Baker to tour Middle East, Soviet Union

With the war wound down, diplomatic efforts have been in earnest to try to settle other conflicts in the Middle East. Secretary of State James A. Baker III arrived this morning in Cairo to begin his first stop on a tour of the Middle East and the Soviet Union in an attempt to make peace with Palestinians and settle the conflict in the Gulf.

Baker also hopes for a breakthrough on the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation. Baker said he is willing to meet with Palestinian representatives when he stops over in Israel.

Baker will be making a stop in Kuwait during his trip — and a senior official said prospects for democracy in the emirate will be raised. Kuwait's prime minister indicated yesterday it could be a white before the royal family allows parliamentary elections. The prime minister said that Kuwait could be extended past 90 days.

Baker also said he intends to talk to Saudi King Fahd about a possible shift in Arab positions toward Israel.

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Brazilian gunmen steal jet

Brazilian authorities said three gunmen who took over an airliner, yesterday were not hijackers — they were robbers. The three let the crew and passengers go, and flew away with the 16 passengers.

... Airlines and weather... 

Windy and colder

A surface low will affect the gulf in Maine will continue moving northeastward toward the Canadian Maritimes. And winds will be gusty, with the high pressure system building to continue to bring strong winds and cold air toward the state.

Cloudy with some flurries possible.

Clear and cold with gradually dimming skies.

Some light snow flurries are a possibility on the windward side. Winds will be gusty, with the high pressure system building to continue to bring strong winds and cold air toward the state.

A large ocean storm at the end of the weekend will most likely stay far enough south and offshore that the Cape and islands will see little impact from the winds. The temperatures will continue to be below freezing and cold windchills will be a danger.

Friday: Mostly sunny and very windy. Highs around 40°F (4°C), with winds reaching 30-40 mph (48-64 kph).

Friday night: Clear and cold, with gusty winds.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with light winds.

Sunday: Cloudy with some flurries possible. Temperatures in the mid-30°F (-5°C).