

U.S. Scholars Call Yeltsin's Actions Necessary

BY JONATHAN BARKER
STAFF WRITER

Observers in the West defended Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Monday raid on Russia's Parliament building but warned that Yeltsin needed to move quickly towards democratic elections.

"Yeltsin did what any government official would have to do," said Joel Schwartz, a UNC political science professor. "If you have a mob that is shooting and killing innocent people, then you have to use whatever force is necessary to restore order."



Schwartz said he thought reports of death tolls in the hundreds were inaccurate and were being perpetuated by anti-Yeltsin supporters who wanted Yeltsin's actions to be seen as inhumane and excessive.

In a recorded statement, the U.S. State Department declared one American dead

and five Americans injured in the violence, warning against travel to the still-volatile country.

Dennis Papazian, director of the Michigan-based Center for Study of Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia, said Yeltsin had the potential for historic failure or historic success.

"If he has greatness in him, then he may pull this off. If he has fatal flaws as many suspect he does, he may make topical reforms only," he said. "I hope and expect that he will follow a moderate road, have elections, and go on with democratic reform."

"His actions were unfortunate, but the situation deteriorated and he finally did what he had to do," Papazian said.

Many scholars across the country agreed with Schwartz that Yeltsin was forced to violent actions by hard-line lawmakers sequestered in the Parliament building.

"I think that for two weeks Yeltsin was cautious and tried to avoid the use of force, so I think it's a mistake to suggest that

Yeltsin was trigger-happy," said Russell Bova, a political science professor at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.

Schwartz said Yeltsin now had huge decisions to make concerning treatment of his former vice president and Parliament speaker.

"Yeltsin has to decide what to do with (Alexander) Rutskoi and (Ruslan) Khasbulatov, how to treat them, whether or not he should bring them to trial or not," he said. "It is a very delicate political balance."

Many scholars expressed concern that because of his past autocratic inclinations, Yeltsin could end reforms or institute slower reforms while retaining his base of power.

"Yeltsin is acting undemocratically to bring about democracy, and there is always the fear that someday he may act undemocratically to end democracy," Papazian said. "He cannot make Russia democratic by making it autocratic."

Bova said he thought Yeltsin could very well upgrade his current, though neces-

sary, dictatorial policies to cover the entire Russian political system.

"Having instituted censorship within the media, the question now is, will he become autocratic and initiate a dictatorship?" Bova said. He also questioned the price Yeltsin had to pay to get the backing of the military.

Papazian said that despite the apparent end to the crisis, the future of Russian reform was very much up in the air. Yeltsin's new plan of action should be quite clear, he said.

"Yeltsin next needs to create a constitution which is decently established, hold parliamentary elections in December as he promised that are free and democratic, then encourage the Parliament to pass laws on banking and taxes, things that they have never had in Russia," Papazian said.

Bova said Yeltsin would have to build a stable foundation for Russia's future.

"He's won the battle but the long-term effects on Russian democracy remain to be seen."

GRE Testing to Be Part Of Computer Revolution

BY MELISSA ROCHE
STAFF WRITER

Next month, the Educational Testing Service will debut a new version of the Graduate Records Examination (GRE), which uses a new computer feedback method of standardized testing.

The new Computer-Adaptive Test version of the GRE, which will be offered beginning Nov. 1 at Sylvan Learning Centers across the nation, has been preceded by the Computer-Based Testing Program, a computer version of the written GRE test, said Kevin Gonzalez, an ETS spokesman.

The GRE is a standardized test administered to graduate school applicants.

"The Computer-Based Test is meant to be a transitional step between the traditional pencil-and-paper test and the new Computer-Adaptive Test," he said.

The Computer-Based Testing Program has been offered at Sylvan Learning Centers since last fall, said Ron Hester, director of the Sylvan Learning Center in Raleigh.

Sylvan Learning Centers and the Educational Testing Service have signed a contract granting the Sylvan Learning Centers the sole right to administer the computerized version of the GRE, Gonzalez said.

The new Computer-Adaptive Test will contain a smaller amount of questions and will only present the test taker with questions at the level of difficulty upon which he is functioning, he said.

"The first question will be of medium difficulty," he said. "If you answer a question incorrectly, the next question will decrease in difficulty. If you answer a question correctly, the next question will increase in difficulty."

The test taker will receive more points for answering more difficult questions and fewer points for answering less difficult questions, Gonzalez said.

"The ETS wants only high scorers to get the hard questions," Krebs said. "They

don't want low scoring students to guess and get the hard-scoring questions correct just by chance."

Gonzalez said he believed that the written administration of the GRE would be phased out completely by 1997 and replaced by the Computer-Adaptive Test.

The cost of the computer test is \$93, compared to the \$48 charge for the written examination. The current GRE test consists of 185 questions of varying difficulties, Gonzalez said.

Patty Krebs, area director of Princeton Review, a national program that prepares students for standardized tests, said the new testing system would use computers to adjust the test to each individual student's level of competence.

She said this would ensure students would not have to spend time on questions that were too easy or too difficult for them.

Krebs said she thought the Computer-Based Test would be awkward to take.

