

U.N. badly divided over demands on Iraq

by the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL
UNITED NATIONS — Carrying an agreement from Iraq on how to resume U.N. weapons inspections, chief inspector Hans Blix returns to New York to face a Security Council badly divided over a U.S. demand that it authorize the use of force against Saddam Hussein before inspectors set foot in Baghdad.

France, Russia and China — all veto-wielding council members — remain opposed to any green light for military action before Iraq's willingness to cooperate with U.N. inspectors is tested on the ground.

Blix reached agreement Tuesday in Vienna with Saddam's special adviser, Gen. Amir Al Sadi, on the logistics of starting inspections again after nearly four years — including flights, accommodations and customs clearance.

The Iraqis agreed to "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access" to all sites, he said, including the Ministry of Defense and Republican Guard facilities — but Saddam's palaces remain exempt from surprise inspections.

A 1998 agreement between Iraq and the United Nations requires the inspectors to give the Iraqis advance notice before visiting about eight presidential sites, and calls for the presence of an international diplomat during the vis-

around the world

The United States wants to cancel that agreement.

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction has abandoned the idea of prodding the Palestinian leader to relinquish some power by appointing a prime minister, officials said today.

The Fatah campaign had been the most serious political challenge to Arafat in years.

Also today, Israeli officials shrugged off an admonition by British Prime Minister Tony Blair that U.N. resolutions have to be respected, whether they apply to Iraq or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Palestinians have long complained about Israel's non-compliance with resolutions calling on it to withdraw from land it occupied in the 1967 Mid-east war.

Addressing a conference of his Labor Party, Blair also expressed support for the creation of a Palestinian state "based on the boundaries of 1967."

Responding to Blair, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said today that Palestinian statehood is inevitable, but that only negotiations will lead to its creation. "No amount of international pressure will bring about

the formation of a Palestinian state," Ben-Eliezer said.

NATIONAL

NEW YORK — The latest big finish on Wall Street was one of the largest single-day gains ever, but it is not likely to last.

While the market welcomed a 346-point win Tuesday for the Dow Jones industrials, their best one-day point gain in two months and their eighth-best daily advance ever, market analysts were more skeptical than excited by the upturn.

"It was a nice, strong rally, to be sure, but we have seen some strategists suggesting that this is the highest risk (for stocks) since the 1950s," said Mike Weiner, managing director of equities at Banc One Investment Advisors in Columbus, Ohio.

Analysts have been increasingly wary of Wall Street's advances, saying the market has fallen into a pattern of having one big up day for every two or three big drops. It's a trend, but not one with any upward momentum.

The rally on Tuesday sent the Dow soaring to 7,938. The broader market also rose. The Nasdaq composite index went up 41.66, or 3.6 percent, to 1,213.72. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 32.64, or 4 percent, to

847.92.

SAN FRANCISCO — West Coast ports weren't the only thing shut down today. So were contract talks between dockworkers and their employers after efforts to bring in a federal mediator collapsed.

The collapse comes just as businesses across the country, from toy manufacturers to auto makers, are beginning to feel squeezed by the shutdown of all 29 West Coast ports.

The Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipping companies and terminal operators, locked out about 10,500 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union on Sunday, claiming workers had engaged in an illegal slowdown after failing to extend their expired contract.

On Tuesday, union representatives stormed out of a mediation session, accusing their employers of sabotaging the session with "gun-toting security guards."

"Thug tactics will not work with this union," said Jim Spinosa, the union's president and chief negotiator.

Peter Hurtgen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, said the armed guards were a breach of bargaining protocol.

The shipping association said the two plainclothes guards, both off-duty

police officers, were there to protect its president, Joseph Miniace.

WASHINGTON — President Bush reached agreement today with House leaders on a resolution giving him authority to oust Saddam Hussein. A similar measure gained ground in the Democratic-controlled Senate as Bush said force "may become unavoidable" if the Iraqi president refuses to disarm.

"We will not leave the future of peace and the security of America in the hands of this cruel and dangerous man," Bush said, while flanked by Democratic and Republican lawmakers in the White House Rose Garden.

While the House leadership agreed on a resolution authorizing force, the Senate was still divided. However, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joseph Biden said Bush's plan was fast gaining momentum.

