Bush, French President Mitterrand meet to discuss peace in Middle East

Yesterday, President George Bush met with French President Francois Mitterrand in Martigny, to discuss how to insure peace in the Middle East.

Mitterrand said that the Palestinian problem and Arab-Jewish conflict must be resolved through achieving peace in the Middle East. He added that the talks with Bush were extremely productive.

President Bush said the talks were extremely productive. He also said that they focused on peace, security and stability with the Palestinians to reach a lasting peace in the Middle East. But he said the United States and France still have differences on how to go about that. He said that the United States still believes that an international conference would be useful at the appropriate time.

Mitterrand remained committed to the idea that the Palestine Liberation Organization remains the recognized spokesman for the Palestinian people and should have a role in any settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Iraq violates cease-fire terms

A senior Pentagon official confirmed that the United States has "fairly solid evidence" of more Iraqi violations of a truce agreed to last week. The official said that there is evidence that Iraq is flying Iraqi combat aircraft, something it is not supposed to do under the Gulf war cease-fire agreement.

The official also said that the fixed-wing aircraft have flown from one site to another within Iraq. He said it appears to be just a repositioning of the aircraft, but adds that the United States considers that to be a violation of the agreement. The United States also said that Iraqi combat helicopters have been in action against anti-government rebels.

The official would not say what action the United States might take or whether US warplanes might intercept these Iraqi aircraft in the future.

Secretary of State Baker visits the Soviet Union

Secretary of State James A. Baker III is in Moscow where he is holding a series of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh on the Middle East. The United States has promised the Soviet Union a role in the Middle East peace plan, but has not spelled out what that role will be. This will probably be discussed in today's meeting between Baker and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbatchev.

Yugoslavia undecided on response to Serbia's state of emergency

After meeting for several hours, the collective presidency of Yugoslavia has yet to decide how to respond to Serbia's call for a state of emergency. Serbian officials said that the declaration is needed to restore order, but that is not the view in liberal Slovenia and Croatia, where reform-minded leaders said that the Socialist leaders of Serbia just want to keep the status quo.

Kuwaiti criticizes long return of emir

With much of his nation's oil fortune burned in the background, the Kuwaiti emir returned to his nation yesterday. In a low-key ceremony, the sheik said he had returned to God for the liberation of his nation. Only about 500 people greeted the emir. Some Kuwaitis have criticized his rulers for waiting so long to return.

Iraqi aircraft "Birmingham Six" freed from a British prison

Sixteen years after being illegally convicted of murder, six Irish men known as the "Birmingham Six" were freed from a British prison.

A court in London freed the six men, who had been convicted in 1974 of the Republic's dead of bomb blast. The government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said the case was no longer critical. After being freed, Patrick Hill told reporter that British authorities do not have the intelligence to spell the word "justice."

Prime Minister John Major's government is pledging a thorough study of the British courts due to the wrongful conviction of the six men.

FCC to investigate 1-900 numbers

The Federal Communications Commission is proposing rules to protect people who call 1-900 numbers.

Under these rules, every service will have to inform callers how much their calls cost and give them a chance to hang up before they are charged. The FCC has received about 2000 complaints about 900 services, which offer entertainment, telephones or various services.

FCC investigation

 Vermont Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy is accusing the nation's infant formula companies of keeping hungry babies from getting the food they need.

At a news conference, Leahy said noncompetitive practices cost taxpayers as much as $168 million. Formula company representatives declined an invitation to testify.

Four fisherman catch a live warhead

Four fishermen on the shores of Long Island, NY, netted a 19-foot-long torpedo with a live warhead. The Coast Guard said that it was probably fired from an American submarine during the 1940s. The torpedo is on the deck of the fishing boat, which is anchored a mile and a half off Long Island. Officials are trying to decide what to do with it.

US Justice Department to investigate police brutality

The US Justice Department said that it will review all allegations of police brutality that have come to its attention in the past five years. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh made the announcement today after two members of the Congress Black Caucus called for a wider investigation of brutality in the Los Angeles Police Department.

In related news, police departments of Arizona and adjacent Clayton County, GA, have agreed to an inquiry into an allegation of police brutality there. The case concerns a suspected provost that was beaten by more than a dozen officers, according to witnesses. One witness said that "he looked like the guy who got arrested in LA," in reference to the videotape of Los Angeles police beating a motorist.

California researchers find that arthritis treatment is useless

California researchers have found that a widely accepted arthritis treatment does not provide long-term relief.

The study found arthritis patients who received injections of gold had no significant improvement in pain as those who did not receive the treatment. The study is published in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

Weather

The Ideas of March

The inclement weather of last night and this morning will slowly leave our area during the day on Friday. An upper level trough, passing through this afternoon, will remove the weather, allowing a drier air to build from the west.

Expect some increasing cloudiness late Sunday as a very impressive storm is forecast to move over New England early next week. It looks like more of this windy and raw weather to deal with before Spring Break!


Friday night: Clearing, continued windy and cold. Light wind.


Sunday: Clear and cold. Low around 30°F (-1°C).

Source: Weather Channel