

Leaders declare war on terror

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - World leaders embraced the war against terrorism as the top global priority following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, but there were some differences and uncertainty about the way the war should be fought.

Many leaders at Saturday's opening of the U.N. General Assembly's weeklong meeting said the strong U.S.-led military response to the attacks in New York and Washington should not be viewed as the only option.

From Iran to Brazil, leaders declared that the war on terrorism must be a global fight that also addresses root causes ranging from poverty to political repression.

Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and his country's dispute with India over Kashmir must be resolved.

"Unless we go to the root causes, cosmetics will only make matters worse," he said.

Musharraf has been calling for an early end to the military operation against the ruling Taliban militia in Afghanistan. He and other Muslim leaders fear that the mounting civilian casualties could turn moderate Muslim public opinion against the international campaign to eradicate terrorism.

The emir of Qatar, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who also spoke on behalf of the 56-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference, said punishing the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks is imperative but it "will not, in my opinion, prevent the

repetition of similar or even graver acts in the future."

"Terrorism has taken root," he said, because the world has ignored the plight of oppressed people in many places, especially the Palestinians.

The Qatari leader said terrorism should not be confused with "legitimate struggles" against Israeli occupation. It's "extremely urgent to put an end to the tragedy of the Palestinian people," he said.

But Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said the international community "should reject self-serving arguments seeking to classify terrorism according to its root causes, and therefore justifying terrorist action somewhere while condemning it elsewhere."

"Those that advance these arguments should explain what the root causes of the brutal acts of Sept. 11 were," he said.

In a hard-hitting speech, President Bush said the time for sympathy was over and "the time for action has now arrived."

"There is no such thing as a good terrorist," he declared. "We must unite in opposing all terrorists, not just some of them."

A U.S.-sponsored resolution adopted unanimously by the Security Council on Sept. 28 requires nations to stop financing, supporting and providing sanctuary to terrorists. Bush offered help to countries that lack the means to enforce laws and protect borders, (See *Terror*, Page 16)

Supreme Court to rule on drug testing

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court agreed Thursday to decide whether schools may give drug tests to nearly any student involved in after-school activities, from the chess club to cheerleading, without evidence the student or the school has a drug problem.

Critics say such broad testing is unconstitutional and a step toward universal screening. Supporters say it is necessary in the face of drug use by young people.

"I felt they were accusing us and convicting us before they had given us a chance," said Lindsey Earls, who sang in her high school choir and participated on an academic quiz team when testing began in Tecumseh, Okla.

Only children involved in competitive extracurricular activities were tested on the theory that by voluntarily representing the school, they had opened themselves to greater scrutiny than other students.

"The board did perceive that there was a drug problem among the students, and wanted to help ... give students a reason to say no," said Stephanie Mather, a lawyer for the school. "It was a deterrent. A student could say, 'I want to participate in this band competition, so I'm not going to do that.'"

The Supreme Court rul-

ing, expected by summer, could answer a question lingering from a major 1995 case, when the court said a school with a pervasive drug problem could subject student athletes to drug tests.

In that 6-3 decision, the court did not address schoolwide testing, or extracurricular activities apart from athletics. It is not clear whether an answer in this case would apply to all extracurricular activities, or only to competitive pursuits.

The National School Boards Association has no estimate for the number of children involved in extracurricular activities nationally, but the Oklahoma school said it assumed its policy would cover a large percentage of students.

The case involves a decision by the board of education in rural Tecumseh, 40 miles from Oklahoma City, to begin "suspicionless" drug testing in the fall of 1998.

The board had considered testing all students in the school district, but settled for the smaller program in light of previous court challenges elsewhere. The school acknowledges that students involved in such activities as band and the pompom team are not more likely than others to be involved with drugs, and has said there was no severe drug problem in the

school.

"It was not where the problem was, but where they thought they could, in essence, legally get away with doing the testing," said Graham Boyd, the American Civil Liberties Union lawyer handling the case.

Earls was given a urine test in 1999. The test came back negative, and she and her family sued.

"It was horrible. Someone would stand outside the bathroom stall and listen," said Earls, now a freshman at Dartmouth. A federal appeals court ruled earlier this year that the tests violated the Constitution's guarantee against unreasonable searches.

The case turns on whether schools have to prove narcotics problems before testing children and if testing is appropriate only for students involved in potentially dangerous activities, such as sports, or students who voluntarily have given up some expectations of privacy.

In its appeal to the Supreme Court, the school argued that the lower court drew the wrong conclusions from the 1995 athlete case, and that its ruling conflicts with other appeals courts around the country.

The Tecumseh testing program ran for part of two (See *Drug Tests*, Page 5)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

WHAT'S AGE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

June Rhatigan, the dancing senior, enjoys look-alikes, Tina Turner (Cookie Watkins) and Cab Calloway (Jesse Bolero), recently at the Arthur Sartini Plaza as they entertained seniors during the Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas' "Celebration of Aging 2001" event. The seniors were also treated to lunch.

Powell supportive of Palestinian state

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of State Colin Powell affirmed his support Friday for establishing a Palestinian state on land held by Israel and said he was trying to arrange a meeting with Yasser Arafat to give peace-making "a jump-start."

Powell said Israel should give up land for peace, as provided in U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted after the 1967 and 1973 Mid-

east wars. A decline in violence could pay off in a reinforced cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians and a start on peacemaking gestures, Powell said in a series of television interviews.

Powell said Israel should reopen its borders to Palestinian workers - they were closed to try to screen out suicide bombers - and he urged Arafat to bring vio-

lence "down to zero." Powell and Arafat attended the special session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. Powell said he would like to meet with the Palestinian leader, but the Palestinian mission to the United Nations said Friday that no such meeting has been scheduled.

President Bush, who addressed the assembly on Saturday (See *Powell*, Page 4)

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