

World and Nation

Establishing an Afghan government

From Associated Press reports

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — An Afghan guerrilla leader predicted Thursday that the Marxist government in Kabul will collapse within weeks of the Red Army's departure and the insurgents won't have to attack the cities.

Neighboring Pakistan and Iran, which support the Moslem guerrillas, urged the factions to end their squabbles and form a broad-based government in Kabul when the Soviet withdrawal is completed Feb. 15.

Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, leader of the guerrilla group Hezb-i-Islami, said the government "will fall in weeks, not months." He addressed a news conference in Peshawar, a frontier city where a seven-party guerrilla alliance has its headquarters. He said the insurgents were determined to avoid attacks on Kabul, the Afghan capital, and other cities that would endanger civilian lives. More

than 2 million people, including many refugees, have crammed into Kabul. "The whole world will be witness to the fact that Kabul will fall without any major onslaught on the city," Hekmatyar said.

Abdul Haq, a senior military leader, said field commanders will need plans for the administration of towns and cities that fall to them, for bringing in food, and for keeping water and power systems operating.

"Before we knew only to attack the Russians," he said in an interview. "Now we must secure the nation, establish law and order, feed the people, stop looting or killing. It is very difficult."

He said the Kabul regime was preparing to defend itself and about 5,000 special troops had returned from training in the Soviet Union in house-to-house fighting. The government also is strengthening such elite formations as the presidential guard

and secret police militia, Haq said. Afghanistan's conscript army shows signs of collapse and is of little use for major operations, he said, adding that government forces generally are confined to cities and large towns, leaving the countryside to the guerrillas.

Haq said the guerrillas must find a way army units can surrender safely and without fear of reprisal so they will not be compelled to fight. "We should not make them fight for survival," he said.

Hekmatyar told the news conference there were arrangements for securing the fall of major cities without large-scale attacks, but gave no details. Other guerrilla groups said they were unaware of such plans.

Disagreement has arisen over strategy after the Soviets are gone, Haq said, with several commanders favoring assaults to capture the cities and destroy the Marxist government. He added, however, that most

leaders opposed military actions that would cause civilian casualties or damage power plants, government buildings and other facilities vital to reconstruction.

Most of the nation's industry, agriculture and public facilities have been destroyed by the civil war, which began after a communist coup in April 1978. Soviet soldiers intervened in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 were in Afghanistan when the withdrawal began in May under a U.N.-mediated agreement.

Other senior guerrilla officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the insurgents had been surprised by the speedy Soviet departure and still were adjusting to the rapidly changing political and military situation.

Kabul and other major cities surrounded by guerrillas have increasing food and fuel shortages and find it difficult to maintain essential services.

Committee announces delay of vote on Tower nomination

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Senate Armed Services Committee postponed Thursday's expected vote on the nomination of John Tower, and the panel's top Republican said a meeting had been scheduled with the FBI concerning President Bush's choice as defense secretary.

Tower, a onetime chairman of the committee, had appeared on a clear path to confirmation after telling his former colleagues he had no alcohol problem and would not be swayed by past business ties with defense contractors.

But committee chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., interrupted a hearing on another matter Thursday to say the panel was not ready to act.

Nunn had said a day earlier that he expected a favorable vote on Thursday. In his new comments, he said, "The file is still not complete."

Sununu criticizes bankers' ads
WASHINGTON — White House Chief of Staff John Sununu rebuked bankers Thursday over "irresponsible" newspaper advertisements encouraging savings and loan (S&L) customers to withdraw their deposits, industry officials said.

Sununu raised the issue during a private, hour-long meeting attended by President Bush, Treasury Secretary Nicholas

News in Brief

Brady, Budget Director Richard Darman and representatives of five bank and S&L groups, said Frederick Webber, president of the U.S. League of Savings Institutions, who attended the meeting.

Another source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said, "Sununu characterized the ads twice or three times as irresponsible."

Meanwhile, the General Accounting Office urged the government, after agreement is reached later this year on an S&L bailout and reform package, to promptly take control of the 350 remaining insolvent, but still open, institutions.

