

Aides say Rumsfeld to apologize to Congress, seek review

By DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid calls for his resignation, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld drafted an apology Friday for not keeping Congress informed about abuses of Iraqi prisoners in U.S. custody, defense officials said.

He planned to deliver the apology in a Capitol Hill appearance demanded by angry lawmakers. Rumsfeld also was expected to call for formation of an independent commission to look into the abuses and how the Defense Department handled them, one Pentagon official said on condition of anonymity.

Leading Republican committee chairmen tried Friday to hold off a rush to judgment of Rumsfeld, but some top Democrats were clamoring for his resignation over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers.

And The New York Times seconded those demands with a Friday editorial headlined "Donald Rumsfeld Should Go."

On Thursday, President Bush gave his embattled Defense secretary a vote of confidence.

Bush told reporters in the White House Rose Garden on Thursday that Rumsfeld had done a good job during two wars and would stay in his Cabinet.

Rumsfeld spent the day Thursday with aides preparing for his appearance. It was a day when a new cache of photographs surfaced and Bush offered an outright apology to the Iraqi prisoners and their families.

Friday morning, Sen. John Warner, D-Va., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he was prepared to support the president's decision to retain Rumsfeld.

"I've had a good working relationship over these many years with Secretary Rumsfeld myself," Warner told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Friday. "I know his deep commitment to the men and women of the armed forces and to the goals of the president."

Warner said it was too early to say whether the abuse of prisoners was an isolated incident at Abu Ghraib prison or systemic in many facilities.

"I do not possess any of the facts to lead to the conclusion that this is systemic and ranges far and wide in the military prison system," he said just hours before Rumsfeld's appearance before his committee. "We will probe very deeply, get all the facts we possibly can out into the public domain no matter where they lead."

On the CBS "Early Show," Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee said it would be premature to call for Rumsfeld's resignation, "but the secretary does have a lot of questions to answer."

"He ought to outline the events as he knows them, what did he know and when did he know it," Roberts said, echoing the famous questions asked about President Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal.

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the top Democrat on the Armed Services committee, said, "People have got to be held accountable, that accountability has got to go right up the chain. It's not just the people who perpetrated the despicable conduct."

"There's strong feeling there's been a significant mismanagement

of the war right from the beginning," he said.

"We need to get all the facts. We need everybody to just take a deep breath and get all the facts," added Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a senior member of the same panel and himself a former prisoner of war.

Other Republicans expressed concern that military officials knew in January about the abusive and sexually humiliating treatment of prisoners, but did not inform Congress about it or about a subsequent investigative report prepared by a Pentagon official.

Rumsfeld stayed out of public view Thursday and spent part of his time looking ahead to Friday's pair of command congressional appearances.

"Get it all out. Be open," Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., said he urged the defense secretary in a meeting at the Pentagon.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said the Justice Department stood ready to prosecute any civilians or

former military personnel suspected of criminal conduct in the abuse of Iraqi prisoners.

Speaking with reporters, Ashcroft would not confirm whether the Defense Department or CIA had formally referred any individual cases to federal prosecutors for potential charges.

But he said there was ample jurisdiction to move against civilian contractors and others, including laws that forbid torture.

"We will follow evidence and act in accordance with evidence," Ashcroft said. "We will take action where appropriate."

The CIA inspector general is investigating three prisoner deaths that may have involved its officers or contract personnel, intelligence officials have said.

Six months before the national election and dogged by persistent violence and rising U.S. casualties in Iraq, Bush was unflinching Thursday in his defense of Rumsfeld.

He "is a really good secretary of defense. Secretary Rumsfeld has served our nation well. Secretary Rumsfeld has been the secretary during two wars. He's an important part of my Cabinet and he'll stay in my Cabinet," the president said during a Rose Garden appearance with Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Bush confirmed for reporters that he had expressed his unhappiness with his defense secretary privately earlier in the week. He said he told him that "I should have known about the pictures and the report" done by the Pentagon before they turned up in news reports.

With Bush and lawmakers concerned about the impact of the controversy on America's image around the globe, graphic new photographs surfaced Thursday that served only to compound their worries. One showed a naked prisoner handcuffed to a bed with women's underwear over his head.

In his Rose Garden appearance with Abdullah, Bush shed his cus-

tomary reluctance to apologize or acknowledge mistakes. "I told him (Abdullah) I was sorry for the humiliation suffered by the Iraqi prisoners and the humiliation suffered by their families," the president said.

Sen. John Kerry, Bush's Democratic opponent-to-be for the White House, pushed for Rumsfeld's ouster.

"It's the way it was handled," Kerry said on a campaign stop in California. "The lack of information to the Congress, the lack of information to the country, not managing it, not dealing with it, recognizing it as an issue."

"The Pentagon Secretary Rumsfeld oversees has become an island of unaccountability, ignoring the Geneva Conventions, our allies and common sense," added House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi.

