

Maastricht Treaty Takes Effect One Year Late

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, Belgium — A gloomy mood washed away any inclinations to celebrate Monday when the European Community opened a new stage in its drive for greater unity.

Members of the 12-nation trading bloc are mired in the worst recession in three decades, and their people paid little attention as the Treaty on European Union took effect, nearly a year behind schedule.

With some 20 million workers in their countries expected to be jobless next year, EC leaders had said the event did not call for celebrations.

And with an almost unique sense of

unanimity, Monday came and went without any, even at EC headquarters in Brussels.

The treaty, signed in 1991 in the Dutch town of Maastricht, opens the way for closer political and economic cooperation and a single currency by the end of the decade.

But the drive to greater unity at the expense of national sovereignty led to much discord, and opponents in Britain, Denmark, France and Germany nearly killed the accord.

In a sign of the lingering tensions, members have not even managed to reach agreement on whether to stay with the name

European Community or abandon that for European Union.

Whatever the name, the reality will be a far cry from a United States of Europe.

Reflecting their reluctance to turn over too much authority to the central EC bureaucracy in Brussels, Denmark and Britain won exemptions from the common-money provision.

Denmark also opted out of the provisions on common citizenship and defense.

And it is unlikely the 12 nations will speak with one voice on all foreign policy questions.

EC leaders are to meet again Dec. 10-11 in Brussels to try to come up with ways to

jumpstart the bloc's economy and reduce the jobless rate.

The economic downturn has cast doubt on the treaty's timetable for economic and monetary union.

The European Monetary Institute opens Jan. 1 in Germany's financial center, Frankfurt.

The institute is to become a central bank no later than 1999, issuing a single currency.

To take part, nations must meet treaty targets for low inflation and interest rates, stable currencies and modest budget deficits.

But few could qualify to join now.

Clinton Stumps for NAFTA Through Satellite Messages

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — President Clinton prodded business owners by satellite Monday "to be missionaries" and help him win passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Clinton acknowledged he was in an uphill fight, but predicted he would win the showdown Nov. 14 in the House.

"But in order for it to be close, you all have to push between now and then," he said in an electronic "town hall" meeting sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Dingell suggested that the pact and side agreements failed to protect U.S. labor and the environment adequately. He said calls for the pact's renegotiation by Canada's new Liberal Party government also threw its fate into doubt.

Clinton told his satellite audience that an assertion made by organized labor and Texas billionaire Ross Perot that the agreement would endanger U.S. jobs and shrink the U.S. economy "is ridiculous."

"This is nuts, this idea that we can't compete and win," he said.

He said rejection of the pact would make it harder for the United States to win its case for easing farm and other trade subsidies in world-trade talks long under way in Geneva.

The session was beamed by satellite to gatherings — attended mostly by small and medium-size business owners and farmers — at more than 240 sites nationwide.

Still, weeks of heavy pressure by the White House have failed to produce many converts for the agreement to lift trade barriers among the United States, Mexico and Canada.

White House vote counters privately concede they remain about 50 votes short.

Meanwhile Monday, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and an administration ally on other issues, called on the president to withdraw the pact.

"I regretfully will be compelled to cast my vote against NAFTA if it is submitted to the Congress in its current form," Dingell said in a letter to Clinton.

Clinton also said defeat would bring Europe and Japan swarming over the Mexican market "like flies on a June bug."

The administration has complained that companies haven't done enough to help it sell the pact. "You have to be the engine of confidence in our future," he told the business leaders.

Richard Leshner, president of the U.S. Chamber, said the administration did feel that business wasn't doing its part "in the past. And business — in the past — felt the president should be doing more. Both sides are now pleased with each other."

Leshner said in an interview that momentum for the pact was growing, even if it didn't yet appear in the numbers.

Salmonella Bacteria Transformed Into Contraceptive

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
ST. LOUIS — Salmonella bacteria have been genetically altered to produce an oral birth-control vaccine that primes the immune system to reject sperm before conception, a researcher reported Monday.

The vaccine causes a harmless, temporary infection in the intestine that triggers antibodies against genetic components of sperm that have been spliced into the bacteria, said Roy Curtiss of Washington University in St. Louis.

Unaltered salmonella bacteria cause 4 million cases of food poisoning each year in the United States and are a major source of diarrhea worldwide, Curtiss said.

Curtiss is using the genetically engi-

neered forms to produce vaccines against hepatitis B and malaria. Human trials of the hepatitis B vaccine have begun, and the Army plans to begin tests of the malaria vaccine this winter, Curtiss said.

Tests of the contraceptive vaccine have been done only in mice so far. But the results suggest that a single dose of the vaccine might prevent conception for several months or longer. And the effect would be reversible, Curtiss said.

"The idea now would be you don't get your booster, and within a year or so you can conceive again," he said at a meeting of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing.

The method also might be used to pro-

duce a male version of the vaccine, intended to disarm sperm and make the men temporarily infertile, Curtiss said.

