

Albanians await news of missing

DJAKOVICA, Yugoslavia (AP) — His family clings to hope. But there is little reason to believe Kastriot Zherka was not shot down by Serb police like so many others, then dumped in a mass grave or a river, or burned to unidentifiable ash.

Zherka's wife, daughters, parents and sisters have no body to bury, and they are not alone. Community leaders say at least 1,200 men, women and children are missing from Djakovica, more than has been reported from any other part of Kosovo.

This city on the Albanian border has been a well-spring of Albanian nationalism, and was brutally targeted during the Serb crackdown on Kosovo Albanians.

"We really need to know, if only to bury him Zherka's sister Arta said.

Many are likely dead, but some of the missing may be in Yugoslav prisons. Daloni Carlisle, the Red Cross spokesperson in Kosovo, said at least 2,000 "security detainees" from the Kosovo war are being held, according to lists Yugoslav federal justice authorities reportedly shared with local officials.

Those lists have not been given to the Red Cross, and few Albanians have been able to approach offi-

New Russian troops stationed in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — The first planeload of new Russian peacekeepers landed in Kosovo's capital today, a day after NATO brokered an agreement with Moscow on their deployment.

Their presence is seen as a way to help ease the fears of Kosovo's minority Serbs, who have come under attack from vengeful ethnic Albanians.

With the ranks of the peacekeepers in Kosovo filling out, the head of the U.N. refugee agency warned that her agency was running short of funds to help hundreds of thousands of returning refugees.

The Russian Il-76 transport plane left from the southern Russian town of Ivanovo this morning for the flight to Pristina. It was to be followed by three more planes today, Russia's Interfax news agency said.

Officials in Serb-dominated Yugoslavia for information about their missing loved ones.

Last month, Yugoslavia released 166 prisoners to the Red Cross, and this week it passed on the names of 481 others that Red Cross officials will be able to visit and put in contact with their families. The organization also has received complaints that nearly 300 Serbs were abducted by the Albanian separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which denies holding anyone.

The Red Cross has called on both sides to negotiate prisoner releases, an issue that was overlooked in the U.N. resolution that ended Kosovo's war. Carlisle said that could be a lengthy process, noting 19,000 people still remain missing from unrest in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia.

Barak Cabinet choice puzzle many Israelis

JERUSALEM (AP) — A foreign minister who speaks little English, a police minister who quotes de Tocqueville, a justice minister who never studied law, a rabbi to plan roads and a finance minister whose appointment sent stocks plummeting.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak's new government, sworn in Tuesday, is a puzzlement to many Israelis, who wonder whether it has what it takes to make the hard choices Israel faces in its negotiations with the Arabs.

Others said the ex-military chief's selections reflect his determination to make fateful decisions alone.

"Judging by the composition of his government, it seems he expects to carry out all these tasks alone, with a commando knife between his teeth," analyst Nahum Barnea said.

Presenting his government to parliament on Tuesday, Barak promised sweeping changes: a re-

vival of peace talks frozen by the hard-line government he ousted, the creation of 300,000 jobs, the rescue of Israel's ailing education system.

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— Nahum Barnea
Political analyst

"Today, a new government sets out on its way," he said. "This day, I believe, will be marked as a mo-

ment of change, a moment of reconciliation, a moment of peace."

Still, "brotherhood" word many legislators of One Israel Party used to describe the 18-member Cabinet.

Of the nine Cabinet ministers, the most powerful were named to his loyalists. Rivals were ignored or shunted to positions seemed inappropriate.

Shimon Peres, foreign minister when Israel negotiated the through peace accords with Palestinians, got a newly created post of Regional Development Minister.

Shlomo Ben-Ami, an ardent multilingual historian who supported among Israelis and was named police minister, he has no security background.

Deadline for nuclear ban nears

WASHINGTON (AP) — It has been three years since President Clinton became the first world leader to sign a treaty calling for a global ban on nuclear test explosions. The U.S. Senate has yet to hold a hearing on it.

The Senate is not alone: So far, only 18 of the 44 nations with nuclear capabilities that must ratify the wide-ranging Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty have taken action. Now, with a September ratification deadline ap-

proaching, treaty activists are stepping up their campaign to bring the measure to the Senate floor.

In Washington, the treaty remains bottled up in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, whose chair, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., is locked in a dispute with the Clinton administration over two other treaties.

"The Senate is dragging its feet on this issue, and it's unforgivable," Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., a leader in the effort to bring the treaty to a vote, said. He said he and other test-ban supporters will get "more aggressive" in the coming weeks.

Dorgan declined to say what that

meant, but there is no question a handful of determined senators can bring havoc to the Senate's schedule.

"Russia is waiting for us; China is waiting for Russia," Thomas Graham, president of the Lawyers Alliance for World Security and a former director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said. "The [reason for the] delay in ratification is exclusively that there haven't been hearings. There is no other reason."

The 1996 pact includes a pledge against all testing of nuclear devices and sets up a global system of sensors to monitor compliance. It was signed by 152 nations, but ratification is moving slowly.



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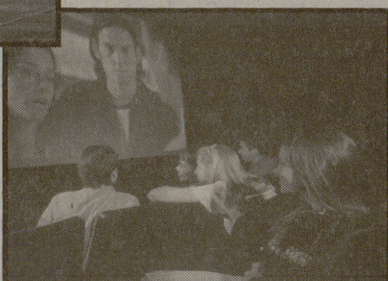
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