White House Defends New European Security Blueprint

By Paul Richter

WASHINGTON

Four days before President Clinton leaves for his first European summit meeting, the White House scrambled Tuesday to defend its new blueprint for East-West security and to mute Eastern European criticism that it seems to ignore the coming week’s events before they began.

Facing 11-hour courtmnants from Polish President Lech Walesa and others, the White House mobilized Chief Staff Chairman John M. Shalikashvili and other senior officials to elaborate on details of the “Partnership for Peace” plan for gradually expanding NATO to accept some former antagonists.

Officials insisted the plan, which sets no timetable and few specific conditions for membership, is the best way to integrate Warsaw Pact countries into Europe without provoking a re-escalation of the Cold War in Europe without provoking a re-escalation of the Cold War in Europe. The officials — permitted by Hungarian, Czech and Polish officials — would redress Europe’s heightened tensions and could become a self-fulfilling prophecy of “peace about Russia,” Asserted Lake, Clinton’s national security advisor, told reporters.

The last-hour White House blitz underscored the fact that many issues remain unresolved days before a trip that could be crucial for the president’s foreign policy. With this long-delayed debut European visit, Clinton must overcome European leaders’ doubts about his commitment to their continent and his vision of how to ensure its stability.

Among other unsolved issues is whether Clinton will meet with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in Moscow and which members of the newly elected Russian Parliament he can see without straining his relationship with Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin. There were indications Tuesday that a meeting with Kravchuk may take place.

But the most urgent question remains how to avoid a repeat of the Eastern European endorsement of the NATO plan, which could bring Clinton’s nine-day outing with an embarrassment.

The White House marketing for the plan includes promises to Eastern Europe of gradual access to the next century and security guarantees.

MCI Plans to Spend $2 Billion To Reach Business Customers

By Sandra Sugawara

WASHINGTON

MCI Communications Corp., unveiling its strategy for competing with its telephone and cable rivals, said Tuesday it will go after the most profitable customers of Bell Atlantic Corp. and other regional phone companies.

MCI said it will spend $2 billion to enable business customers in 20 of the largest markets, including Washington, to bypass the local telephone company when connecting to long-distance service networks. It also plans by the end of 1994 to equip its entire domestic network — which it is naming networkMCI — with high-speed data transmission technology, as it faces other companies to build the so-called information superhighway.

Of officials of Washington-based MCI also said the company would join the flurry of combinations of service providers, cable, entertainment and computer companies in recent years, noting no one company could build these futuristic networks alone. But company officials declined to provide details of its plan.

Analysts said MCI is trying to position itself for the fierce competition that is expected to unfold over the next few years as new federal policies and powerful alliances tear down decade-old barriers in the telecommunications industry.

Residential phone service is subsidized by access fees from the long-distance companies to local systems, and Bask said the highestcome from business customers, especially in metropolitan areas. “That’s why the returns ares really powerful, he said.”

MCI’s announcement set off a flurry of protests from Bell Atlantic and other regional phone companies, who said it is a move to take the local market, they should be allowed immediately into the long-distance business.

MCI officials said they strongly opposed such a move until the restrictions on local competition are lifted. MCI said it is only allowed to offer a full range of local services when it is to a market that no other phone carrier serves.

Kirkwood said the local phone carrier should be allowed into the long-distance business.

First GSC Full Council Meeting of the New Year this Wednesday, January 5 at 5:30 pm in the GSC lounge, 50-220. Join us as we make plans for the upcoming semester. Dinner provided.

Would you like to help with Spring Orientation? Contact the GSC at x3-2195 to volunteer, and come to the orientation committee meeting on Thursday, January 13 at 5:30 pm.

Ski Trip! Our first of the new year will be on Saturday, January 29. Contact Stan Reiss (x3-6165, sjreiss@athena), Roger Kermode (x3-0341, woja@media) or the GSC office (x3-2195, gscadmin@mit) for more information.

If you would be interested in helping to develop a program to train students to deal with harassment, please contact the GSC at x3-2195.

The GSC office has nomination forms for students interested in serving as student directors. Contact us for details.