Paul Primakoff, a biologist at the University of Connecticut who is working on a more conventional injectable birth-control vaccine, said Curtiss' approach was promising, but more research was needed.

Curtiss expressed some concern about what he said was the potential for abuse of the salmonella birth-control vaccine.

"You could put it in the milk or water and immunize everybody," he said. "You could think of government or some other entity misusing that," perhaps by secretly sterilizing an entire population.

The salmonella vaccines might prove

especially useful in developing countries and rural areas, because they don't require refrigeration and are cheaper to produce than the bottles that would contain them, Curtiss said.

The vaccines are produced from salmonella bacteria that have been altered in two ways. Parts of the bacteria that cause disease have been removed, and genetic codes from sperm — or hepatitis B virus or malaria parasites — have been inserted.

These altered bacteria cause an infection lasting perhaps two weeks. The foreign genetic components trick the bacteria into producing proteins normally found only in sperm or hepatitis B virus or malaria parasites, as the case might be.

Trial Begins for Children Accused of Murder

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
PRESTON, England — One of two 11-year-old boys accused of luring a toddler from a crowded shopping mall and battering him to death with bricks and stones sobbed and whispered "Daddy, Daddy" as a prosecutor described the crime Monday.

The body of 2-year-old James Bulger was dumped on a railroad track, where it was cut in two by a train, the prosecutor said.

The boys, who were 10 at the time of the Feb. 12 slaying, are the youngest children in Britain ever to be charged with murder.

The age of the defendants and the broadcast around the world of a fuzzy security videotape showing the blond toddler leaving the mall hand-in-hand with two older boys, also drew international attention to the case.

The boys have pleaded innocent to charges of abducting and murdering James after he strayed briefly from his mother in a Liverpool shopping mall.

On the opening day of their trial Monday, the young defendants sat on a specially raised platform so they could see over a brass railing as they listened to Prosecutor Richard Henriques describe the last hours of the toddler's life.

Under British law, the boys cannot be named or identified in any way because of their age. Judge Michael Morland ordered that they be referred to as "Child A" and "Child B."

Henriques said the boys walked Bulger about 2-1/2 miles from the mall to a railroad track.

"Bricks, stones and a piece of metal appear to have been thrown at James on that railway line. He sustained many fractures to the skull," he told the 12 jurors in Preston Crown Court.

"Notwithstanding their age, it is alleged they both intended either to kill James or at least to cause him serious injury," he added. "They both know their behavior was seriously wrong."

Throughout the day, Child A remained calm and impassive as he listened to the grim details of James' torture and death. In brief recesses, he removed his suit jacket, then loosened his tie.

Child B, dressed neatly in a suit and tie, cried silently, clinging to his social worker and mopping his face with tissues. At the end of the day, he called softly to his father.

Child B's parents, who are divorced, sat slumped on a wooden courtroom bench, their faces etched with emotion, as they listened to the allegations against their son.

Child A's parents did not come, and he was accompanied only by a social worker.

Bulger's father, Ralph Bulger, arrived in the courtroom after testimony had begun. His wife, Denise Bulger, is eight months pregnant and not expected to attend the trial. James Bulger was their only child.

The boys also have pleaded innocent to attempting to abduct another 2-year-old boy earlier the same day. His mother saw a boy beckoning her son and retrieved him.

MARCH
FROM PAGE 1

to march, but the Rape Action Project had supported male involvement.

"Sexual assault does not just happen to women," she said. "Men have to be part of the solution and not just thought of as the problem."

"It's not about whether you're male or female, but whether you want to solve a problem."

LaVonda Burnette, Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board candidate, said children needed to be educated at an early age about violence.

"This is something we, as a community, need to face," she said. "I have witnessed first graders and kindergarteners hitting

each other. We need to instill in every child the idea that your hands belong to you and you have the no right to assault or violate anyone else."

Ising said participants needed to take action to combat violence against women.

"I know we need more lighting. I know we need more patrols. I know we need more education, and I think you know it too," she said. "The only way we can change that is to do something, to show our power as students, as voters and as citizens."

Volunteers from the Orange County Rape Crisis Center attended the march and were available for anyone who wished to talk about their experiences with sexual assault.

To preserve victims' and volunteers'

confidentiality, only first names were used.

One of the volunteers, Beth, said she was glad so many people marched despite the cold weather.


"It's good to see so many people come out in the cold," she said. "I think the marches are effective in raising awareness, but I don't know how effective they are in changing attitudes."

Ising said students needed to think about what they wanted their campus to be and work toward making it safer.

"Just because we're here tonight doesn't mean women can walk across this campus alone tomorrow night," she said.

The march concluded with a performance by feminist folk singer Tracy Drach, who sang about her experiences and fears about being a woman.

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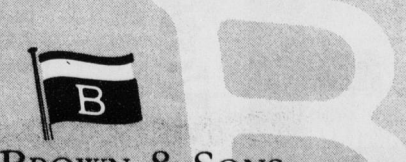
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