

Republicans question U.S. support of U.N. deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fending off Republican criticism of a U.N.-brokered deal with Iraq, the Clinton administration insisted Wednesday that military force remained an option and ruled out any swift easing of economic sanctions.

"We're not going to swallow this hook, line and sinker," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said of the agreement U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan worked out last Sunday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But Senate Republican leader Trent Lott denounced the U.N. agreement as a cave-in and said accepting it would be the same as buying "peace at any price."

"It is always possible to get a deal if you give enough away," Lott, R-Miss., said in a speech on the Senate floor.

"The deal negotiated by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan with Iraq does not adequately address the threat posed by Saddam Hussein," he said.

It was the first clear rejection of the deal by a congressional leader and may make it more difficult for President Clinton to convince Americans that the negotiated settlement was a better alternative to U.S.-led airstrikes against Iraq. Lott portrayed the deal as an abdication of U.S. power to the United Nations.

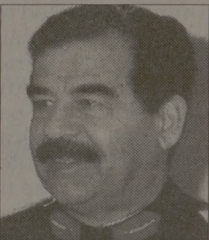
"The secretary-general is calling the shots," Lott said. "The United States is not."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright defended the administration's Iraq policy before a House Appropriations subcommittee.

"It is real-world policy, not a feel-good

policy," she said.

"Some in Congress say reject it," Albright said of the agreement. "We believe the wisest course is to test it."



Hussein

We retain the authority, the responsibility, the means and the will to use military force if that is required," Albright added.

Touching on some of the fuzzy provisions, Albright said the diplomats who will be added to U.N. inspection teams will be "observers only," with the monitors conducting the searches.

She also said an arms control specialist

— not a technician — will be added to the panel in charge and will head the teams that go to the so-called presidential palaces.

The administration, which has described its acceptance as only tentative, said the deal sets up a "win-win situation" in that either U.N. monitors will be able to get at suspected hidden biological and chemical weapons or, if Saddam backs out of his promise of unfettered inspections, support for a military attack would be greater than during the latest crisis.

Besides, easing U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq is "a long way off" and only hypothetical at this stage, State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said.

The accord acknowledges the heavy burden the attempted isolation of Iraq has had on the Arab country's economy.

Pentagon hit by computer hacker

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the past weeks, the Pentagon's unclassified computer works were hit by the "most organized and thematic" attack yet, apparently by hackers on peering into personnel records or payroll files, the Defense Department said Wednesday.

No classified information appears to have been tampered with, but the matter remains very serious, long-term problem, said Defense Secretary John Hamre.

"We have organized ourselves much more aggressively and more closely with the Justice Department to get our hands around this," he said.

Hamre said he was constrained from divulging too many details about the attacks because the military was working with Justice pursuing potential criminal activity.

Hamre told a group of defense writers onslaught should serve as a "wake-up call" for the military in particular and society overall, arguing that neither the government nor the private sector has done enough to protect sensitive networks from such attacks.

He described the intrusions as "family cyber attacks" over the past two weeks. "all the appearances of a game" and apparently was perpetrated by "a small number of individuals," he said.

"It was the most organized and systematic attack the Pentagon has seen to date," he said.

Hamre said the attacks appeared to be occurring at a time when a "hacker contest" was going on, but he did not say the contest related or offer any further explanation.

He said the attacks did not appear to be connected with the crisis involving Iraq.

GOP representative retires instead of challenging House leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Once a fast-rising GOP star, New York Rep. Bill Paxon announced plans Wednesday to retire from Congress, deciding against a leadership challenge to Majority Leader Dick Arme. He threatened to expose deep divisions in the Republican ranks.

"I will never run for office again. Never. Not even for dog warden," said Paxon, abandoning his career seven tumultuous months after he was ousted from his leadership post for involvement in an abortive coup against Speaker Newt Gingrich.

"The priority of family must now take precedence over politics," Paxon, 43, added in a letter to his GOP colleagues. He said he and his wife, former Rep. Susan Molinari, parents of a daughter whose second birthday is this spring, hope to have additional children. She resigned her seat last year to begin a new career at CBS-TV.

In the months since Gingrich snapped up his offer to resign his leadership post, Paxon flirted openly with a challenge to Arme in hopes of positioning himself to become the next GOP speaker. He told reporters he had decided last week to make the race, then changed his mind for family reasons.

"I took those lists last night and I put them through that paper shredder," he said of the notes he had made of conversations with GOP colleagues.

Arme's allies scoffed at the talk that Paxon could have mounted a successful challenge, saying the New Yorker had failed to expand his support significantly beyond a small group of dissidents who had plotted against the speaker last fall.

Arme emerges as the chief beneficiary of Paxon's decision, and Gingrich benefits as well.

Rep. David McIntosh, R-Ind., a conservative critic of the leadership, said of Arme, "I think probably he now has re-election as majority leader."

As for Gingrich, he does not have to contend with a potentially divisive leadership election at a time when he is eager to solidify the Republican majority at the ballot box this fall, then turn his attention to a possible race for the White House in 2000.

Colleagues responded with a standing ovation when Paxon went before a closed-door caucus to announce his retirement plans.

Allies and rivals alike rushed to congratulate him on a career spent helping forge and then maintain the first Republican majority in the House in 40 years.

"Our friendship has grown over time and been strengthened by adversity," said Gingrich in a written statement.

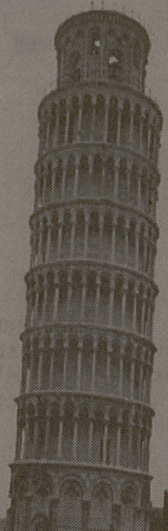
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- Monday, February 23 10:30-11:00 AM
- Tuesday, February 24 3:00-3:30 PM
- Wednesday, February 25 9:30-10:00 AM
- Friday, February 27 1:30-2:00 PM

Pick up an application at the meeting or drop by the Study Abroad Program Office.

Study Abroad Program Office, 161 Bizzell Hall West, 845-0544



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1998-99 at Monterrey Tecnológico



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Federico Fellini's La Strada (The Road)
Sunday, Mar. 1
2:00 p.m.
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BICH Rm.107 (West Campus)

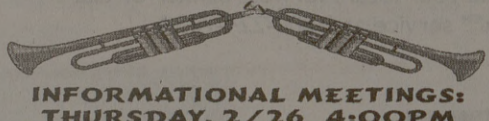

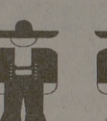
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