after the Vietnam War ended.

Three Americans and three Vietnamese escorts searched an army truck depot and acres of rice paddies at the spot where POW activist Billy Henderson claimed an underground prison is located.

Henderson, a former Republican congressman from North Carolina, said the prison was hidden inside a mountain and gave the geographical coordinates of the alleged spot in Vinh Phu province, about 50 miles northwest of Hanoi.

But the investigators tracked the coordinates to a low-lying field where farmers had recently harvested a rice crop. No mountains were in view for miles — only one-story brick and thatch homes, towering haystacks, banana trees and startled villagers.

Vietnamese officials said there were no prisons in Huong Non or adjacent Hung Hoa Village, and the Foreign Ministry said Thursday that Vietnam does not have underground prisons.

Summit's lack of results show limits of power

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — If all it took was money or military might, there's not much the club of the world's top seven industrialized nations and Russia, its honorary member, couldn't do.

But at their annual summit here, President Clinton, Russia's Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of Japan, Canada and the four richest nations of Western Europe found being the biggest show on earth a frustrating business.

"There's nothing," Clinton admitted of the search for a diplomatic settlement in Bosnia. "They will not make peace, sir, until they get tired of fighting each other."

The summit, too, steered clear of officially pronouncing on a trade dispute between the United States and Japan about autos and auto parts, although the European leaders delicately isolated Clinton over his threat to impose trade sanctions with talk about preferring "multilateral solutions."

Mexicans say peso crisis far from over

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Ernesto Zedillo predicts the country's economic slide will hit bottom by year's end, but millions of Mexicans are hurting deeply from "La Crisis" and it seems only to get worse.

Inflation is roaring, paychecks are eroding and the peso is still wobbling after a steep devaluation that began Dec. 20 — a tailspin that now is instigating a deeper crisis of confidence in government.

Many Mexicans are increasingly skeptical that the government can turn the economy around unless it ends official corruption and implements wide democratic reforms.

Salinas had painted an image of Mexico as a country living in the best of times, opening its economy under the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and the United States.

But three weeks after Zedillo succeeded him on Dec. 1, the crisis broke open to the shock of most of Mexico's 90 million people.

Six months later people are hurting more than ever. The peso's value has dropped about 40 percent, while prices soared. Inflation was 29 percent in the first five months of 1995 and is still rising. Dozens of businesses are going bankrupt every week. Homes and cars are being seized from people unable to pay loan rates topping 90 percent annually.

Serbs free last 26 hostage U.N. peacekeepers

Four weapons collection points in Serb-held territory were deemed too dangerous and are no longer under U.N. supervision.

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The last 26 of more than 370 U.N. peacekeepers seized by Bosnian Serbs last month were freed Sunday after the United Nations effectively caved in to a key Serb demand tied to their release.

A shell killed seven people and wounded 12 waiting for scarce water in a Sarajevo suburb, even as U.N. peacekeepers abandoned weapons collection points set up to deter such deadly attacks.

The Serbs announced the release of the 26 peacekeepers after four Serbs were freed from U.N. detention in Sarajevo, as the rebels had demanded. The United Nations had repeatedly insisted that the peacekeepers' release should be unconditional.

The Serbs also had demanded an end to NATO airstrikes in exchange for releasing the hostages, and they claimed to have received assurances there would be no more raids. "We got a commitment," said Nikola Koljevic, a Bosnian Serb leader, on Sunday.

U.N. officials said, however, that airstrikes remained an option.

Serbs had detained the peacekeepers in late May in retaliation for NATO bombing raids. The peacekeepers have been released in groups since June 6, and the bus carrying the final ones crossed into Serbia on Sunday evening.

Canadian Capt. Patrick Rechner, who was shown on

television and in photographs chained to a stanchion at a Serb ammunition dump, was the only freed captive who was brought to the bus door to talk to reporters.

"It's been a difficult time, and we're glad that the crisis is over," said Rechner, a U.N. monitor in the Serb stronghold of Pale before his detention.

Asked if he was willing to serve again in Serb-held territory, Rechner said, "Yes, as well as on any other side in the conflict." He declined to discuss how he was treated.

Of those released, 12 were Canadians, three Dutch, two Czechs and one each from Brazil, Russia, Nigeria, Finland, Belgium, Pakistan, Kenya, Ghana and Jordan.

U.N. peacekeepers withdrew from five observation posts and four weapons collection points in Serb-held territory around Sarajevo after the areas were deemed too dangerous, U.N. spokesman Lt. Col. Gary Coward said.

The collection points con-

"We're glad that the crisis is over."

— Capt. Patrick Rechner
U.N. monitor in Serb stronghold Pale

tained heavy guns turned over by the Serbs in February 1994 under a NATO threat of airstrikes designed to end attacks on the besieged city by banning heavy weapons from a 12.5-mile radius.

Sunday's withdrawal means neither Serb nor government weapons are under U.N. supervision.

"The duties performed by the U.N. in Bosnia and in the capital Sarajevo have shrunk," U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko acknowledged. He insisted, however, that airstrikes

Government-Bosnian Croat federation
U.N. safe zones
Croat-Serb and Bosnian-Serb



■ Bosnian Serbs freed the last 26 U.N. peacekeepers, including 11 Canadians.

■ Seven people were killed and at least 10 wounded when a shell landed in the southwestern suburb of Dobrinja.

■ Rebel Serbs reacted to the government offensive by declaring a "state of war," immediately drafting all males over 18 and putting the army in charge of the government.

Associated Press

remain an option. But it seemed unlikely that any attacks like the shell that smashed into a line for water in the government-held Dobrinja suburb on Sunday will deter NATO airstrikes. "No chance," senior U.N. official said.

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*** Parking Update ***

Several campus parking lots are scheduled for surface repairs this summer. To facilitate this process the parking lots involved will need to be cleared of all parking for approximately one week (3-5 days) for base repairs, and again at a later date for one week to resurface and repaint, as weather permits. Below is a list and schedule for the parking areas involved:

PA 55	Wednesday, June 21 *The parking spaces on the street between Teague and PA 55 will remain available. (Relocate to PA 51, shuttle service provided)
PA 54 & 88	Monday, June 26 (Relocate to PA 51, shuttle service provided)
PA 51	Friday, June 29 (Relocate to PA 50)
PA 59	Saturday, June 30 (Relocate to PA 48)
PA 50	Wednesday, July 5 (Relocate to other commuter (blue) parking areas, suggeste areas are PA 89 behind tennis courts, PA 48 south of Kyle Field, PA 62 on Wellborn Rd. next to Kyle Field)
PA 46	Monday, July 17 (This is during Fireman's Training Schools, relocate to PA 48, PA 47, PA 91, PA 62, PA 69)

Please note that this information may be subject to change. When you arrive on campus and your assigned parking area is closed, please park in the alternate parking area indicated above.

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