REGIONAL

Oregonians protest, security beefed up statewide

Thousands of Oregonians prayed and demonstrated for peace today in the final hours before the U.N. deadline for Iraqi troops to leave Ku-

Officials around Oregon also were taking steps to improve security because of Iraqi threats of terrorism against the United States.

'The Coast Guard is taking seriously the threats that have come from the Middle East," said Chief Warrant Officer George H. Hornbeck, commanding officer of the Yaquina Bay Station. "We are reviewing and testing our security plans.

Security also was increased at the Trojan nuclear plant northwest of Portland.

Steve Sautter, spokesman for Portland General Electric, said all nuclear plants received a notice from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission last Wednesday suggesting they review their security plans in light of the threat of terrorist at-

"We have taken some additional steps to ensure that we are controlling access to the plant both by foot and vehicular traffic," Sautter said.

No increase in security is planned at the 22 dams operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Northwest, including five major hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River, a corps spokeswoman said.

'We have increased our awareness level and security is in place." said Diana Brimhall, chief of public affairs for the corps' Portland office.

Security officials also planned to intensify efforts at Portland International

Robert Palioca, area manager for The Wackenhut Corp., which provides security for the airport, said some passengers may be subject to personal "pat down" checks or will be forbidden to proceed past a checkpoint.

He declined to say what criteria will be used to decide who will be frisked. He also said officials probably would allow only passengers in the concourse area of the airport. That would mean well-wishers would not be allowed beyond security checkpoints.

He said some of the security measures would not take effect until the shooting begins but others may be implemented at any time. If there is a war, carry-on baggage will not be allowed, Palioca

A peace vigil began at 12:01 a.m. at the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building in downtown Portland. The crowd outside the building had grown to about 100 by daybreak

In Beaverton, parishioners of St. Matthew Lutheran Church continued a 42hour prayer vigil begun at 7 p.m. Sunday. About 150 people were expected to pray in half-hour shifts until noon to-

Gunnar Simonsen prayed for peace between the United States and Iraq and for the safety of his brother Eric, who is with the Army in Saudi Arabia.

Simonsen said the vigil brings people together during troubling times.

'I just try to keep the hope and faith in the Lord," he said. "For all of us, it's really a time to cling to what we believe

On Monday, the Oregon Senate asked President Bush and Congress to use negotiation rather than military force against Iraq.

The Senate unanimously approved a resolution, introduced by freshman Sen. Tricia Smith, D-Salem, asking the president and Congress to exhaust all reasonable alternatives before using military

President Bush and Congress have approved military action against Iraq if its troops do not pull out of Kuwait by 9 p.m. PST today.

In Gresham, about 100 students attended a peace rally Monday at Mount

Hood Community College. Students at Portland's Marshall High School held a candlelight peace rally.

More than 60 Western Oregon State College students lit candles Monday night to symbolically dispel some of the darkness of the war threat.

The candle-lighting marked the beginning of a 30-day, round-the-clock vigil at the college in Monmouth.

During the vigil, dozens of students and faculty members are to take turns, one or two at a time, guarding the flame of a homemade, 2-foot-tall candle.

"It's my own way of speaking out," student body president Tim Cook said. "It's a way of saying I don't think what's happening over there is right. But it's also a way of remembering friends who are over there.

About 100 people attended a forum on peace Monday at Willamette University in Salem. Political science professor Bob Dash said he believed one reason for the United States' involvement in the crisis is that, in post-Cold War times. "The Pentagon has lost the reason for its being."

Blane McGaughy, a religion professor, said the United States has a schizophrenic personality.





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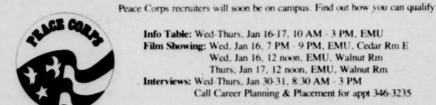






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Info Table: Wed-Thurs, Jan 16-17, 10 AM - 3 PM, EMU Film Showing: Wed, Jan 16, 7 PM - 9 PM, EMU, Cedar Rm E Wed, Jan 16, 12 noon, EMU, Walnut Rm

Thurs, Jan 17, 12 noon, EMU, Walnut Rm Interviews: Wed-Thurs, Jan 30-31, 8:30 AM - 3 PM Call Career Planning & Placement for appt 346-3235

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