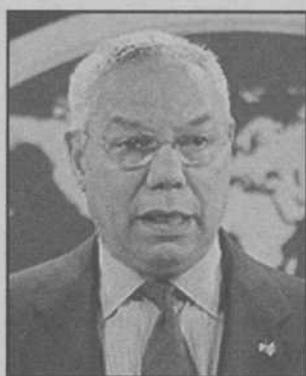


INTERNATIONAL

Powell to meet with Iranians

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The United States expects to sit down with Iran at an international conference to discuss stability in Iraq, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday. Washington and Tehran have no diplomatic relations.



COLIN POWELL

The international conference, scheduled to be held in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik on Nov. 22-23, will include Middle Eastern states and the powerful Group of Eight industrial nations. They are expected to throw their support behind the Iraqi interim government's efforts toward stabilizing the country.

China, the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic

Conference and the European Union are also expected to participate.

Powell said Tuesday he believed the Iranians were planning to attend.

"Since we'll all be at the same conference, I expect that I would be talking to everybody at that conference, to include the Iranians and Syrians and others, just as I have done in the past," he told a news conference in Mexico

City, where he met with his Mexican counterpart, Luis Ernesto Derbez.

Powell said he didn't plan to hold separate talks with Iran.

"We will have an opportunity to be together and talk, but we haven't arranged any particular meetings," he said. "Nothing's been set up, therefore, there is no agenda to discuss here."

President Bush's administration has accused Iran of harboring top al-Qaeda members and developing an illicit weapons programs.

The United States broke off formal diplomatic relations with Iran after militants stormed the U.S. Embassy Tehran in 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

UN Security Council off to Africa for Sudan talks

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — UN Security Council ambassadors departed for a high-profile Africa visit, hoping to bring an end to two separate wars in Sudan despite internal bickering over how to do so.

The 15 council nations were at odds over language in a resolution to be adopted in Nairobi this week on the crisis in Sudan's western Darfur region, the scene of what UN officials call the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

The council is meeting in the Kenyan capital on Thursday and Friday — only the fourth time it has done so outside New York in more than 50 years — in a bid to end the long-running, north-south civil war in Sudan.

But there is disagreement over how much pressure to put on the Khartoum government over the separate crisis in Darfur, where an estimated 70,000 people have died since February of last year.

Council ambassadors are planning to adopt a resolution that will press the government and southern rebels to conclude a peace accord by the end of the year — with hopes that a deal could help ease the Darfur crisis.

The council has already passed two resolutions threatening sanctions against Sudan if it does not rein in the mili-

tias behind the Darfur violence, but both passed with abstentions from council heavyweights like China and Russia.

US ambassador John Danforth, the council president for November who organized the mission, insisted there would be a unified voice coming out of the sessions in Nairobi.

"We're all of one mind that this is a very, very important trip," he told reporters after last-minute talks on the resolution.

"It's very important not only for the north-south agreement itself but also to try to bring to an end this terrible disaster in Darfur," he said. "I'm confident all of us are united in that... it's 99/44/100 percent there."

The resolution dangles the possibility of a development and reconstruction package for Africa's largest nation if a north-south deal can be reached.

"If there is peace in Sudan, the international community is going to be there for Sudan. In other words, it's up to the parties to decide which way they want to go," Danforth said.

Rebels in the Christian and animist south rose up against the Arab-led, Islamic Khartoum government in 1983, and a final accord be-

tween the two has seemed close in recent months.

But the final stretch of negotiations has become bogged down in details of a permanent ceasefire and the deployment of various armed forces during a planned six-year, post-war interim period.

Talks between the government and the rebels are set to resume on November 26. Around 1.5 million people are believed to have died in the civil war.

The Security Council will meet with both Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha and John Garang, the main southern rebel leader. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is also expected to be on hand.

The international community hopes a deal will help in Darfur, where indigenous rebels staged an uprising in February 2003 that was put down with the help of Arab proxy militias called into service by the government.

The militias have been blamed for a campaign of ethnic cleansing including rape and pillaging.

