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### **INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS**

#### U.S. forces to remain in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Ground troops in the U.S.-led force based in Turkey to protect Iraqi Kurds will be withdrawn, but allied warplanes will stay at least three more months, the Foreign Ministry said today.

The agreement on basing the air and ground force in southeastern Turkey was to expire Sept. 30, but the government announced Saturday that it was being extended 90 days. That announcement said the force's components would be changed but did not give any details.

U.S. military officials had hinted earlier that the remaining ground units would be removed, saying aircraft were a stronger deterrence to Iraqi assaults on the Kurdish areas across the border in northern Iraq.

Iraqi Kurdish leaders visited Turkey last week to ask the allies to keep the deterrence force after Sept. 30.

The force's extension coincided with U.S. plans to beef up its military presence in the Persian Gulf area to pressure Baghdad to stop impeding U.N. teams studying Iraq's capability to produce chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. U.S. officials declined to say whether the decisions were connected.

The allies have based 4,600 soldiers and Marines at the Turkish border town of Silopi since July after a larger coalition force left northern Iraq. The coalition troops helped the return of 1.5 million Kurds who fled to Turkey and Iran after their failed March uprising against Saddam Hussein's government.

The force at Silopi included 3,293 American soldiers as well as troops from Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. The United States based 75 support helicopters at Batman.

#### Fighting rages in Yugoslavia

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (AP) — As federal troops and Croatian militias tested a day-old cease-fire with gunbattles Monday, officials said neighboring Serbia was pressing for an agreement allowing it to incorporate key sections of Croatia.

News reports spoke of fierce fighting around

the central Croatian towns of Nova Gradiska and Okucani, with intense tank and mortar shelling of Vukovar, a Croatian town on the Serbian border.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said Monday night that the fighting seemed to be ebbing, except for sporadic clashes in the eastern region of Slavonia, where Serb insurgents have fought Croatian militias since the republic declared independence June 25.

"Croatia has shown its teeth, and a completely new relation of forces has been established," said Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's top adviser, Mario Nobilo, explaining why he thought the truce would hold.

"The only language that (Serbian President) Slobodan Milosevic can understand is the language of force, and we have now shown that will no longer be effective," Nobilo said.

The federal army may soon pull back from the fighting and settle into Serb-held parts of Croatia where the population "recognizes it as its own," said Borisav Jovic, Serbia's man on the eightmember federal presidency.

A Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Serbia seeks an urgent meeting among Yugoslav leaders to approve the partial army withdrawal.

#### Hondurans score drug bust

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Anti-narcotics agents intercepted a car carrying 143 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated \$10 million and arrested a Venezuelan man and a Guatemalan woman, police said Monday.

Capt. Cesar Augusto Somoza said the drugs were confiscated Sunday at the El Guasaule border crossing with Nicaragua, when the car tried to enter Honduras.

Somoza identified the suspects as Rafael Enrique Guardia, 42, and Maribel Vargas, 32, and said the two had driven from Panama.

"We discovered 115 packages of cocaine concealed in a false bottom built in the back of the car," Somoza said.

For years, Honduras has been a major trafficking point for drugs smuggled from South America into the United States.

