

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli cabinet blasts choice of site for talks

JERUSALEM — Israel's Cabinet blasted the United States on Sunday for ignoring Israeli wishes and setting Washington as the site of the next round of peace talks. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he did not expect the peace process to be derailed by the dispute.

Israel has still not said whether it will accept the U.S. invitation to attend talks starting Dec. 4 in Washington, although the Bush administration said it wanted responses by Monday. The Jewish state has lobbied hard to hold the next round of talks in the Middle East.

Israel television said Israel was unlikely to reply by Monday, and that it would condition acceptance on a promise that future talks would convene in the Middle East.

The issue of the site is highly charged because Israel believes that sending representatives to Arab capitals and receiving Arab envoys would constitute de facto recognition of the Jewish state.

Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians were invited last week to the Washington talks, which are a follow-up to the Madrid peace confer-

ence that began at the end of October. Only Jordan has so far accepted.

Cease-fire fails to end conflicts in Croatia

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia — Sporadic fighting was reported in Croatia Sunday even though a new cease-fire was to take effect in the secessionist republic and pave the way for the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers.

Thirteen previous truce agreements mediated by the European Community all failed to halt the fighting in the 5-month-old civil war, and the United Nations says it will not send peacekeepers unless a cease-fire holds.

In Rome, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was "hopeful" about the latest truce.

No specific time was set for the cease-fire to take effect, and there were no signs of compliance.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic indicated it might take some time for the truce to take hold. "It has to be taken into account that the road from ideas and proposals to their implementation is neither easy nor simple," he told the Belgrade daily Politika.

— The Associated Press

Critics blast focus of Bush's drug war

By Beth McNichol
Staff Writer

For more than two years, President Bush has been waging his much-publicized "war on drugs," yet critics claim an ineffective strategy has crippled costly efforts and produced only losing battles.

The Bush administration needs to shift its drug war focus from intercepting the incoming supply of illegal drugs to battling a flourishing demand on the home front, according to a recent study compiled by the U.S. General Accounting Office.

In attempts to reduce the drug supply available to American buyers, Bush has tried to crack down on nations that regularly export drugs to the United States.

"It's basically a get-tough-on-drugs approach which didn't work in the '80s, never worked any time before that and isn't going to work in the future," said Kennington Wall, director of public information at the Drug Policy Foundation in Washington, D.C.

"In kind of a perverse way, Bush's approach has made the problem worse because the supply of drugs has actually gone up," Wall said.

Cocaine flow into the United States did not decrease during 1989 or 1990, according to the GAO report.

Interdiction, a supply reduction plan that aims to raise drug trafficking costs and to reduce dealers' profits, has failed largely because cocaine prices tend to skyrocket after the substance crosses U.S. borders.

The lack of adequate technology to search U.S. ports and border crossings has hindered the struggle to halt drug supplies from primary producing countries such as Columbia, Bolivia and Peru, said Robert Stolba, assignment manager of the National Security and International Affairs Division at the GAO.

Critics of the nation's current cure for the drug epidemic said the Bush administration should focus on curbing the demand for drugs at home rather than on decreasing the supply from abroad.

"As long as the demand is here in the United States for drugs, there is going to be a supply coming from the South," said Keith Poston, director of communications at the Council for Inter-American Security in Washington, D.C.

"A great deal of money has been wasted on interdiction, when in the long run, the most successful way of stopping the problem is to educate people about the harm it causes in this country," Poston said.

But Wall said budget allocations for the nation's war on drugs continued to cater to ineffective supply reduction operations.

The 1992 budget will allocate 70 percent of the \$11.7 billion set aside for combating the drug problem to supply reduction efforts, leaving only \$2.1 billion for treatment and prevention services in the United States, Stolba said.

Some experts have suggested that removing criminal penalties from certain drug offenses could reduce the nation's drug troubles.

In states like New York, where marijuana restrictions have been relaxed, the stiffest fine for possession of the drug is comparable to receiving a parking ticket. Reducing penalties for minor drug offenses could free much-needed room in crowded prisons.

"Right now in prisons across the country, they have to release rapists to make room for drug users and dealers, who have mandatory penalties," Wall said.

Emphasis should be placed on apprehending violent criminals rather than seeking to arrest small drug users and sellers, Wall said.

Poston said Bush continued to overlook the major issues of the drug problem and used a war on drugs approach as a propaganda ploy to suggest that he was making social progress.

"When things happen like students at the University of Virginia getting a year in prison for selling a few dollars worth of drugs, those are great showpieces," Poston said. "But that's not really stopping (the drug epidemic)."

Reforming drug offenders who are already serving time in prison could prevent a repetition of drug-related crimes once prisoners are released. A crime bill currently under consideration in Congress would require comprehensive drug treatment programs for federal inmates.

"Eighty percent of inmates in this country have a history of drug abuse, so treating these problems in prisons can help cut down on (drug offenses) once those people are released," said Rachel Perry, press secretary for Rep. David

Price, D-N.C.

The crime bill also would provide resources to hire and train 50 additional drug enforcement agents for use in rural areas, to increase mandatory minimum penalties for drug pushers and to direct assistance to states declared by Bush as drug emergency zones.

Labeling the U.S. drug strategy a war could be the wrong kind of terminology to describe such a huge undertaking, said Jonathan Hartlyn, a UNC associate professor of political science.

"In a liberal society, people will always consume certain kinds of drugs, so I'm wary of this notion of a war on drugs," Hartlyn said. "I don't think it's something that can be won or lost in that simple terminology."

