

U.S., Israel Pull Delegates From Summit

The Associated Press

DURBAN, South Africa — The United States and Israel pulled out of the World Conference Against Racism on Monday, denouncing efforts to condemn Israel in the meeting's proposed declaration.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who had remained in Washington and was not part of the U.S. delegation, denounced the draft declaration's "hateful language." "Today I have instructed our representatives at the World Conference Against Racism to return home. I have taken this decision with regret because of the importance of the international fight against racism and the contribution

that this conference could have made to it," said the statement, which was released in Durban.

"But following discussions today by our team in Durban and others who are working for a successful conference, and others, I am convinced that it will not be possible," the statement added.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced in Israel that the Jewish state was also pulling out of the conference because of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic comments.

The Arab League had led a concerted effort to single out Israel and blame it in unacceptable terms for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said.

The European Union said it would stay at the conference and endorsed a new proposal by South Africa to draft completely new text on the Middle East.

Several Jewish delegations pulled out, according to Shimon Samuels, chairman of the Jewish caucus.

"The conference turned into a tribunal against Israel," the Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a separate statement. "The conference against racism turned into a racist conference against Israel."

Soon after the U.S. announcement, several hundred angry demonstrators protested outside the conference center, chanting "Shame, shame, U.S.A."

Norway and Canada had attempted

to mediate a compromise between the Arab states and Israel on the conference's draft declaration. The United States was part of those talks.

This is the third world conference on racism, but the first the United States and Israel have attended. Both countries boycotted the 1978 and 1983 conferences in part because of similar anti-Israel language.

The draft document recognized with "deep concern the increase of racist practices of Zionism," and said Zionism "is based on racial superiority." Israel is the only country mentioned specifically in the document, which accuses the Jewish state of "practices of racial discrimination."

EASTGATE
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While long-term improvements remain in the works, merchants brace for rain storms with short-term flooding solutions like sand bags. "We have sand bags but it's not enough to stop what happened last year," said Brad Feren, an employee at Sal's Pizza.

Feren said the restaurant still faces slight flooding after steady rains, including an incident three weeks ago, when water came 30 feet into the kitchen area.

Other items to be repaired include a culvert under the center and extensive improvements in parking lot drainage system.

The culvert, one of the main pipes, is also expected to be completed in the coming months, but parking lot repairs have been delayed until after Christmas to avoid disruption of holiday shopping.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Bill Strom said the town has already taken other measures to improve the shopping center's situation. "We have gone downstream of Eastgate and improved the Elliot Road culvert and we are using town assets to mitigate the other problems of Eastgate," Strom said.

In addition to the culvert on Elliot Road, the town is also sharing the costs to fix the storm drainage pipe.

"While it's not our primary role to spend money on private property improvements, we should be involved, and it's not beyond our realm to be involved," Strom said.

Connor said she hopes Eastgate's luck will continue until repairs could be completed. "I just pray that mother nature will continue to be kind to Eastgate this year."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Belfast Catholic School Opens to Violence

The Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Terrified Roman Catholic schoolgirls clung to their parents Monday as riot police held back crowds of angry Protestants trying to keep them from walking to school through their neighborhood on the first day of classes.

A Catholic mother was hit in the face with a bottle and hospitalized as police pushed Protestants away from the disputed road in Ardoyne, a mostly Catholic district of north Belfast that has been torn by riots this summer.

Most of the pupils — girls as young as 4 wearing brand-new red uniforms — were sent home early, in tears, from Holy Cross Primary School. A fleet of Catholic-run black taxis ferried them past lines of police with helmets and shields, while many of the Protestants shouted curses and insults.

"This looks like Alabama in the '60s," said Brendan Mailey, leader of a Catholic parents group that refused to use a rear entrance and insisted on using the front door of the school, which lies in the small Protestant section of Ardoyne.

"It's beyond my worst nightmare," said the Rev. Aidan Troy, a Catholic

priest who was appointed governor of the school during the summer vacation break. "The abuse I heard was unbelievable. It was one of the most savage experiences of my life."

Troy urged Catholic parents to use the school's rear entrance Tuesday, an option some political hard-liners among the par-

ents rejected during previous confrontations in June. Protestants have not challenged Catholics using the rear entrance.

Local Protestants said Monday that they were responding to Catholic attacks on their neighborhood, which is separated from the Catholic part of the district by high metal fences.

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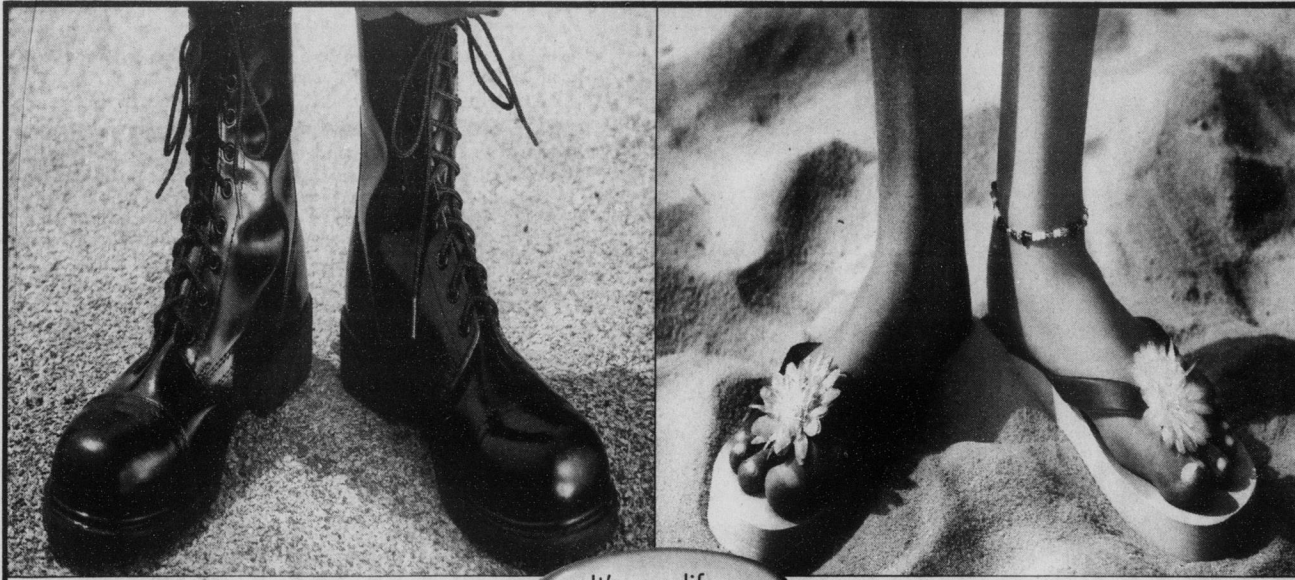
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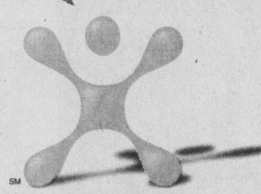
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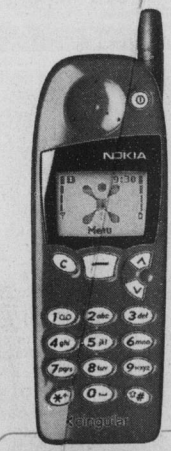
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