

# Good weather conditions aid cleanup of Alaska oil spill

**NATIONAL** ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Cleanup of the largest oil spill in Alaska since the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster continued Sunday as workers sucked up what they could and sprayed chemical dispersants on portions of a several-mile-long slick threatening an island shoreline.

A pipeline carrying a mix of oil and water froze and burst early Saturday, spilling an estimated 16,900 gallons of crude oil into the waters of Cook Inlet about 60 miles southwest of Anchorage.

A slick that measured about 10 miles long and 300 yards wide had spread into the inlet by Sunday, but the worst concentration of oil was three to four miles long about two to three miles from Kalgin Island and about 20 miles southwest of where the spill occurred.

Due to favorable tides and weather, no oil had reached any shorelines by midday Sunday, officials said.

The dispersants, which break up the oil while still near the surface, were being used on a heavy ribbon of oil two to three miles northeast of Kalgin Is-

land, said Joe Sautner, the state Department of Environmental Conservation's regional oil program coordinator.

Weather, which had cooperated in the spill cleanup Saturday, was worsening Sunday and cleanup workers were hoping to keep the oil from going ashore onto the island, Sautner said.

"We learned from the Exxon Valdez, that once you get crude oil onto the beaches, your effort for cleaning up goes way up, the difficulty goes way up," Sautner said.

The Exxon Valdez spilled

nearly 11 million gallons of North Slope crude into the waters of Prince William Sound in March 1989. It was the nation's worst oil spill. The largest spill in Cook Inlet was in 1987, when the tanker Glacier Bay dumped between 33,000 and 85,000 gallons.

By Sunday, skimmers using oil absorbent booms and other equipment had recovered up to a quarter of the oil, said Bob Williams, manager of the Kenai Pipeline Co. Some also had dispersed or evaporated naturally, he said.

The pipeline company is

owned by Arco and Chevron.

A rupture in the heated, pressurized 10-inch pipeline was discovered early Saturday, and quickly repaired. The break was caused by a heating element that failed, allowing the pipe to freeze and thaw, causing the break, Williams said.

The pipeline runs along a 1,200-foot causeway between the shore and a offshore dock, he said. The dock is about 11 miles north of Kenai and the mouth of the Kenai River, a world-renowned king salmon fishing area.

# U.N. may send peacekeepers to Yugoslavia if truce lasts

**WORLD** UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A U.N. envoy on Sunday raised expectations that up to 10,000 peacekeepers could be sent to Yugoslavia, saying warring factions in secessionist Croatia appear to be finally honoring a cease-fire pact.

In Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, a senior Croatian commander also was optimistic about the truce, the 15th to try to end the six-month civil war.

"If it holds for the next two weeks, the chances are (good) it

will turn into a permanent cease-fire," said Gen. Imra Agotic after meeting with Col. Mile Glumac, a federal army negotiator. The two men agreed to meet again Thursday in Pecs, Hungary, 20 miles from the Croatian border.

U.N. officials have said they would not send peacekeepers until a firm truce is reached in Croatia, where republic fighters have battled the Serb-led federal army and ethnic Serbs opposed to secession. Previous truces collapsed almost immediately.

Thousands of people have been killed, and special U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance said Saturday more than 600,000 refugees have fled fighting since Croatia declared independence June 25.

Vance met Sunday with U.N. Secretary-General Butros Ghali, and said Ghali will deliver a report Monday on Yugoslavia to the Security Council, which has authority to send a peacekeeping force.

Vance, who returned from Yugoslavia last week, did not disclose details of the meeting

with Ghali. But it was clear Vance's report focused on possible deployment of a peacekeeping force, which officials said could be as large as 10,000 soldiers.

Vance said specific details about a possible peacekeeping force would be addressed in Ghali's report to the 15-nation Security Council.

Asked if he was optimistic about peace, Vance broke into a smile. "I am pleased the cease-fire appears to be holding and I hope that this will continue."

Ghali also grinned and ap-

peared upbeat as he left the meeting, but did not talk to reporters.

Vance, a former Secretary of State, said he would try to reach top Yugoslav officials and military leaders later Sunday to encourage them to abide by the truce, agreed Friday.

Asked when officials would be confident a cease-fire was holding, Vance said: "I think that we have to see for more than a couple of days, three, four, five days — I really don't want to put any countdown. We have to see."

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