

## World News Reports

### ◆ Grenade kills seven children in Brazzaville

Brazzaville, Congo (AP) A grenade launched onto a high school soccer field killing seven children and injuring 13 others in a suburb of the capital of the Republic of Congo, police said Sunday.

A police statement said several seriously injured children, all aged 10 to 15, had to have arms or legs amputated after an unknown attacker fired a grenade launcher into a group playing on the field Saturday afternoon.

Accidental explosions of hand grenades, left exposed during recent fighting in the capital between government troops and residents trying to oust President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, frequently injure civilians in Brazzaville.

But police said the assailant Saturday intentionally targeted the children. An investigation was underway to find more information about the attack.

### ◆ Teen-ager charged with murder

Sandpoint, Idaho (AP) A Priest River teen-ager has been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of another teen.

Authorities said Randy Joshua Reynolds, 18, died early Saturday morning of a gunshot wound to the chest after a fight with Joshua Patrick McMurphy, 17.

According to a clerk at the convenience store where the shooting occurred, McMurphy shot Reynolds once in the heart after the two exchanged words in the parking lot.

Valdez said although McMurphy claims to be a member of the Priest River Crips and had gang regalia with him, he does not believe the shooting was gang-related.

McMurphy, a student at Priest River Lamanna High School, was ordered held without bond, pending an appearance in Magistrate Court on Monday.

### ◆ Mugabe says 1,200 die each week from AIDS in Zimbabwe

Harare, Zimbabwe (AP) More than 1,200 Zimbabweans are dying each week from AIDS, President Robert Mugabe said Sunday, acknowledging for the first time the enormity of an epidemic whose existence the government had previously underplayed.

## Allied ground force in Balkans expanding

By Robert Burns  
AP MILITARY WRITER

Washington (AP) As hundreds more aircraft join NATO's air campaign, a less-noticed array of allied ground forces is assembling on the southern rim of Yugoslavia.

Some were brought to the region for humanitarian work and others for potential deployment as peacekeepers. But they could serve as the nucleus of an invasion force if the leaders of NATO reverse themselves and decide that only an invasion will achieve their aims against Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

The possible deployment of combat troops was discussed on both sides of the Atlantic Sunday.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright repeated the U.S. position that air power will achieve NATO's purposes and NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said the allies have no plans to authorize an invasion.

But, in a significant addition to the ongoing ground troop dialogue, he added that "if the moment comes when it is necessary" to invade Yugoslavia, "I'm sure the countries that belong to NATO will be ready to do it."

Britain's foreign secretary, Robin Cook, stressed it would take two to three months to prepare an invasion, if one were ordered. Military experts agree.

Allied ground forces arriving

in the Balkans include some of the keys to ground combat, including U.S. Army Bradley infantry carriers and Apache attack helicopters, and British battle tanks.

About 12,000 NATO troops are in Macedonia, including some 600 Americans. In neighboring Albania about 2,000 of a planned

The Apache force is expected to begin operating soon against Serb armored forces in Kosovo.

By the time ground forces can be assembled in large-enough numbers to take on an invasion, the Serbs are likely to have completed their campaign of "ethnic cleansing," the very acts of violence NATO is striving to stop.

A NATO assessment last summer concluded that it would take about 200,000 allied group troops to conquer Kosovo.

The allies hope relentless bombing ultimately will force Milosevic to accept a Kosovo peace deal that includes stationing international peacekeepers in Kosovo.

NATO's Solana denied a British newspaper report that the alliance is preparing for a late-May invasion of Kosovo.

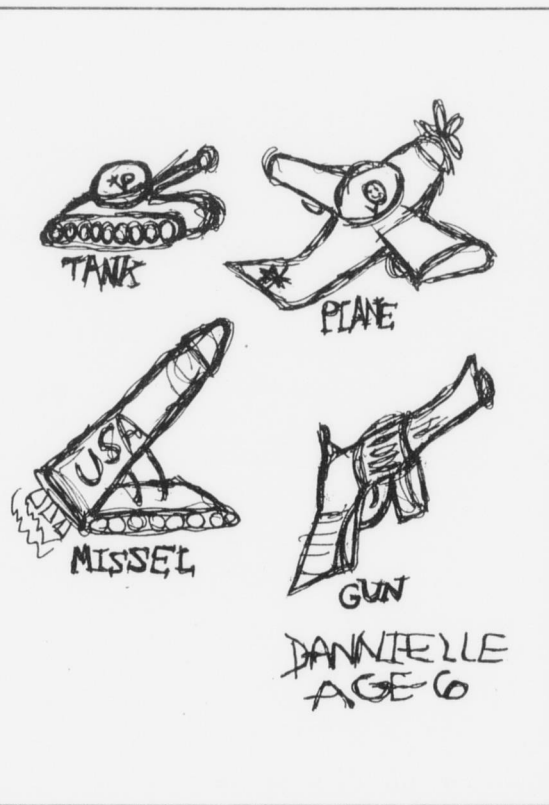
"At this point, the alliance has no plans to go into an invasion," Solana said on Fox television.

Critics have said it is a mistake to give Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic the assurance he will not

face NATO on the ground.

Milosevic's foreign minister, Zivadin Jovanovic, asked on NBC television whether Serb forces were prepared for a ground war, said: "Be sure that we can resist any kind of attacks, any kind of aggression."

Jovanovic said the United States and NATO should "draw lessons" from the "unsuccessful air raids and aggression" in his country.



BRIAN HEAGNEY

force of 8,000 allied troops are preparing for a humanitarian relief effort. There also are several thousand U.S. troops in Bosnia as part of a NATO-led peacekeeping force.

The Albania group includes the vanguard of a U.S. Army contingent, eventually to total 3,000 or more soldiers, that will operate two battalions of Apache attack helicopters and land-based missiles.

## Israeli jets hit South Lebanon

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

Nabatiyeh, Lebanon (AP) Israeli warplanes blasted suspected guerrilla hideouts in southern Lebanon on Sunday, shortly after Hezbollah fighters attacked two Israeli outposts near the border, Lebanese security officials said.

Two Israeli fighter jets fired a number of missiles at a valley between the Shiite Muslim villages of Jebal al-Botom and Zibqine, nine miles southeast of the coastal city of Tyre, said the officials, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

There was no word on casualties from the airstrike, the fourth this week by Israeli jets on

the area.

There was no immediate comment from Israel.

The area is believed to be used by Hezbollah guerrillas to launch attacks against Israeli troops and allied Lebanese militiamen in Israel's self-styled security zone in southern Lebanon.

In a statement issued in Sidon, the provincial capital of south Lebanon, Hezbollah said its guerrillas earlier fired at two Israeli outposts near the Lebanese-Israeli border, scoring "direct hits."

The exchanges occurred after a Lebanese civilian was injured in an Israeli bombardment of a village in southern Lebanon.

Jawad Mohammed Moussa,

35, whose left foot was amputated below the knee from a shrapnel injury in a similar Israeli bombardment two years ago, suffered a fresh wound in the upper part of that leg, the officials said.

Hezbollah, or the Party of God, is leading a guerrilla war to oust 1,500 Israeli soldiers and 2,500 allied Lebanese militiamen from the occupied zone, which Israel set up in 1985 to shield its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Meanwhile, Lebanese President Emile Lahoud said Sunday that Israel was violating a 1996 U.S.-brokered cease-fire by occupying the southern village of Arnoun, five miles southeast of Nabatiyeh.