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., said Congress should impeach Rumsfeld if he declined to resign and Bush refused to fire him.

Senate returns school bill to negotiators

TOPEKA (AP) — Breaking from its no-new-taxes position, the Senate has submitted a \$128 million school finance plan to further talks with the House — rather than rejecting it outright.

The proposal was offered earlier Thursday by a bipartisan coalition of House members who had pushed a \$155 million increase in state aid for schools through their chamber in March.

Senators debated the proposal late Thursday and ultimately decided to hold further negotiations, which were set for Friday morning.

"This proposal is not quite ready. Or maybe we're not quite ready," said Senate Majority Leader Lana Oleen, R-Manhattan.

Under the new plan, Kansas' 5.3 percent sales tax would rise to 5.46 percent, and a 3.75 percent surcharge would be imposed on individual income taxes. Also, school districts would be authorized to increase local property taxes by a collective \$60 million.

Any new funding approved by legislators before they adjourn for the year would be added to the \$2.77 billion in state aid to school districts already approved for the 2004-05 school year.

Senators debated the package after the House adjourned at mid-

evening of the ninth day of legislators' wrap-up session. Moderate Republicans and Democrats urged the chamber not to reject the proposal out of hand but send it back to negotiators for revisions.

Sen. David Adkins said legislators were engaged in a "game of chicken" waiting for the other side to blink. He said the plan had merits and was a sign of compromise, but needed work.

"If 21 votes are to be found in this Senate, it won't be this plan. It's too rich," Adkins said. "Dispatch with this plan quickly. Develop the compromise, get 21 to sign onto it."

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who visited with senators in the moments leading up to the debate, echoed Adkins' comments and urged cooler heads to prevail.

"It's either close or it's done (for the session)" Sebelius said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I do think they're reaching a point where a serious effort has to be made."

Sebelius said the Senate's willingness to consider the bipartisan House plan — and engage in some public woolgathering — indicates that perhaps senators are receptive to other alternatives.

"We've had a lot of posturing and not a lot of dialog," she said.



Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



REDEEMING LOVE CHURCH, 345 N. Franklin, Sunday service, 5 p.m.

Schedule of church services

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Christian Education and Choir Practice for Youth, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Rev. Leonard Burgess, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., 1st Worship Service - 8:15 a.m. 2nd service - 10:30 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, Rev. Francis Harwerth, 1000 S. Franklin - 460-3076; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Youth 6:00 p.m., Tim Morris, associate pastor; e-mail: morris4him@st-tel.net. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Colby Armory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Rev. David Hill, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, (SBC), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 462-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 p.m. and 9:25-9:40 p.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. September through May; Worship 9:30 a.m. June through Labor Day.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

TEENS FOR CHRIST CONNECTION, Everett Robert, 462-7404, Both middle school and high school program.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 462-6605, President Dave Geldmacher, 846-7740; Elmer Schielke, 1st counsellor, 462-9022 and Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counsellor, 672-4165. Sacrament meeting 9 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 10:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 11:10 a.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. <http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/>

REDEEMING LOVE CHURCH, 345 N. Franklin, Bishop W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Sunday service, 5 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. followed by Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. E-mail: fcocolby@st-tel.net

LANDMARK UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, Pastor Doyle Glasscock, 815 West 3rd - 462-3667, Service times: Sunday, 10 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, David S. Hall, Pastor, East 5th & Country club, 462-3497, Worship, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Lutheran Hour on KXXX at 10 a.m.; KGCR at 2 p.m. website <http://www.trinitycolbyks.org>

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH Brewster, Sunday Worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Buch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Rev. Mike Meserve, Outreach; Lane Purcell, Men's Ministry, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford - 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Sunday Night Bible Study 7:30 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Prom Special May 8
Start your evening off with class.
Call now to make your dinner reservations.
Colby Country Club
460-6443

Gambino's Pizza
Mother's Day & Graduation Special
ALL Graduates In Robe Eat Buffet For \$2.00 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays Thru May 30th, 2004
Happy Mother's Day Sunday May 9
All Mothers Eat Lunch Buffet For \$2.00 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
GAMBINO'S PIZZA of COLBY
1100 W. 4th • 462-9977

This feature is sponsored by these business firms and individuals as a contribution to the religious life of the community.

COMMERCIAL SIGN OF COLBY & HAYS
YOUR SIGN / Our Reputation
1185 Zelfer Ave. • Colby, KS

To become a sponsor, call Crystal Rucker or Kathy Brooks at 462-3963.
We appreciate the businesses and individuals who have been faithful contributors to this space.

STRAMEL LAW FIRM, P.A.
345 N. Lake Ave, 460-3222

Quality Inn
Jay Hawk and staff
1950 S. Range 462-3933

COLBY PHOTO
Wednesday is double print day.
Mark & Aradath Beringer
420 N. Franklin, 462-8169

COLBY LUMBER
Bud Van Horn and Staff
1760 W. 4th 462-2181