"I'm a realist," the Delaware Democrat said. The ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, John Warner of Virginia, said "a solid phalanx" of support was coming together for Bush.

As part of the deal with the House, Bush bent to Democratic wishes and pledged to certify to Congress — before any military strike, if feasible, or within 48 hours of a U.S. attack — that diplomatic and other peaceful means alone are inadequate to protect Americans from Saddam's weapons of mass destruction.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with Bush, House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., said, "This should not be about politics. We have to do what is right for the security of the nation."

Gephardt, who had accused Bush last week of playing politics with the Iraq issue, said Democrats had won concessions from the White House limiting Bush's authority.

Warner recalled that Congress gave Bush's father authority to wage war against Saddam in the Persian Gulf War. "Mr. President, we delivered for your father. We will deliver for you."

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., a potential rival of Bush in the 2004 presidential election, said the administration had explored all options, other

than military, to disarm Saddam. "They've not worked. The moment of truth has arrived for Saddam Hussein. This is his last chance."

On the Senate side, Biden said he thought Gephardt had made a mistake in agreeing so readily to the plan. "Democrats are obviously in disagreement," he said.

Still, Biden dropped plans to try to take up his substitute proposal in his committee and said that he and Lugar would likely just offer it as an amendment when the Senate debates the Iraq war resolution.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — The odds against creation of an anti-terrorism Homeland Security Department grow greater by the hour, with some lawmakers saying a labor rights dispute could sink the measure for the year.

"I, for one, think the bill's on a life support system," said Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn. "Unless something happens in the very near future, there will not be a homeland security bill this year."

For the fifth time in recent weeks, the Senate failed Tuesday to muster the 60 votes necessary to bring debate to a close on the massive government reorganization plan. Negotiations continued in an uphill effort to reach compromise, but Republicans and Democrats were already accusing each other of jeopardizing the bill for political reasons.

WASHINGTON — The government is bringing criminal charges against Andrew Fastow, the alleged mastermind of the financial schemes that toppled Enron Corp.

Fastow, who was Enron's chief financial officer, is said to have devised the company's complex web of off-the-books partnerships used to hide some \$1 billion in debt from shareholders and federal regulators. He is the most prominent company figure targeted so far by the Justice Department.

Legislature see large cuts in budget coming

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer
TOPEKA — The news about the state budget keeps getting worse.

Legislative leaders said Tuesday that the state must cut at least another \$100 million from its current budget to avoid having a deficit on June 30.

Those leaders made their assessment after a meeting of the Legislative Budget Committee, which is monitoring the state's finances. Since the current fiscal year started on July 1, most of the news about the budget has been bad.

Committee members, who include the Senate president and the chairmen and ranking Democrats on the standing House and Senate budget commit-

tees, said they expect current \$4.4 billion in spending to leave a budget deficit of about \$103 million — even with the \$41 million in cuts that Gov. Bill Graves ordered in August.

And they think the problem could get worse. They said that when the state gets bills for the social services and aid to public schools, the projected deficit could be as high as \$200 million.

"It doesn't look bad — it is bad," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing. "We have bills on the books right now that we don't have the money to pay."

They also said the looming deficit for the current fiscal year will compound budget problems that are likely

to linger into the state's 2004 fiscal year. Once legislators figure out how to prevent a deficit in the current budget, they'll have to pass a balanced state budget for the next fiscal year.

"This hole is so large that it will take massive cuts, the elimination of whole departments, or a revenue enhancement," said Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson.

The committee received preliminary tax collection figures for September, which indicated those collections were \$14 million short of expectations for the month — \$409 million instead of \$423 million.

When final numbers are in, probably within a week, the total shortfall for

July, August and September is likely to be about \$50 million, said State Budget Director Duane Goossen.

He said those numbers suggest that the total revenue shortfall would exceed \$200 million for the entire fiscal year, which ends June 30. That would mean revenues of \$4.3 billion instead of the anticipated \$4.5 billion.

"I think that's a logical assumption," Goossen said. "That's about where we're tracking."

Last year, legislators approved \$252 million in tax increases to shore up the budget.

But the Legislature won't be able to consider tax increases to fill the gap quickly enough for the current year.



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