Dispute may be referred to Security Council

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.N. nuclear watchdog is likely to refer the dispute with North Korea to the U.N. Security Council this week, a U.S. envoy said Wednes-

U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton said an international consensus was emerging on the nuclear issue and that he expected the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency to pass a resolution soon.

"It's not a question of if it goes before the Security Council, it's only a matter of time," Bolton said. "We hope it will get there by the end of this week."

Bolton said South Korean officials had agreed that the dispute over North Korea's nuclear activities should be handled by the Security Council. The council could impose economic sanctions against North Korea, though Pyongyang has said such a move would amount to a declaration of war.

Meanwhile, North Korea said today it has no plans to make nuclear weapons and repeated its position that the nuclear crisis can be resolved through dialogue with the United States, South Korean officials said following a Cabinetlevel meeting with their northern counterparts.

NATIONAL

FAIRFAX, Va. — A grand jury heard evidence in the possible death penalty murder case against teenage sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo.

Prosecutor Robert F. Horan on Tuesday sought a capital murder indictment against the 17-year-old in the Oct. 14 slaying of FBI agent Linda Franklin.

An indictment would officially mark the transfer of Malvo's case to adult court. A juvenile judge's ruling last week that Malvo could be tried as an adult — making him eligible for the death penalty if convicted of capital murder — sent the case to the grand jury.

Malvo and John Allen Muhammad, 42, are accused of shooting 18 people, killing 13 and wounding five, in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. They are being tried first in Virginia because its

around the world

laws allow the best opportunities for the death penalty.

killing of more than one person in a said. three-year period, and an anti-terrorism law.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A Holocaust survivor who sent a tiny Torah scroll into space with Israel's first astronaut says the flight has allowed him to fulfill a promise he made 59 years ago.

Astronaut Ilan Ramon held up the Torah — the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures — aboard space shuttle Columbia during a televised conference Tuesday with Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon.

Watching with emotion from a Md., was the Torah's owner, Joachim Joseph, a 71-year-old atmospheric physicist at Tel Aviv University who is overseeing an Israeli Bush is confronting surging federal experiment aboard the shuttle.

The scientist received the Torah from a rabbi while both were imprisoned at a Nazi concentration camp in Germany in 1944. Joseph had just turned 13, and the rabbi secretly arranged a 4 a.m. bar mitzvah ceremony in the prisoners' barracks.

"After the ceremony, he said, 'You take this, this scroll that you just read from, because I will not leave here alive. But you must promise me that if you get out, you'll tell the story,"' Joseph recalled. The rabbi was killed two months later.

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — The lead investigator in a deadly bombing of Canadian troops in Afghanistan said U.S. pilots failed to follow procedure when they reacted to gunfire on the benefit if Bush's \$674 billion plan ground by dropping a bomb.

The April bombing, which killed four Canadian soldiers, showed a 'reckless disregard" for standing orders, Air Force Brig. Gen. Stephen Sargeant testified Tuesday at a military hearing to determine whether the two pilots will face a ond, the plan includes a higher cap court-martial.

Sargeant, who headed the inves- can deduct in one year. tigation into the bombing, said the

pilots failed to follow procedure by not communicating about the gun-Horan had said he would seek fire they spotted on the ground. capital murder indictments under They should have continued on two statutes: one prohibiting the their way rather than attacking, he

> At an altitude of more than 15,000 feet, the pilots were not in range of the gunfire, said Sargeant, who was to be cross-examined again today. "At that point it would have been possible to continue on," he said.

Maj. Harry Schmidt, who dropped the bomb, and Maj. William Umbach, who was flying another F-16 and was mission commander, were charged with involuntary manslaughter and other counts after investigators concluded they had acted rashly by attacking in response to the ground fire. The gun-NASA control center in Greenbelt, fire came from live-ammunition exercises by the Canadian troops.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — President deficits by proposing to dramatically slow the growth of federal spending.

Bush will propose boosting overall spending for federal agencies next year by 4 percent, less than half the increase expected this year, the White House budget director said Tuesday.

On Wednesday in St. Louis, Bush was touting the benefits of his tax cut plan for small businesses, looking to build public support for his economic-growth proposals as lawmakers begin a long struggle on whether to approve them.

Bush chose JS Logistics, a trucking, courier and warehouse business in St. Louis, as the site for his latest push.

JS Logistics is a \$25 million business that exemplifies the kind of firm the White House says would is enacted.

Company co-owner Greg Hantak said Bush's proposals would benefit his business in two ways. First, Bush proposes to accelerate personal income tax cuts now set to take place later in the decade; secon expenses that small businesses

WASHINGTON—New Census Suro added. figures show Hispanics have surged past blacks as the country's largest

minority group, but researchers and advocacy groups say the distinction does not automatically equate to increased political or socio-economic clout.

Census Bureau estimates released Tuesday show the Hispanic population rose 4.7 percent between April 2000 and July 2001, from 35.3 million to 37 million. During the same period, the non-Hispanic black population rose about 2 percent, from 35.5 million to 36.1 million.

"I don't believe it translates into immediate claims of increased clout," said Roberto Suro, director of the nonprofit Pew Hispanic Center, a research group. He said the strength of voter turnout among Hispanics does not equate to their population size, in part because of a relatively large number of Latino immigrants who are undocumented and therefore cannot vote.

'The changes have been under way for some time now, but it will be a long time still until the real significance of this change is clear,"

Due to high birth and immigration rates, the Hispanic population more than doubled during the 1990s, the 2000 census found.

WASHINGTON - Three major airlines say they will go forward with a marketing alliance despite a Transportation Department decision to fight what it considers to be anticompetitive features.

The "code-sharing agreement" among Delta, Continental and Northwest-the third-, fourth- and fifth-largest airlines - would enable each to sell tickets for all three and allow them to reach more destinations without flying more planes.

They also could offer reciprocal benefits such as frequent flier miles.

The Justice and Transportation departments approved the agreement Friday, but transportation officials added stringent requirements. They feared the three airlines, which would control about 35 percent of the market, would use the alliance to discourage competition without the conditions.

weekend and said Tuesday they couldn't accept some of the conditions but would go ahead with the alliance anyway.

government's plan during the



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