

NEWS CLIPS

COLIN POWELL TALKS ABOUT EMBASSY BOMBINGS

OKLAHOMA CITY — Exposure to bombings and other acts of terrorism is unfortunately "the cost of doing business" in today's world, retired U.S. Army Gen. Colin Powell said Tuesday. Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Friday's bombings at two U.S. embassies in Africa and the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building show that Americans can become targets anywhere. "That is the cost of doing business and it's not just something that can happen overseas but, as this community knows better than anyone, it can happen here," he said. Friday's explosions killed more than 200 people and injured nearly 5,000; 168 died and hundreds more were wounded in the April 1995 attack in Oklahoma City. All possible steps should be taken to protect against such attacks, Powell said, but embassies and other government buildings cannot be made into fortified bastions and continue to fulfill their purpose. "I think there are limits to what you can do in a free society," he said. Powell was in Oklahoma City to take part in a motivational seminar.



COLIN POWELL

VIRGINIA SENATOR'S AMENDMENTS SHOULD HELP BLACK FARMERS' CASE

Two amendments attached to the U.S. Senate Agriculture Appropriations Bill by U.S. Senator Charles Robb, D-Via., and passed on the floor of the Senate July 23, should move the Black Farmers discrimination complaints closer to resolution, says a spokesman of the Black Farmers and Agriculturists Association. The first amendment put in a set of credit reforms that Black farmers have long advocated but were unable to win until recently. The legislation in effect reverses provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill, which outlines severe restrictions on USDA borrowers who accepted debt write downs or forgiveness as a provision of primary loan servicing. The new legislation would lift many of those restrictions. The second amendment waived the federal statute of limitations under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act for farmers and applicants to USDA's rural housing programs who have discrimination complaints backlogged in the Department's Civil Rights Division. "The Robb amendments have sent a tremendous signal to small minority farmers nationwide after a year of struggle to resolve these problems," farmer's association officials said.

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE CONVALASCENT CARE

The Clinton Administration on July 21 announced a new nursing home care initiative to provide enhanced protections for nursing home residents and to target specific needed improvement in nursing home care. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala also released an independent report showing progress since tough nursing home enforcement regulations took effect in 1995. However, she said additional steps must now be taken to address remaining problem areas. The initiative includes tougher enforcement of Medicare and Medicaid rules with strengthened oversight of nursing home quality and safety. Particular efforts will be aimed at preventing instances of bed sores, dehydration and nutrition problems. "We must ensure that all Americans can rely on quality, compassionate care when they or a loved one requires nursing home care," Shalala said. To that end, nursing homes found guilty of a second offense for violations that harm residents will face sanctions without a grace period to allow them to correct problems and avoid penalties. Nursing home inspections will also be conducted more frequently for repeat offenders with serious violations. Inspection times will be staggered, with a set amount done on weekends and evenings. The states also have a stake in the process: Health Care Financing Administration will provide additional training and other assistance to inspectors in states that are not adequately protecting residents. The financing administration will enhance its review of the surveys conducted by the states and implement standard evaluation protocols. The administration is also asking Congress for new legislative authority to help institute these nursing home care and safety rules.

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE Controlling economics key to Blacks' future

Special to Sentinel-Voice
Washington — African-Americans must amass capital, develop their own businesses and other institutions and spend their money wisely if they are to seize and wield economic power, a panel of experts and officials of the National Urban League said during a news conference in Washington recently.

Hugh B. Price, president of the 88-year-old civil rights group, called the pursuit of economic power "a civil rights challenge on par with the epic struggles of the past against segregation in public schools and public accommodations."

"We've not finished with that agenda," Price said. "We've said that economic power is the next civil rights frontier, and we've got to cross that landscape."

The news conference was called to mark the publication of "The State of Black America," the Urban League's annual report on the status of African-Americans.

The release of the volume, which examined the political

economy of Black America, was timed to occur just before the organization opened its annual conference, Aug. 2 to 5 in Philadelphia. The conference's theme was "Economic Power: Leveling the Playing Field."

