

Officials meet about small arm trades

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. officials meeting about the illegal trade of small arms start with a dramatic reminder of what they're up against — a 5-ton sculpture made of more than 7,000 weapons used in crimes, warfare and terrorism around the world.

"The Art of Peacemaking," which was to be unveiled at the opening of the conference today, contains submachine guns confiscated from children in Nicaragua, a 7-inch-long rubber bullet fired in Northern Ireland, combat rifles used in South Africa and South Korea, and pistols fired by gangs on the streets of Los Angeles.

More than 500 million small arms and light weapons are in circulation around the world. Often put in the hands of child soldiers, small arms are the biggest global killer apart from AIDS.

Representatives from 189 nations as well as advocates on both sides of the gun-control debate will sit down together at the United Nations for two weeks to discuss all aspects of the illicit small arms trade.

But getting an agreement by July 20 on ways to halt the lucrative business of trafficking in pistols, assault rifles and machine guns is going to be tough, diplomats and arms experts say.

BELLINZONA, Switzerland — Former Beatle George Harrison is reportedly being treated for a brain tumor in Switzerland — just two months after receiving lung cancer therapy in the United States.

Luca Borner, director of the Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland in Bellinzona, declined to confirm the report of the weekly *Sonntagszeitung*. He told *The Associated Press* today he could not comment because of patient confidentiality.

The paper said Harrison has visited Switzerland's Italian-speaking region of Ticino regularly in the past two months. It said he rented a house in Luino, Italy — a 40-minute drive

ap news capsules

south from Bellinzona — and was treated at the institute during May and June.

Harrison received cobalt treatment, a form of radiation therapy, the paper said.

Harrison, 58, has a history of cancer. He had surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., at the beginning of May to remove a cancerous growth from one of his lungs.

His lawyers said that after the successful operation he had traveled to Italy to rest.

He also was treated for throat cancer in the late 1990s after he found a lump on his neck.

NATIONAL
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Two evaluations found ex-Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry incompetent to stand trial for the deaths of four black girls in a 1963 church bombing. A third determined he was fit to face charges he helped plant the deadly device.

The conflicting reports were to be the subject of a hearing scheduled for today before Circuit Judge James Garrett, who will try to resolve questions over Cherry's mental competency.

"I'm assuming that all the experts who did evaluations will testify," prosecutor Doug Jones said.

Defense attorney Mickey Johnson did not return calls seeking comment.

Eleven-year-old Denise McNair and 14-year-olds Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley were killed in the Sept. 15, 1963, blast at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Cherry and ex-Klansman Thomas Blanton Jr. were indicted last year on charges they helped plant the bomb outside the church, a gathering place for civil rights activists during weeks of demonstrations against Birmingham's segregation laws of the time.

Blanton was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment on May 1.

MULLENS, W.Va. — Residents

clung to rooftops as southern and central West Virginia battled floods in communities still trying to recover from earlier rains.

Several trailer homes were swept away Sunday by rain-swollen creeks and at least one person has died — an elderly woman whose body was found floating near a fence after the Guyandotte River spilled its banks in Wyoming County.

Gov. Bob Wise, whose helicopter was used to pluck people off roofs and ferry a heart patient to a hospital, declared a state of emergency in eight counties, the first step in seeking a federal disaster declaration.

A thunderstorm Sunday morning dumped nearly 8 inches of rain in Mullens, 55 miles south of Charleston, said meteorologist Tom Mazza.

The Guyandotte and Tug Fork rivers hit record levels. Floodwaters, mudslides and tree-blocked roads blocked access to much of the area.

In southwestern Virginia, more than two dozen families were evacuated from homes in Tazewell County and the Red Cross opened 23 shelters in West Virginia and three in Virginia, offering cots and food.

SEATTLE — A visibly banged-up Mayor Paul Schell vowed to continue taking his agenda into the streets despite being bashed in the head by a protester's megaphone.

"Mayors are on the front lines," he said Sunday after being released from the hospital. "We have to be there in direct contact with the citizens. It's one of the joys of the job, so I'm not going to change."

Schell, who sustained broken bones around his right eye and a nasty shiner, wore sunglasses and held his wife's hand as he greeted reporters Sunday. He was expected to be back on the job today.

The attack occurred Saturday during a community celebration. Police and witnesses say James C. Garrett struck the mayor while protesting the recent shooting of a black man by a white police officer.

