Hussein offers free oil to Third World nations

Secretary of State James A. Baker III, who has been on a world tour in search of support for the campaign against Iraq, is temporarily lowering his attention to other matters. He arrived in Moscow to discuss a new approach to alleviating non-nuclear nations in Europe. He says the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe has made the old plan obsolete. The previous plan called for limiting US and Soviet contingents to 195,000 troops each in Central Europe.

This week, Baker will return to dealing with the Persian Gulf crisis. He will go to Syria on Thursday to coordinate anti-Iraqi efforts with President Hafez al-Assad. Baker now accuses Syria of backing terrorists. Baker says both countries share the goal of isolating Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. In response to a request by Saudi Arabia, Syria has agreed to add to 4000 to 5000 troops it already has in the kingdom.

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Iraq and Iran renew diplomatic ties

Iraq and Iran have put an end to their 16-year-old conflict, restoring full diplomatic relations. Iraq's Foreign Minister described his meeting with Iranian officials as "constructive." There are unconfirmed reports that Iraq and Iran are already being shipped from Iran, which would effectively end Iraq's economic isolation.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry says the United States has nothing to fear from the nations' new friendship. He says the Bush administration expects to continue abiding by United Nations sanctions. Many analysts think that unlikely. Sohbat Sobhani, a former light guerrilla commander in the University's National Security Studies program, said closer ties between Iran and Iraq could deal a "tremendous blow" to the effort to isolate Hussein.

Cambodian civil war nears end

Warning factions in Cambodia have agreed to form a transitional ruling council to help end the Southeast Asian country's civil war. The peace process had been stalled by disagreement over who will rule Cambodia until elections are held. Two days of talks ended yesterday with an agreement to share power.

A joint statement says six members of the current Vietnamese-backed government in Cambodia will serve on the 12-member ruling council. The other six seats will be held by representatives of the three-member guerrilla resistance coalition.

The statement also says the parties agree that a peace plan adopted by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council will serve as a basis for setting the conflict.

The UN plans for an interim government formed by all the warring factions in advance of free elections. A UN peacekeeping force would supervise the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Public Security, and Information.

Pizza Hut expands into Communist nations

Pizza Hut's first franchised outlet is in Beijing yesterday. The Chinese capital's first pizza place was so popular it ran out of dough by midnight. The restaurant is managed by the Beijing Pizza Corporation Limited, which has a 15-year franchise from the Pizza Hut chain, a subsidiary of PepsiCo.

Two Pizza Huts are scheduled to open in Moscow today and are expecting similar results. Those restaurants are owned by Moscow Pizza, a $10 million joint venture between Moscow's restaurant department and PepsiCo's European branch.

Local weather


Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Brian Rosenberg and Byungyu Yi

News roundup

From the associated press wire

World

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Sports

Clemens' arm healing

The pain in the pitchers' elbow of Roger Clemens has "subided significantly," said team doctor Arthur Pappas following team early last Thursday, Clemens left the clubhouse during the afternoon and moved offshore tomorrow morning.

Baseball plans expansion

Two new National League teams will be added by the National League expansion committee later this month in New York.

Soviet leaders committed to defense cuts

Soviet leaders met yesterday with American business leaders and economist at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge. The meetings were held yesterday to discuss ways to reduce military spending to help the economy. The Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev, who is going to be in the Middle East this week, said he was not going to cut defense spending.

Weather

Fair weather continues

A weak cold front which passed through the area earlier today will dissipate this afternoon. High pressure will build across New England this afternoon and move offshore tomorrow morning.


Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a cooling sea breeze. Highs 76°-78°F (24°-26°C).

Thursday: Partly sunny and a bit warmer. Highs 76°-80°F (24°-26°C).

Budget negotiations stalled

Congressional leaders and administration officials are at the fourth straight day, trying to agree on a way to cut $50 billion from next year's deficit. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady told ABC News that he doubts there will be an agreement before Gramm-Rudman mandatory spending cuts kick in.

Evidence found in Florida killings

The lawyer for an emotionally disturbed man linked to the slayings of five Gainesville, Florida college students is disputing the importance of a development in the case. A knife reportedly was found in a milk carton at the suspect's grandmother's home. Attorney J. R. Russo says such a finding place may be a name for a man like his client.

Hostages arrive home

About 300 people, mostly Americans, arrived at Baltimore-Washington International Airport yesterday. The hostages, many of them women and children, were held in Baghdad and stopped in London en route to the United States.

Toyota expands US operations

Japan's largest auto maker says it is planning to announce the site of a major expansion in the United States within two months. The new plant is part of the company's effort to boost sales of 5.1 million units by the mid-1990s. Toyota already has an assembly plant in Kentucky and is a partner with General Motors in a plant near San Francisco.

UAW strike imminent

Contracts between the United Auto Workers and General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler expire at midnight Friday, and there is very little indication that an agreement can be reached by then with GM, the company targeted for a strike. Last week, an average of 88 percent of the union affiliates voting in special elections, gave UAW authorization to call a strike against the auto maker.

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