

# International Focus

## Serbs violating peace-keeping treaty

by Christopher Ford  
International Life Editor

U.N. peacekeepers faced off last week with Bosnian Serbs over tanks, anti-aircraft guns and mortars found in a weapons-free zone around Sarajevo. It was the worst reported violation of the U.N. ordered weapons from around the capital since it took effect February 20. By late last Wednesday, the Serb and Canadian troops, separated by only a few hundred yards, were waiting for outcome on the talks of the standoff. At one point, Serb forces, using mines, had contained two groups of Canadian troops, said Cmdr. Simon McDowell, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeepers. The Serbs eventually removed the mines to allow for talks, he said in a C-Span broadcasted press conference.

The trouble began two weeks ago when the Canadians were checking on six howitzers discovered weeks ago and found four tanks, three anti-aircraft

## Japanese in uproar over American rice

by Christopher Ford  
International Life Editor

Protest is stirring in Japan over the government's decision to mix American rice with native grains. American rice was introduced into the Japanese market in late 1993 due to severe shortage of domestic rice. Japanese people bought American rice despite protest and the tradition of eliminating foreign trade.

Originally, the American rice was considered somewhat of a gourmet item, and outsold native rice four times over when introduced to their market. Now, since the government has control of imports, plans are to mix U.S. rice with Japanese rice in hopes of eliminating the American version as a mainstay of Japanese diet.

This has brought a protest from many Japanese people, most of whom are pushing for the free trade atmosphere of the island. Some Japanese people want to have the privilege of buying the American product, while others want to avoid any foreign items, especially American.

The new government policy of mixing rice obviously interferes with both. Businesses, especially American, simply want rice to be an example of free trade and an even playing field, with the U.S. influx dramatically outselling the home team.

cannons, four howitzers, and 18 mortars nearby, McDowell said. The guns were not positioned to strike at the capital, he said. The United Nations wants the guns moved north out of the zone, or put in U.N. weapons collection centers.

After a NATO ultimatum that threatened air strikes, the Serbs last month agreed to withdraw or place under U.N. control all heavy weapons in a 12.5 mile radius around Sarajevo. But they use a different center when measuring the zone and argued that the

weapons found Monday were outside it.

At NATO headquarters in Brussels, officials reiterated that any heavy weapons not under U.N. control in the zone remained open to air strikes. McDowell also refused to rule out the possibility of NATO air strikes but said, "We don't feel the need at this stage that it is the best option at the moment. The United Nations is not willing to enter this war as another combatant."

About 200 Canadian peacekeepers in armored vehicles surrounded the Serb

positions near Ilijas, north of Sarajevo, in a show of U.N. force last Sunday following the incident. The peacekeepers pulled back a few hundred yards after Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, threatened to shoot or bomb Canadian positions, the Canadian Press News Agency reported.

A senior U.N. peacekeeper, Brig. Gen. Adrian van Baal, went to the Serb stronghold of Pale last week to try to defuse the situation, but was unable to reach an agreement with Karadzic.

## Clinton calls for inspection of North Korea's weapons

by Christopher Ford  
International Life Editor

On March 21, President Clinton ordered a battalion of Patriot interceptor missiles to be shipped to South Korea, while re-stating his request for North Korea to "do the right thing," by allowing adequate international inspection of a laboratory capable of producing plutonium for nuclear arms.

Clinton made the announcement following a letter to South Korean President Kim Young Sam, reiterating a U.S. commitment to defend South Korea whenever they are being attacked.

This recent activity follows the governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna censuring of North Korea for refusing to

allow inspectors full access to the Youghyon laboratory last week.

The Patriot decision also represents the first concrete step taken by the Clinton administration to strengthen South Korea security since North Korea first threatened them in March of 1993 by abandoning its pledge not to make nuclear arms.

Plans are also under way to bolster the 37,000 troops the U.S. has in South Korea, and to go ahead with the suspended military exercise that will be slated for late spring with South Korea. The joint exercise had been on hold during talks with the North Korean government over inspections.

The Pentagon has also begun to move aircraft carriers into the region and

supply U.S. and South Korean troops with more gear to defend against chemical attack.

The Patriots were to be shipped by air, but were then deemed unnecessary and unduly alarming to both North and South Korea. The missiles are now to be shipped by rail.

China, a long standing supporter of North Korea, has warned the U.S. against military build-up, yet has backed off of full support of North Korea due to a pending nation trade status with the U.S. that they don't want to jeopardize.

The North Korean government did not respond warmly to the recent Washington decisions, claiming that the United States is headed in one direction, war.

## Jews want to escape West Bank and Gaza

by Christopher Ford  
International Life Editor

Thousands of Jews living in settlements deep in the West Bank and Gaza Strip want to get out of possible relinquishing of the territory to Syrians or Palestinians.

It is not that easy, though. They were lured there by Israeli government offers of huge mortgages at rock-bottom rates at a time when Israel's leaders wanted Jews to populate Arab lands captured in 1967. The settlers bought homes they could never afford in Israeli funds. Yet now that Israel is preparing to trade land for peace, the same houses have plunged in value. The trick is to survive Palestinian stones, bullets, and bombs until the government of Yitzhak Rabin offers compensation, then take that money and run.

Rabin has resisted pressure to offer a deal to the settlers in the West Bank

and Gaza. He doesn't want the settlers to leave now because he is still negotiating. If they pull out now, the Palestinians might consider Israel weak. Yet the game becomes increasingly dangerous. Last week the Islamic militant group known as Hamas lived up to its warning to Jews to leave by March 15 or face increased attacks. These terrorist shot to death a pregnant woman traveling from Tel-Aviv to the

West Bank.

More recently, Israeli soldiers killed a West Bank Jew who was traveling at night; they thought the settler was a Palestinian terrorist. The settlers have some hope, though. Settlers recall the precedent set in the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt. The government of Israel paid \$300,000 for each evacuated farm with the return of the Sinai peninsula to the Egyptians.

## Brevard College hosts Russian minister Kravichuk

On Tuesday, March 29, Brevard College was host to Peter Kravichuk, a Baptist minister from Russia. Kravichuk spoke about his ministerial life before and after the August Revolution of 1991, in which the Communist government reached

insolvency. Previous to 1991 he had been imprisoned for three years in Siberia by the government for teaching the Christian faith. Following the 1991 downfall, Kravichuk has been caught in the greatest wave of consignment to the Christian faith in Russia in history.