"The Computer-Based Test is a clumsy version of the written test," Krebs said. "You have to scroll the texts back and forth to look at the reading and then at the questions."

But Hester said he had heard few complaints from students who had taken the computer version of the GRE in Raleigh.

"Out of maybe 400 students who have taken the Computer-Based Test, only two students have said they didn't like it," Hester said.

For the past two or three months, the center has included an extra experimental section on the test which resembles the new Computer-Adaptive Test, Hester said.

To entice students to take the experimental section seriously, the students were allowed to claim the score of the experimental section if it was better than the score they received on the traditional testing, said Hester.

"A lot of people have expressed interest in the Computer-Adaptive Program and are excited about the new system," he said.

Va. Woman To Plead Insanity in Penis Case

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Virginia woman who cut off her husband's penis will try to prove in court she was temporarily insane at the time, her lawyer said.

Attorney James Lowe said Lorena Bobbitt was repeatedly beaten and raped by her husband, John Wayne Bobbitt. After he attacked her in their Manassas, Va., apartment on June 23, she was seized by an "irresistible impulse" that caused her to reach for a knife and cut him, Lowe said in an interview in the November issue of Vanity Fair magazine.

She faces trial Nov. 29 on a charge of malicious wounding.

Lowe said he would argue that people who had been repeatedly abused or beaten often have an altered mental state.

Lorena Bobbitt told police she mutilated her husband after he raped her when he came home drunk from a night out with a friend.

John Bobbitt has been charged with marital sexual assault and his trial is set for Nov. 8. He denies the charge. Both Bobbitts face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Lorena Bobbitt told the magazine she was appalled that some women had hailed her as a feminist heroine for striking back against alleged abuse. "Nobody knows what I went through," she said. "Nobody knows anything about me."

She said that after her husband assaulted her, she went to the kitchen to get a glass of water.

"It was just so many things together. I was scared... I was physically hurt.... The first thing I saw was a knife, when I turned. I grabbed that knife and, um, I went to the bedroom, and he was there, I guess, and he kind of, like, moved or something. I don't know. And I took the sheets off, and I cut him."

She said she wished she had never done it, but couldn't say for sure if she felt remorse, or if she thought he deserved it.

James Sehn, a urologist who helped perform the nine-hour operation to reattach Bobbitt's penis, said, "He has a working organ. It's very possible he's already had sex, and I wouldn't be surprised."

Citizens of Northern Bosnia Racked By Lack of U.N. Aid, Severe Shelling

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — It's been 100 days since tens of thousands of Muslims trapped between Serb and Croat guns in the nearly forgotten north have seen an aid convoy.

As Bosnia plunges into its second winter of war, U.N. officials are warning of disaster for at least 150,000 Muslims in the towns of Maglaj and Tesanj.

The reports that make it to the outside tell of near-starvation and ever fierce shelling from Serb and Croat artillery.

"These two towns are basically a black hole for us," said Ray Wilkinson, spokesman in Sarajevo for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Radio reports that shelling of the two towns had been intensifying for the past week are unconfirmed. But the situation clearly is grim.

A Bosnian army official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said shelling had been continuous for a month in what appeared to be a standoff. He said Muslim-led government forces have adequate arm-

munition, but food and other civilian supplies are scarce.

"It's potentially the worst-off region of Bosnia," Wilkinson said. "If eastern Bosnia is critical, the Maglaj pocket has the potential for catastrophe."

"We have no specifics, but the conditions must be terrible. They must have very little food, virtually no medicines and probably no shelter."

Sylvana Foa of UNHCR headquarters in Geneva said Tuesday marked the 100th day since an aid convoy has reached the towns. The last one turned back after it came under fire and two Danish drivers were killed.

No aid officials are in the towns, which now rely on nighttime U.N. airdrops. About 110 tons were dropped last week, but much of it is believed to have drifted over enemy lines, out of reach of civilians.

Wilkinson said there were reports that four people had died of food poisoning, after eating wild mushrooms.

The towns are the only Bosnian government holdouts in northern Bosnia, where

Serbs are consolidating a supply corridor connecting their occupied territories in western Bosnia and neighboring Croatia to Serbia proper.

Bosnian Croats, who initially fought with the government against Serb forces, recently split and have cooperated with the Serbs in some areas.

Lt. Col. Bill Aikman, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers in Sarajevo, said last week that some 40,000 people were trapped in Maglaj and more than 100,000 were holed up in nearby Tesanj.

Wilkinson said it was possible that 200,000 people could be pinned down by shelling in the towns and surrounding areas, about 40 miles northwest of Sarajevo.

If no convoys get through within a month, U.N. aid officials say they will have to try dropping winter tents by air.

Serb authorities in the northern Serb stronghold of Banja Luka demand that they be guaranteed more supplies before any more aid is allowed to reach Maglaj.

Wilkinson said such linkage "is out of the question" under UNHCR policies.

Buttafuoco Admits to Having Sex with Fisher

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — After 1 1/2 years of denials — to his wife, to Howard Stern and Phil Donahue, to the producers of his made-for-TV movie — Joey Buttafuoco finally admitted it Tuesday: He slept with Amy Fisher.