Joining Price at the news conference were two of the volume's authors, Thomas N. Shapiro, professor of sociology and anthropology at Northeastern University in Boston, and Lisbeth B. Schorr, director of the Harvard University Center for Effective Intervention.

Shapiro, who co-wrote the book's essay exploring the great gap in wealth between Blacks and Whites, said "racism continues to build, to lengthen, to strengthen that gap."

The most effective way to reduce it and build wealth among African-Americans, he says, is to enact an asset-based policy program making it easier for Blacks to buy homes, develop small businesses and acquire other types of wealth-building assets.

Kenya, Tanzania bombings devastate tourism

Special to Sentinel-Voice
NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya is the stuff of Hollywood legend, of Hemingway fame — a place etched into popular culture by countless books and films, from "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" to "Out of Africa."

For many people, going on safari in Kenya, a land famed for its wildlife and spectacular scenery, is the dream of a lifetime.

Tourism is vital to Kenya, as important as coffee and tea exports are to the faltering economy. And it has just suffered a stunning one-two punch.

On Friday, a terrorist bomb rocked the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. A nearly simultaneous blast hit the embassy in neighboring Tanzania.

The bombings — thought to be the work of outsiders — were cruel enough on their own. More than 200 people, most of them Kenyans, are dead, and thousands injured. The damage to buildings alone

is estimated at \$330 million. Then came the second blow, just hours later: State Department warning urging Americans to "exercise caution" in traveling to Kenya and Tanzania — and even to leave if they felt unsafe.

John Glen, a tour operator who owns Destination Kenya, was hit hard.

"I just had a cancellation from America," he said Tuesday. "It's just blown \$750,000 off my books."

The Kenya Tourist Board is still trying to assess the damage the travel industry has sustained; it could take months.

"The greatest problem is that we won't get new bookings unless the advisory is changed," said the board's head, James Flannery.

The board says more than 750,000 tourists visit Kenya every year. Tourism accounts for 9 percent of the gross national product, and it rivals Kenya's two major exports — coffee and tea — in foreign currency earnings.

Flannery said the advisory

American balloonist first to cross Africa

Special to Sentinel-Voice

ST. LOUIS — Steve Fossett on Tuesday became the first person to cross the south Atlantic in a balloon.

The Solo Spirit passed about 65 miles south of Cape Town, South Africa.

Fossett's west-to-east course just skirted the extreme southern tip of the continent.

Fossett's mission control at Washington University in St. Louis said the adventurer had picked up some favorable winds. The balloon was moving at about 109 mph Tuesday afternoon as he approached the 6,000-mile mark in his bid to become the first balloonist to circle the globe.

The 54-year-old Chicago businessman took off from western Argentina late Friday in his fourth attempt to float around the world. His previous attempts have been in the northern hemisphere, a far less hazardous route.

The southern route is primarily over water during the winter season.

"It's OK to fly down there, but the penalty for failure is pretty stiff," Solo Spirit meteorologist Bob Rice said. "If you have to abort or run out of fuel, it's pretty bad country to drop into."

There is usually a dense cloud cover in the higher latitudes of the hemisphere and icing could occur if the balloon had to go down through the clouds. The balloon is traveling around the 25,000-foot level, Rice said, with the temperature in the unheated gondola at freezing.

Rice said Fossett was facing no immediate problems with about 20 percent of the trip behind him.

Now that Fossett has passed Africa, said Rice, he will try to catch favorable winds to carry him on to Australia before returning to South America via the Pacific.

was a double whammy because it covered both Kenya and Tanzania. Many Americans on safari in Kenya also make side trips to Tanzania's Mt. Kilimanjaro. The mountain's slopes and preserves extend into Kenya.


The blow couldn't have come at a worse time.

The economy is near collapse, and the IMF suspended a \$220 million loan to Kenya last year because of

high-level corruption.

And tourism was just coming out of a deep slump brought on by political violence last year on the Indian Ocean coast that kept Europeans from beach resorts.


Unlike Europeans, Americans don't come to Kenya for the beaches; they come for safaris, which cost \$5,000 and up in a country where the average person (See Bombings, Page 5)



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