Groundhog spies shadow

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, prognosticating with political flair, was pulled out of his burrow at dawn Thursday and saw his shadow, predicting six more weeks of a "kinder and gentler winter."

Despite an overcast sky, Phil's handlers from the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club claimed he saw a faint shadow at 7:28 a.m.

Tradition has it that if the weather-wise woodchuck sees his shadow, six more weeks of winter follow. If he doesn't, spring is just around the corner.

Jury selection progressing for North trial

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Selection of a jury pool for Oliver North's Iran-Contra trial reached the halfway point Thursday, with the judge predicting the effort will take most of next week, too. He also declared heatedly he won't allow "security gurus" to interrupt the trial once it starts.

As a "housekeeping matter," chief trial prosecutor John Kecker told U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell he had been asked whether four courtroom seats could be made available on a rotating basis to the CIA, the Justice, Defense and State Departments and the National Security Agency.

Gesell reacted angrily. Getting the seats would be no problem, he said, but he added:

"I'm very concerned about their

function. I do not intend to have this case run by two or three security gurus sitting in the audience."

Kecker said he was only carrying a message. And he added, "In some ways the best thing for the trial is to let them see what is happening." He said, "I do not think it is their intention to interfere with the trial."

Gesell said he would make the seats available, but that he would work out ground rules for the agency representatives in private with the lawyers in the case.

By the end of the third day of selecting a pool of 50 potential jurors, 18 women and seven men had been qualified after painstaking, often solicitous questioning by the judge and the lawyers in the celebrated case.

Among those chosen for the final cut were a woman who said she only

likes reading the horoscope and the comics, a woman who heard something about shredding documents just before she turned off her TV set and an unemployed office manager who heard North "was charged with

Petition

University, she said.

Committee members will also submit petitions with student signatures in support of higher faculty pay, said committee member Ruffin Hall. Pamphlets explaining the issue were distributed in residence halls last week, and the committee hopes to get 3,000 signatures, he said.

A good indicator of student support will come during the spring elections, when students vote on a referendum proposing an increase in

selling something to Iran, but that didn't interest me very much."

One of those selected was a government heating mechanic working for the General Services Administration.

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student activities fees to fund an award for excellence in undergraduate teaching, Hall said.

Hildebolt said the more students support higher teacher pay, the more effective the lobbying effort will be. The students' influence as a voting body might sway legislators to listen to their concerns, he said.

Faculty members and administrators have organized drives for higher faculty teacher pay in the past, Ball said. The fact that this push will be driven by students may persuade legislators to act, he said.

BOG

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that it was ultimately Hipps' decision.

Barnes said he has not yet made a decision on a new endorsement, but that he knew the candidates for the board very well.

"Wallace Hyde would make a very good candidate," he said, but did not elaborate.

Hipps declined to endorse a can-

didate for the seat. "It's not for me to do," he said.

He did say this about his former opponent: "I like Mr. Van Hecke. He's a good person."

Barnes said Van Hecke had been by his office earlier in the day, but he had not spoken to him since learning of Hipps' decision.

When told in a phone interview that Hipps had withdrawn from the race, Van Hecke responded it was the first he had heard of the decision.

"Charlie Hipps is a good friend of mine," Van Hecke said. "He was a good representative and would have made a fine addition to the board."

Van Hecke said although he felt he had good support in the senate, he had expected it to be a close race.

On the possibility of drawing Hipps' supporters into his camp, Van Hecke said, "I know most of the senators well. I think I could probably pick up their support."

"I've been in touch with them. I hope I can (win their endorsement)."

He said he would be on the phone the rest of the day talking to senators about his campaign.

If elected to the board, Van Hecke said he would pay special attention to the two flagship schools — UNC-CH and N.C. State — to make sure they remained competitive with similar institutions around the world.

Both Hipps and Van Hecke are UNC alumni.

Despite his decision, Hipps said his career in public service definitely is not over.

"They'll hear from me," he said.

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