

World and Nation

World celebrates Mandela's release

From Associated Press reports
LONDON — Nelson Mandela's emergence Sunday from nearly three decades in prison touched off international rejoicing and praise from world leaders, but it was tempered by appeals for swifter progress toward ending apartheid.

As 71-year-old Mandela walked from the grounds of his prison outside Cape Town into crowds of supporters who had campaigned ceaselessly for his release, the African National Congress (ANC) welcomed him "to the warm embrace of our people and the national liberation movement."

India's Prime Minister V.P. Singh called Mandela a "valiant soldier of independence, justice and equality," and French Premier Michel Rocard invited him to visit Paris.

Gabon's chief of state urged other African nations to restore diplomatic links with South Africa, and British spokesmen said it was time to reconsider international sanctions.

Anti-apartheid campaigners took to the streets to celebrate, including thousands who thronged London's Trafalgar Square, singing, dancing and waving flags of the newly legalized ANC. Mandela's release provided a "surge of hope" that should be harnessed to

open talks between the government and the black majority, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said. Hurd's deputy, Foreign Minister William Waldegrave, called Mandela "a leader of real stature to represent the Africans who can enter into dialogue."

However, the ANC said in a statement released in Harare, Zimbabwe, that it was not prepared to open talks with the white-minority government of President F.W. de Klerk until he lifted the state of emergency, released all political prisoners and repealed laws that formed the basis of the apartheid system of segregation.

The Nigerian government called Mandela's release "positive proof" that international sanctions have worked, but Britain said it would contact the European Community and the Commonwealth of former colonies about encouraging new ties with South Africa.

"When people are doing the right thing boldly and courageously as President de Klerk is, it seems quite absurd to still use sticks to beat them with, however small those sticks may be," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said.

"The die is now cast. The way is open for peaceable negotiations. What

is the use of trying to hit out? Why not help the process."

Canadian sanctions will stay in effect until apartheid is scrapped, Foreign Minister Joe Clark said. Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney wrote a letter to Mandela that said "We celebrate with the world that your freedom from prison today may soon lead to the freedom of all South Africans from the injustice of apartheid."

Sweden, which maintained strong economic sanctions against South Africa, said Mandela's release would create new hope for democracy and freedom.

"Through his courage, commitment and moral strength, he has been a constant source of inspiration for those who hold the ideals of freedom, democracy and fairness high," Swedish Premier Ingvar Carlsson said of Mandela.

In his message, the Indian prime minister called Mandela a symbol of the aspirations of the downtrodden, exploited and oppressed people of the world, and said his imprisonment proved "the futility of repression and

the hollowness of the system and ideology of apartheid."

"Your release demonstrates the supremacy of the human spirit and the inevitability of the triumph of justice and reason over the forces of racism, suppression and violence of man against man," Singh said.

Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke described Mandela's release as the most positive sign the world had seen that "the walls of the abhorrent apartheid system may soon be breached."

Hawke and Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez also urged the South African government to build on the good will flowing from Mandela's release.

President Mario Soares of Portugal said he "deeply satisfied with this, the latest significant step in the democratic reforms currently going on in South Africa."

In Italy, Premier Giulio Andreotti welcomed the "gesture capable of giving a fundamental impetus to dialogue between all South Africans."

New Soviet space mission aims for high altitude, profit

From Associated Press reports
MOSCOW — Two cosmonauts took President Mikhail Gorbachev's drive for economic efficiency to new heights Sunday, blasting off on the Soviet Union's first space mission designed to turn a profit.

Riding a Soyuz TM-9 capsule, flight commander Anatoly Solovoyov, 42, and engineer Alexander Balandin, 36, soared atop a column of flames into cloud-streaked skies over the Baikour space complex in Soviet Kazakhstan at 9:16 a.m.

Their on-schedule launch was televised live, and for the first time, four active U.S. astronauts were invited to the formerly top-secret spaceport on the steppes of Central Asia to watch it.

Salvadoran rebels bombed
SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Air force planes and helicopters bombed suspected leftist rebel positions near a northeastern village Sunday, killing at least six people

News in Brief

and wounding 20, a witness said. Fighting broke out around 6:30 a.m. in the village of Corral de Piedra, 53 miles northeast of the capital, said a female church worker who insisted on anonymity for fear of reprisals.

"We were in chapel when we heard the shooting in the hills, and we heard about 10 bombs explode, shaking the chapel, and the dust then sifted in under the doors."

Iranians observe anniversary

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Five million Iranians thronged Tehran's snow-covered Freedom Square on Sunday to mark the Islamic Revolution's 11th anniversary.

Tehran television, monitored in Nicosia, said people in the massive crowd carried portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini, who launched the revolution.

Bush, NATO official discuss German unity

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner emerged Sunday from talks with President Bush

to suggest that a reunified Germany could be a part of the Western alliance

without extending NATO's military reach over the territory that is now East Germany.

Woerner said a way can and will be found to keep a united Germany in NATO while recognizing "the legitimate security interests of the Soviet Union."

Following two days of talks at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md., both Bush and Woerner hailed what White House officials called West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's "extraordinarily successful" talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow.

Kohl said Saturday he got "unequivocal" assurances from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Moscow would respect the right of the two Germans to decide for themselves on the timing and structure of their reunification.

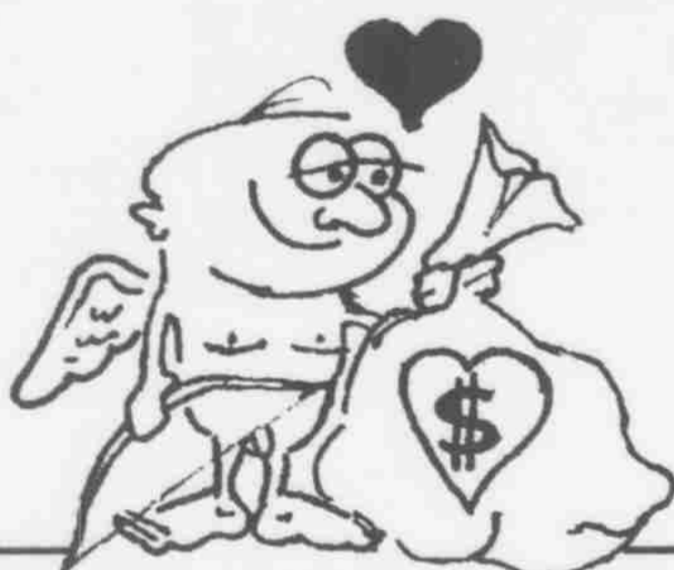
White House officials said that Bush and Woerner agreed that NATO "should adopt new political roles," including helping shape U.S. policies toward the East Bloc nations now shifting toward democracy.

Woerner spoke with reporters at

Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington before boarding a U.S. Air Force jet to Ottawa, Canada, and an international conference on "open skies" — including Bush's proposal to allow the superpowers to conduct surveillance flights over each other's territories.

Secretary of State James Baker was also bound for Ottawa on Sunday following his six-day trip to Moscow and Eastern Europe. At a news conference in Moscow on Friday night Baker had said U.S. policy calls for full German membership in NATO or "association" with the alliance for a reunited Germany.

A senior administration official later clarified that remark, saying full NATO membership still was the only administration goal for a reunified Germany. Both Baker and the official endorsed a proposal by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher that while a united Germany should be a NATO member, Western troops would not move into the territory that is now East Germany.



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