Some 1.2 million people have been driven from their homes, and the UN's Sudan envoy recently said the Darfur region was slipping into anarchy, with the government no longer in full control of forces in the area.

U.S. teen linked to Somali rebels

STANWOOD, Wash. (AP) — A teenager accused of planning to supply a Somali terrorist group with night vision goggles and bulletproof vests foreshadowed the charges in his high school yearbook with a note that mentions Somalia in his "plans for world supremacy."

Mark Robert Walker, 19, was arrested Nov. 6 in El Paso, Texas, and on Friday was charged with attempting or conspiring to contribute goods or services to a global terrorist organization. A more serious charge filed earlier was dropped.

Months earlier, Walker caused a stir when he left a cryptic note next to his senior portrait in the 2004 yearbook, writing that his "plans for world supremacy are in order. They entail taking over Somalia and working outward, but I should not divulge the exact details of

my cunning strategy."

The entry also referred to Walker's "future heroic death" and offered a "death poem" with imagery of a grenade exploding and the phrase "all shall pass this world."

Officials at Stanwood High School, about 45 miles north of Seattle, began to investigate Walker's comments in June but stopped when they learned Walker and his family had moved to Rochester, N.Y. Superintendent Jean Shumate told the FBI about the yearbook entry after she learned of Walker's arrest.

Walker, who was arrested with \$2,100 in cash, allegedly told federal officials he planned to buy night vision goggles and bulletproof vests and give the items to fighters with a terrorist group called Ittihad al Islamiya and other groups seeking an Islamic government in Somalia, according to court documents.

Brad Pitt visits Ethiopia to study AIDS

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Brad Pitt spent four days in Ethiopia to learn more about AIDS in Africa as part of a fund-raising campaign to combat the disease on the world's poorest continent. The trip was organized by DATA, a Washington-based lobby group co-founded by rock star Bono that campaigns on Third World trade, debt and HIV/AIDS. Pitt began his first visit to Ethiopia Friday and left late Monday night.

"It was a listening and learning visit," DATA spokesman Jamie Drummond said Tuesday. He declined requests for comment from Pitt, star of the film "Troy."

While in Ethiopia, Pitt vis-

ited local projects fighting the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The 40-year-old actor also met with eight top Ethiopian singers who have collaborated on songs to educate people about HIV and to raise money for AIDS programs.

Tsedenia Gebremarkos, who has just released a hit album in Ethiopia, said Pitt was keen to know how AIDS had affected the nation, where the average annual income is \$100.

"He was very humble and really interested in the situation here," Tsedenia said. "We hope his popularity can raise awareness in the same way we are trying to. We need the support of people like him."

In Africa, 29.4 million people are living with the virus, which has left 25 million children orphaned, according to United Nations figures. Bono has traveled the world spreading the message that more than 6,500 Africans die every day from AIDS, while 8,000 new people are infected daily.

Only about 50,000 Africans get potentially life-saving drugs, known as anti-retrovirals, while at least 4 million people need the drugs, which cost more than most Africans earn.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) CONSOLIDATED PLAN CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP

HELP SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY!
The City of North Las Vegas is formulating the HUD Consolidated Plan which outlines housing and community goals for the next five years. This meeting is your opportunity to tell us what type of services & improvements you believe are needed within the City.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS!
Current information on housing and community development will be provided. We will work together to estimate future housing needs, identify relevant issues and outline housing and community development strategies. Please help us by attending the Consultation and Public Participation Workshop. Your input is greatly needed.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND BUT SEATING IS LIMITED NORTH LAS VEGAS CONTINUES TO BE "YOUR COMMUNITY OF CHOICE"

Tuesday, November 30, 2004, 5:30 PM
North Las Vegas Recreation Center, 1638 North Bruce Street

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DIVISION
2266 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas, NV 89030

(702) 633-1532 • TDD (800) 326-6868 • ADA Accommodations (702) 633-1510
For special assistance or accommodations at this meeting, please contact the ADA coordinator at least 72 hours in advances of the meeting.

Published: Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — November 18, 2004