



# Peace groups request help for Yugoslavia

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon peace groups joined Tuesday to urge President Bill Clinton to avoid military intervention in Bosnia and offer stronger support for struggling democratic groups in the former Yugoslavia.

"We don't believe we're at the point where violence must be met with violence," Rosanne Royer, executive director of the Oregon Peace Institute, said at a news conference.

Royer, who is of mixed Serbian and Croatian descent, blamed both ethnic groups for the conflict resulting from the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Thousands have been killed in "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, populated by Serbs, Croatians and Muslims.

But Royer said peace movements are springing up all over the region and are struggling to communicate with each other. She urged the Clinton administration and the media to offer ways for the different peace groups to talk

"Right now they're having to use a phone 'bridge' through Austria," Royer said. "Telephone lines have been cut, but they're trying to talk."

Royer said peace groups also were trying to communicate through computerized electronic mail, but that also relies on telephone lines.

Royer said the peace movement can be helped by appealing to people of mixed ethnic heritage to come forward and renew their ties to the minority populations in their areas.

"If you're half Serbian and half Croatian, you'd never admit you had any Serbian heritage if you live in Croatia," Royer said.

Royer said peace demonstrations are discouraged or banned in the former Yugoslavian republics. Encouragement of public demonstrations against ethnic violence would force political leaders to back down from military threats.

Royer predicted U.S. military intervention, such as air strikes, would kill many innocent people, polarize political groups and start a major war.

Dan Handelman, a spokesman for Portland PeaceWorks, compared the situation to the outbreak of World War II.

The Oregon groups plan to start a petition drive to send Clinton and Congress a message demanding an international effort to force negotiations.

## Fires continue in Southern, Central Oregon

GRANTS PASS (AP) — A winter of above-average rains didn't stop forest and brush fires from burning Tuesday in Southern and Central Oregon.

"You'd think with the winter we had that everything is pretty wet, but with the kinds of winds we've had, the fires just took off," said Chris Friend, spokesman for the Applegate Ranger District on the Rogue River National Forest.

"If we have 80-degree temperatures, low humidity and winds for the next two weeks, we might see fire season declared in different parts of the state," Doug Decker, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Forestry, said from Salem.

Fire crews contained the 100-

acre Chemult fire Tuesday morning in the central Cascade Range.

Pushed by winds gusting to 30 mph Monday afternoon, the fire came within a quarter-mile of the town of Chemult before about 60 firefighters checked its spread, using a Southern Pacific railroad line to bolster fire lines, said Department of Forestry spokeswoman Mindy Sherrieb from Klamath Falls.

The fire started about 1:30 p.m. when a slash burn got away in strong winds, said Bill Hofstrand, dispatch coordinator at Kingsley Air Field in Klamath Falls.

Two prescribed burns blew out of control in Southern Oregon, about 10 miles south of the small town of Ruch. Both were expect'You'd think with the weather we had that everything is pretty wet, but with the kinds of winds we've had, the fires just took off.'

 Chris Friend, spokesman,
 Applegate Ranger District

ed to be contained Wednesday, said Rogue River National Forest spokesman Tom Lavagnino.

spokesman Tom Lavagnino. The largest of the two, the Ranch fire, was reported 10 percent contained Tuesday after burning 100 acres of brush and timber. The Flying Apple fire in the same area covered about 60 acres and was 40 percent con-

After six to eight years of drought, Oregon saw above-average rain and snow last winter.

"We talk about a double-edged sword," Decker said. "It definitely helps. But it also means the grass and brush, those things we call flashy fuels; those things grow more than they would otherwise."

Depending on the weather, fire season could be declared as soon as the end of May in parts of Oregon, Decker said.

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## Couple tractoring around the world

DRYDEN, Wash. (AP) — A New Zealand couple are seeing the world at 12 mph — aboard a blue 1980 Ford tractor.

Ian Begg and Pam Crawford drove their tractor over Blewett Pass to Cashmere in recent days, pulling a small trailer they call home.

The tractor has New Zealand license plates and a sign reading "Round the World by Tractor."

"I used to drive tractor all the time on the farm, and I thought it would be nice to take a cruise on it sometime," Begg said. He owns a 3,000-acre sheep farm near Cromwell.

"I thought about it about 20 years ago but I didn't have the time or the money," he said. "This year I thought I'd better do it before I got too old and too stupid."

They plan a 21,700-mile trek across the United

States, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. That would beat the Guinness world record of 14,260 miles set in 1991 for the longest tractor trip.

So far, Begg and Crawford have traveled about 1,550 miles.

They shipped their tractor and trailer by boat from New Zealand to San Francisco, where they officially began their journey. From San Francisco, they traveled north to Washington and over the Cascade Range.

Begg, 47, and Crawford, 45, plan to travel to Virginia, then ship the tractor to Europe.

At a top speed of 12.5 mph and averaging only 50 miles per day, it's a slow way to see the world. Begg said. The two said they will be home by January 1995.



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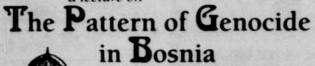


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Betty Turulja is a native Bosnian who recently came from Bosnia.

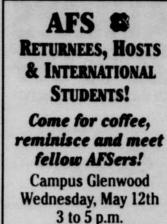
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