

Clinton rallies for NATO expansion

The president met with Russia's Foreign Minister yesterday.

WASHINGTON (AP) — In strained pre-summit talks, President Clinton tried Monday to soften Russia's resistance to NATO expansion. Russian President Boris Yeltsin called in Moscow for further U.S. concessions and said, "I don't want to return to the Cold War."

The points Clinton took up with Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov included assurances that an expanded NATO would pose no threat to Moscow and promises of a greater voice for Russia in the economic conferences of the world's seven leading industrialized democracies.

While Russia cannot stop the alliance from inviting former Soviet allies this summer to join, both Yeltsin and Primakov signaled they remained opposed in principle. "We can't move any further," Yeltsin said in Moscow.

And emerging from an hour-long session with Clinton, hobbled by a knee injury, in a White House sitting room, Primakov said: "Russia will not change its position on NATO."

The differences will carry over to Clinton's summit with Yeltsin in Helsinki, Finland, on Thursday and, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said, "There are likely to continue to be disagreements after the summit."

Primakov planned to fly home Monday night and to report to Yeltsin, who told American, Russian and Finnish television networks in Moscow:

"I don't want a return to the Cold War, and neither do our people, but to avoid that there must be equal conditions. I'm for a multi-polar world, not one in which the United States will command everyone else."

Urging Clinton to make concessions, Yeltsin said: "Our diplomats have made enough concessions to the United States. We can't move any further. Now it's the U.S. turn to move in order to preserve our partnership."

Despite the rhetoric, the two sides are working on a new relationship between Moscow and NATO, one that McCurry said would be made politically but not legally binding.

If a charter can be completed, that probably would be done at a gathering of Clinton and European leaders in Europe, probably in the Netherlands in late May.

Primakov said Russia would not drop its insistence that the charter have "a binding character," but that Russia understood NATO was a real force and would like to have a normal relationship with the alliance.

Talking to reporters in the White House driveway, Primakov said it was "a great honor" to be received by Clinton during his convalescence from knee surgery and while he was not disposed to receive foreign visitors.

During their talks in the Yellow Room in the second-floor residential quarters, Clinton and Primakov sat in armchairs. The president's knee

was in a brace, the result of a wrenching accident and surgery last Friday. He moved his leg back and forth gingerly a few times.

Among the concessions on the agenda for Clinton's talk with Primakov were the charter to give Russia more participation in NATO proceedings, joint peacekeeping operations like the one in Bosnia and promises that NATO would not deploy Western troops in substantial numbers on the soil of new members for the foreseeable future.

Last week, Yeltsin said Clinton had told him on the telephone that "the U.S. is interested in compromise and so am I."

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, the chief negotiator for the West, is working on a text and his made several trips to Moscow for Kremlin conference. Primakov, meanwhile, met with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Saturday, Sunday and before the foreign minister called at the White House. He met with Defense Secretary William Cohen on Sunday.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns called the Albright-Primakov sessions "intensive, cooperative and, in some cases, productive."

He acknowledged "we are working on some language" to formalize new Russian ties to NATO, although the administration has flatly rejected Russia's demand for a legally binding document.

Clinton's knee injury, surgery and post-operation pain caused him to delay the start of the two-day meeting with Yeltsin in Helsinki from Wednesday to Thursday. Ironically, the summit was shifted to Finland from the United States to accommodate Yeltsin, who had heart surgery in November and pneumonia in January.



Clinton

CNN opens first news bureau in Cuba

Some reporters question whether it will be successful since Castro maintains strict control of the media.

NEW YORK (AP) — Its cameras panning the sunny Havana skyline and the brilliant blue harbor, CNN on Monday became the first U.S. news organization in 27 years to open a bureau in Cuba.

Correspondent Lucia Newman's first report, on the impact of American restrictions designed to put an economic squeeze on Cuba, was broadcast Monday afternoon.

CNN was one of several news organizations, including The Associated Press, to receive a license from the

Clinton administration last month to operate permanently in Cuba.

So far CNN is the only organization to get permission from the Cuban government to open a bureau. The AP, which was expelled from the island in 1969, is continuing discussions with the Cubans.

Cuba has frequently granted American reporters visas to visit the island, usually for about a week.

The Cuban government has assured CNN it would not censor its reports, Newman said. Her initial story reported that the economic restrictions were hurting more than the Cuban government has admitted and less than some Americans had hoped.

The London-born Newman is a veteran Latin American reporter with previous CNN assignments in Mexico, Chile, Nicaragua and Panama. She has also reported for CNN from Cuba on a temporary visa.

Living in Cuba should enable her to give CNN viewers a better sense of what it is like for residents of the country, Newman said in a telephone interview.

"It's the last communist country in this hemisphere and it still has an enigma about it."

Lucia Newman
CNN correspondent

"It is definitely the most exciting country for any journalist covering Latin America to cover," she said. "It's the last communist country in this hemisphere and it still has an enigma about it."

Defense says Beckwith denied speedy trial

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Prosecutors stalled for three decades, until a new social climate gave them a better chance of victory, before retrying Byron De La Beckwith in the slaying of NAACP activist Medgar Evers, defense lawyers argued Monday.

Beckwith's lawyers made that argument before the Mississippi Supreme Court in asking that his conviction be overturned.

Beckwith, a 76-year-old white supremacist, was convicted in 1994 of murdering the civil rights leader in 1963. Beckwith is serving a life sentence. Two all-white, all-male juries deadlocked at his first two trials in 1964.

Evers, the Mississippi field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was shot in his driveway by a sniper. Beckwith insisted he was 90 miles away at the time.

The effort to bring Beckwith to justice was described in a recent movie, *Ghosts of Mississippi*.

The defense said Beckwith was denied a speedy trial twice: between 1964 and 1969, when prosecutors decided against a third trial, and between 1969 and 1990, when Beckwith was re-indicted.

During both periods, witnesses died, others' memories dimmed and evidence disappeared,

said defense lawyer Merrida Coxwell Jr.

"It is very difficult to show what had occurred between 1964 and 1969," Coxwell said. "It is the same to go back after 30 years. And that is not the fault of Mr. Beckwith."

Prosecutor Pat Flynn said the state reopened the case because of new evidence, not because Mississippi had become less tolerant of racism.

"If that was so, they could have tried in 1975, 1980 or whenever," she said. In terms of dead witnesses or lost evidence, she said, both sides were equally harmed.

The court did not indicate when it might rule.

VENDING

Continued from Page 1

"If the director of public information is having lunch with someone discussing a press release, well, the state does not pay for that, so it comes out of this account," he said.

Student activities have benefited as well, Taylor said.

"This money has helped students," he said. "The Aggie Band was given \$100,000 for their band trips and about \$56,000 went to support the University art collection and exhibit."

Taylor said commencement and KAMU Radio also are allotted money.

PARADE

Continued from Page 1

The moment of silence came at noon, as the New York Shield-Pipe Drum Corps drew abreast of the reviewing stand.

"It took us back 150 years to that awful time in Ireland when one and a half million people died of starvation unnecessarily," parade chairman John Dunleavy said.

It was the famine, from 1845 to 1850, that touched off the great wave of Irish immigration to the

United States.

Earlier, at a Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cardinal John O'Connor said that to ignore "Black '47," the middle and most severe year of the famine, "is to be condemned to re-live it in one way or another."

O'Connor also praised former parade chairman Frank Bieme, who died late last year.

Bieme led the successful court fight to bar the gay group on the grounds that the parade is a private religious observance and that homosexuality conflicts with teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

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