He admitted it happened at a motel. He admitted knowing she was just 16 years old. And he admitted it all in court, where he pleaded guilty to third-degree rape and set himself up for a six-month jail term.

"On July 2, 1991, I had sexual relations with Amy Fisher at the Freeport Motel," Buttafuoco declared in a clear voice before a packed courtroom, acknowledging the affair for the first time. He appeared without his wife, Mary Jo, who is said to be standing by her man despite his confession.

Joey Buttafuoco's plea was one of the final frames of the saga that began May 19, 1992, when Fishershot Mary Jo Buttafuoco in the head to clear the way for her affair with Joey Buttafuoco. Fisher is serving five-to-15 years for the shooting.

The "Joey and Amy" story captured the public's imagination like few others. There

was an instant book and three made-for-TV movies. The Buttafuocos were guests on the "Donahue" show, where Joey Buttafuoco was vilified. Jokes proliferated: David Letterman drew laughs by simply saying "Buttafuoco," while Madonna tore Buttafuoco's picture up on "Saturday Night Live."

"Let me tell you something. I don't cheat on my wife. No. Oh. No. Oh. No," Buttafuoco told radio host Stern last year.

Buttafuoco, who will be sentenced Nov. 15, had nothing to say after the 20-minute hearing before Nassau County Court Judge Jack Mackston. Under a plea bargain, Buttafuoco's sentence will be no more than six months in jail, five years' probation and a \$5,000 fine.

If he gets the maximum, Buttafuoco could be released after four months.

"It was a difficult and hard day. I thought he handled it well," said Buttafuoco's attorney, Dominic Barbara. "Joey Buttafuoco is prepared to do whatever he has to do for his children and his family."

What he wouldn't do, prosecutors said, was participate in a blood test and a physical examination.

Assistant District Attorney Fred Klein thought the blood test would confirm Fisher's story that Buttafuoco gave her herpes; the physical exam would confirm her detailed description of Joey's physical attributes, including (but not exclusively) a mole on his inner thigh.

The plea to the most serious count of a 19-count indictment resolves the whole case.

Fisher's lawyer, Philip Catapano, said of the plea that "at least the world will know Amy Fisher was not lying."

Although Buttafuoco denied it, Fisher charged they had an affair that included trysts in four motels, Buttafuoco's auto body shop on New York's Long Island and aboard his boat, "Double Trouble."

Fisher, now 19, was only 16 when the affair began, which is below the legal age of consent in New York state.

There still might be an explosive finale. Fisher, as the victim in the crime, has a right to speak at the sentencing — and she just might do that, said Matthew Rosenblum, another of her attorneys.

"Amy Fisher," he said in understatement, "has a tendency to want to speak."

U.S. Troops Bound to Stay in Somalia to Hold Up U.N. Forces

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAIROBI, Kenya — No president wants to preside over the deaths of American boys in strange, faraway places, but a pullout of U.S. troops could sound the death knell for U.N. military and humanitarian operations in Somalia.

There is little doubt that the 4,700 American soldiers in Somalia are the glue that holds together the 28,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force from 33 nations.

Without the 3,000 U.S. troops performing logistics work under U.N. command, it would be impractical or impossible for many nations to send troops to Somalia. Their units depend on the U.S. contingent for water, food and transportation.

About 1,300 other U.S. soldiers, bolstered recently by 400 elite Rangers, make up the Quick Reaction Force, designed originally to provide rapid relief for other national units that might find themselves in trouble.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has shrunk from Clinton administration suggestions that it might withdraw U.S. troops. He said a pullout would mean the abandonment of southern Mogadishu to fugitive warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

And that, Boutros-Ghali said, would "condemn the people of Somalia to the resumption of civil war and all the horrors that would result." Somalia was torn by

war among Aidid and other warlords before U.N. intervention, and relief workers depend on U.N. military protection.

When U.N. troops took over from the U.S.-led force in May, one of their mandates was to disarm the warlords, who inherited a huge arsenal of weapons after the fall of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991. The weapons were supplied by the Soviet Union and later the United States during the Cold War.

The U.S. Quick Reaction Force, known locally as the QRF, is one of the most essential parts of the U.N. military effort. It is a highly mobile light-infantry unit, equipped with a squadron of helicopters. The Rangers brought at least a dozen of their own helicopters with them when they arrived in August.



U.N. Secretary-General BOUTROS-GHALI does not want the U.S. to withdraw troops from Somalia.

While the QRF remains under U.S., and not U.N., command, its role has changed in recent months. Instead of being a reserve force, it is being used more and more as an operational unit.

That, perhaps, reflects a lack of faith by some commanders in other U.N. armed forces.

With almost half of the U.N. force pinned down in positions in southern Mogadishu by militia loyal to Aidid, the QRF's helicopters have played an increasingly important — and visible — role.

They are almost constantly in the sky low over southern Mogadishu where they patrol mean streets on which the United Nations has become increasingly loathe to send its soldiers on foot — surrendering them, in effect, to Aidid.

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