Hot weather breaks no records

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peratures go past the century degree mark.

The normal high in July is around 90, Skipper said, and usually one out of every 10 days has a high of over 100. He said one out of every 20 days in June and August will typically have a high of over 100.

The hot weather hasn't caused an usually high spike in electricity usage in the city, officials say, and no one has been treated for illnesses directly related to the heat.

Ed Wolak, Goodland's public works director, said electricity usage this month has been normal compared to the past three or four Julys. Sondra Krayca, director of education at Goodland Regional Medical Center, said this summer hospital staff hasn't treated patients for illnesses directly related to the heat, but has seen some symptoms of dehydration.

The hospital usually doesn't see many patients with heatstroke or other heat-related illnesses, Krayca said, but high natural gas and electricity costs this summer could change that. She

said people might try to save money by not using their air conditioners.

Skipper said heat has killed more people than lightning and tornadoes, and suggested that everyone — but especially older people — wear light, loose clothing, stay out of the sun, drink water and avoid stressful activities outside when it's hot.

He said an upper level high, which he described as a bubble over the atmosphere, is responsible for the recent hot weather. The system has moved east, Skipper said, and may regress to the southwest by next week.

Association plans to sue paint industry

RACISM, from Page 1

that effort in his speech.

If NAACP members feel they face a difficult task now, they should remember the obstacles the group has already overcome, Mfume said.

"Can you imagine 1909?" he asked.

About the time Mfume spoke today, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer reacted sharply to NAACP board chairman Julian Bond's attack on the Bush administration in his speech to the convention Sunday night.

Bush has "appealed the wretched appetites of the extreme right wing, and he picked Cabinet officials whose devotion to the Confederacy is nearly canine in its uncritical affection," Bond said.

Fleischer said Bond's remarks were "excessive."

"The comments made by Mr. Bond are another reminder about why the tone in Washington needs to be changed," Fleischer said.

The spokesman added that "those

remarks were not made under Kweisi Mfume's leadership, when Kweisi Mfume was president of the NAACP."

A reporter reminded Fleischer that Mfume is still the NAACP president, but the spokesman seemed not to notice that he misspoke.

Bond assailed the civil rights records of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, a former Colorado attorney general, and Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The administration's tax cut and its faith-based initiative, which would allow government funds to flow to churches, mosques and synagogues that seek to ease social woes, were also targets of criticism.

Bush has asserted that church-based groups receiving government funds should be able to refuse employment to people outside their religion. Critics, including Bond, contend this could amount to government-funded discrimination.

Bond also said the Bush administration's tax cut "placed funding for important programs in a lockbox, raid-

ing the treasury for a decade, closing the door on government aid for children, for schools, for the poor."

"This is government of the rich, by the rich and for the rich."

Neither Bond nor Mfume has met with Bush since he took office in January. However, Bush addressed the convention through a videotaped greeting today.

"We must continue our work to make sure that my party keeps faith with the memory of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass," Bush said.

Bush also said he had selected a diverse and well-qualified group of advisers including Secretary of State Colin Powell, Education Secretary Rod Paige, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson.

The president also promised to improve the nation's public schools and to work to end racial profiling.

"I welcome the president's words, but I will welcome more his actions," Mfume said.

Critics offer alternative to campaign finance bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the House preparing to debate campaign finance legislation this week, the bill's critics are offering an alternative that would continue to allow unions, corporations and individuals to donate to political parties.

The bill's supporters, meanwhile, are trying to fend off attempts to derail

their original measure. Reps. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin Meehan, D-Mass., said Sunday that the opposition hopes to undo their bill by passing a version that has less stringent restrictions on how campaigns are financed.

The Shays-Meehan legislation mirrors a bill sponsored by Sens. John

McCain, R-Ariz., and Russell Feingold, D-Wis., that passed the Senate despite President Bush's opposition.

If the House passes a version different from the Senate, the issue would go to a conference committee, where lawmakers would try to reach a compromise.

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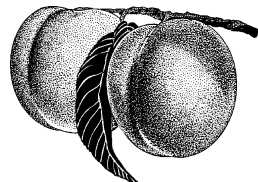
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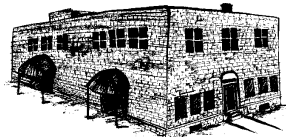
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