Former Florida Gov. Bob Martinez reigns as the nation's drug czar, but he has experienced considerable problems coordinating an incredible array of agencies designed to fight the nation's drug problem, Hartlyn said.

Military departments contributing to drug reduction efforts in the United States do not coordinate strategies and methodology with civilian agencies. This lack of cooperation and unity decreases the likelihood of any tangible progress, Stolba said.

Regardless of the wrinkles in the current strategy, Bush should be commended for recognizing drug use as a national security problem, Poston said.

"(Bush is) flustered like we all are, but I think he cares, and he is trying," Poston said. "It's just a matter of realizing that you have to cut your losses and try something else."

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Publicizing solutions for individuals and businesses also would be a focus of the committee.

Howes said that the committee would resolve the political problems of the task force but that it would not be any easier to solve the solid waste problems.

Former Solid Waste Task Force members would be encouraged to apply for membership on the committee, which would consist of up to 25 members.

Horton also asked the Landfill Owner's Group to outline future solutions for county solid waste planning in a report to the Orange County Board of Commissioners, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Cards

to another residence hall.

Kuncl said if the system worked well at Morrison and Hinton James, he might expand it to other buildings.

Morrison resident Alicia Addo said the card system probably would be more effective.

"With the card, you can be sure that those who get in are in fact residents of Morrison," Addo said. "I'd be willing to pay because I'd feel more secure."

Leslie Ellis, a Hinton James resident, said although she felt safe with residents using keys, the card system might be better. "You can always pass your key to someone else."

Chris Martin, a Morrison resident assistant, said students who left doors propped open caused the main security

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problem in dormitories, and residents could continue to do that whether the key or card system was used.

Carmichael resident assistant Nikki Wooten said she preferred the key system. The campus card could be magnetized easily, which would affect the codes on the card, she said. "If that's the

case, you might not be able to get in."

A bigger security issue than which system to use is the willingness of residents to let strangers in, Wooten said.

"I think the community has to change their attitudes about allowing strangers to follow them inside the building," she said.

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about drugs, was a positive step.

"I'd like to see what they have to offer," Chilton said. "Drug education can't be a bad thing."

Reducing demand for drugs of all kinds through education about their effects on the body is the way to combat the drug war, he said.

"The way to reduce the profit gained from cocaine is to reduce the demand," Chilton said. "We spend billions every year on law enforcement and increased anti-drug efforts when we need to concentrate more on education and help for addicts who want to clean up."

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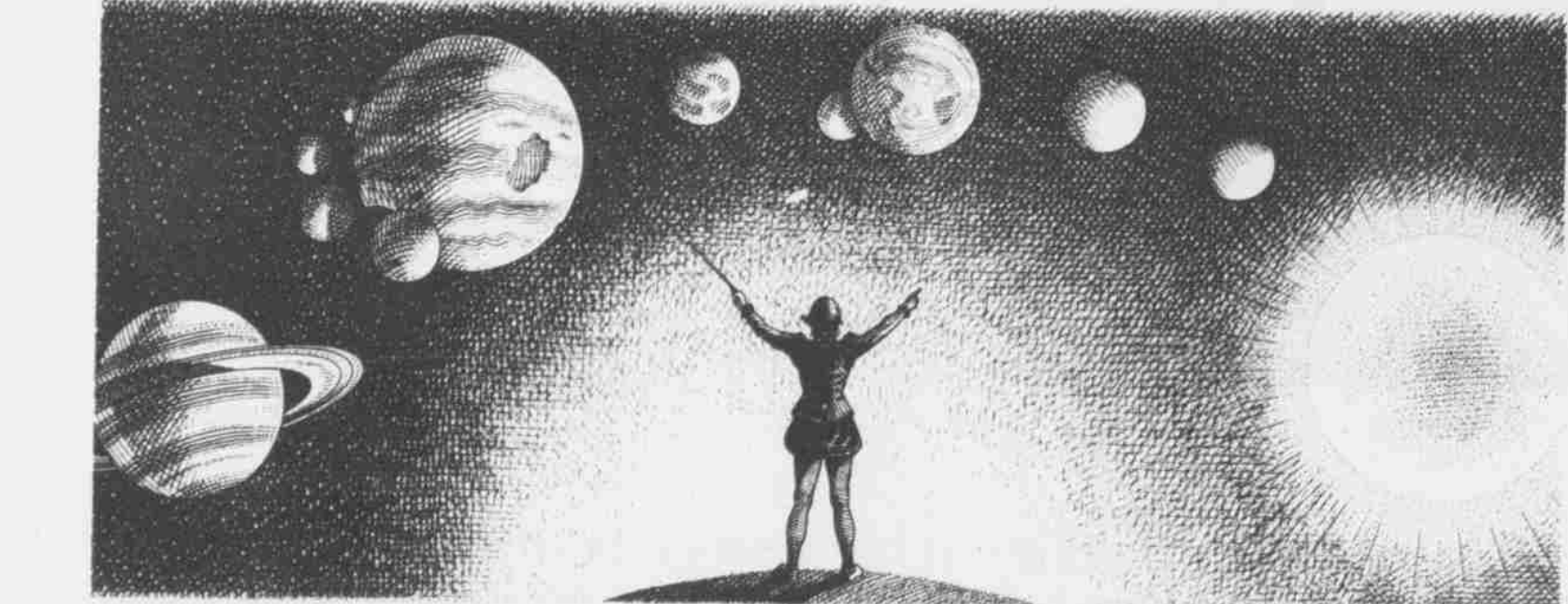
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