

World and Nation

Panamanians applaud Quayle visit

From Associated Press reports

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Vice President Dan Quayle was cheered by churchgoers whose priest welcomed the U.S. military invasion, and the new government's leaders said American troops still are needed to help stabilize the country.

While the continued presence of the U.S. troops has rankled other Latin nations, Panama's new president, Guillermo Endara, said the occupying troops are needed until Panama can get its police force operational.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia has refused to attend the Feb. 15 drug summit in Colombia with President Bush unless the U.S. invasion forces are out of Panama.

But Endara said Sunday that other Latin leaders should "think of the Panamanian people and what they want."

Quayle met with leaders of Panama's new government to discuss Bush's \$1 billion economic recovery package and the withdrawal of occupying troops in

what he said would be a matter of weeks. Endara had sought \$2 billion in U.S. assistance.

In a television interview, Quayle said the issue of the U.S. military invasion of Panama "is behind us" and that it is time to focus on the future of Panama.

The Bush economic recovery package includes loan guarantees through the Export-Import Bank and a variety of U.S. emergency relief assistance to help Panama pay its foreign debt, recover its economy and help businesses and other victims recover from the U.S. invasion and subsequent fighting.

The focus of discussion shifted somewhat, however, as Endara said his country needs some U.S. troops to remain until the new national police force is operational.

"At this moment, we have not the police. Our forces are not quite capable of protecting the life, property and public order as the Panamanian people want," Endara told reporters outside morning church services. "But we hope

that in a very short time this will not be necessary."

Endara said his government does not want to plan to build a new army, but will keep only a police force.

Quayle repeated that he sees the withdrawal of invasion troops within weeks. A senior official traveling with Quayle said it would likely be within two weeks that the current 17,000 member force is reduced to the 13,000 pre-invasion level.

U.S. officials have said they have no plans to cut back below the 13,000 troop level.

At the packed Cristo Rey Church, the pro-American congregation cheered Quayle. One person held a sign reading, "Gringos don't go home."

Some in the well-dressed crowd wore T-shirts with the words "Operation Just Cause" — the name Bush gave the operation.

They enthusiastically applauded Quayle when he entered the Roman Catholic Church with Endara and his two vice presidents. People crowded into the aisles to shake his hand as he made his way to the front row.

The Rev. Javier Villanueva, whose weekly anti-Noriega sermons were well known before the Dec. 20 invasion, told the congregation the Bush admini-



Dan Quayle

stration recognized Panamanian suffering and helped eliminate it by driving out Noriega.

He said other Latin nations who deplored the invasion never did anything to help Panama's situation.

Quayle said outside the church service that the reaction of the people was "very gratifying."

Budget director predicts critical views of Bush plan

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — On Sunday, President Bush prepared to send Congress a \$1.23 trillion 1991 spending plan that his budget director said contains no general tax increase and which he predicted will be "criticized unfairly" on Capitol Hill.

With many details already known about the budget, which will be released Monday, Democratic lawmakers are complaining that it fails to address the deficit seriously and that its defense cuts are too timid.

White House Budget Director Richard Darman on Sunday blasted what he said was "an awful lot of hypocrisy" and "posturing" by lawmakers about the administration's plans.

"We're about to start an annual ritual, which is regrettable," Darman said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."

Budget director releases essay

WASHINGTON — There he goes again. Richard Darman has mounted his bully pulpit to deliver another hellfire and brimstone lecture against gamesmanship when some would argue that President Bush's budget director is the champion of all times in that arena.

In a 15-page essay that will be included in the president's budget when it is released Monday, Darman chastises Congress for trivializing the historic changes occurring in Eastern Europe, rails against "wonder-

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land budgeting" gimmicks and challenges lawmakers to get serious about attacking the problems facing the country.

Even the existence of the essay, titled "The Director's Introduction to the Budget," is unusual. Normally, presidential aides go out of their way to make sure that the centerpiece of attention when the administration's budget is sent to Congress is the president's annual budget message.

Ethnic warriors discuss truce

MOSCOW — Armenian and Azerbaijani fighters began withdrawing from a key battlefront on Sunday, and the bitter enemies agreed to discuss extending the truce to other parts of the volatile region, activists reported.

The Armenian National Movement agreed to conditions demanded by the Azerbaijani People's Front for peace talks that are to begin Wednesday in Riga, Latvia, according to the Latvian People's Front, which is sponsoring the talks.

Both sides now say they will discuss troop withdrawals, refugees and other humanitarian concerns, but not the pivotal territorial dispute that triggered the hostilities, said Artis Erglis of the Latvian People's Front.



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