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Clinton wants helping hand



from

Bible-thumping politics in a Harlem church to the United Nations' world stage, extolling his military intervention in Haiti as "saving our neighborhood" for democracy.

The president, apparently buoyed by the sure foothold U.S. forces had achieved in Haiti, made no mention of the firefight in Cap-Haitien in which U.S. Marines killed 10 Haitian men Saturday night outside a police station.

Instead, he sounded the theme he will use in a speech Monday to a special session of the U.N. General Assembly: Democracy is on the rise, and the United States welcomes a helping hand from other nations to assist not just in the Caribbean but in Bosnia and in other world hotspots.

Immediately upon switching gears, Clinton received Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, whose Muslim-led government feels betrayed.

Having accepted a plan to end the more than 2-year-old war in Bosnia, it watched in despair Friday as the U.N. Security Council relaxed some sanctions against Yugoslavia, rewarding Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic for promising to end weapons shipments across the border to Bosnian Serbs.

On Haiti, the other major for-

eign policy problem on the president's immediate agenda, the White House press office issued a two-sentence statement, saying "we regret any loss of life in connection with our mission in Haiti," but reaffirming U.S. resolve to respond to hostile action against American forces.

"We will continue to work with Haitian military authorities for a peaceful transition," the statement said.

Clinton's church appearance capped a weekend of politicking for Democrats in Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri.

Even though he has been slipping in the polls, the president seemed in good spirits, recounting for the black congregation how he enjoyed walking the streets of Harlem as a youth from Arkansas "because I was fascinated by it; I wanted to see the people. I wanted to talk to the people, I wanted to see what they are up against.'

Some Democratic candidates across the country are keeping their distance from Clinton in their campaigns, but he was upbeat in proclaiming the virtues of brotherhood in politics, in boosting the economy and in world affairs.

"If we can just face our challenges and move forward and come together, we're going to do all right," he said.

Appearing with Clinton were Gov. Mario Cuomo, a Queens Democrat seeking a fourth term,

and Rep. Charles Rangel, a Harlem African-American.

At the United Nations, officials said, Clinton will stress the need to expand democracy and assert that the administration would work closely with the United Nations to promote the security interests of free nations

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador, said, "There is no question that the cooperation between the U.S., U.N. and NATO is one that also is pointing to a direction of how many regional problems can be solved and worked on together."

With American troops bound to remain in Haiti through the year, the intervention is a lively election-year topic. There are calls in Congress for setting a deadline for the forces to get out. Clinton sought, however, to

portray his Haiti policy as a winner

"I think more and more Americans are seeing that what we are doing there is good and supports democracy throughout our hemisphere, which is nothing more than saying our neighborhood," he said.

Moreover, the president said, the U.S.-brokered agreement in Haiti for the military junta to yield power to ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide "helps to end human rights violations that we find intolerable everywhere but unconscionable on our doorstep and offers them (Haitians) a chance at stability.'

Search for Simpson jury begins

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After three months of end-less publicity in the O.J. Simpson murder case, 1,000 people must look inward and answer a question: Could I be a fair juror for this man?

'People have a personal involvement in this case. Some of them may have been out there on the freeway that Friday afternoon," said Loyola University Law School professor Laurie Levenson.

"Both sides have to be scared of jurors with an agenda, people who want to send a message.

Those who raced out to roadsides to cheer Simpson in a Ford Bronco with a gun to his head and police in pursuit would be less than ideal jurors.

But as the first stage of jury selection gets under way Monday, lawyers on both sides are realistic enough to know that no hope exists of finding jurors unaware of the case. Nor would they want such a jury, Levenson said.

You want someone on this jury who's at least heard about the case, because you want a functioning member of society," she said.

Yet jurors also need to be able to put all prior knowledge aside and decide the case on the evidence, Levenson said.

At a minimum, prospective jurors will know that Simpson, a former football star whose fame extended into show business, is charged with the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

They will also know that Simpson has declared himself "absolutely 100 percent not guilty" and that he has the best team of lawyers money can buy.

Issues beyond bias for or against Simpson also must be considered.

Jo-Ellan Dimitrius, the jury consultant working for the defense, has pinpointed a new phenomenon in the Simpson case: jurors who want to get on the case because of its notoriety and the chance they will become rich and famous as a result.

"I've never seen it before," Dimitrius said. "Usually, people want to know how they can get out of serving on the jury. In this case, they're coming up to me on the street asking, "How do I become a juror on the O.J. case?'

Now, Levenson said, many prospects may be facing the reality that they can't afford the time to serve. Of the 1,000 people summoned by Superior Court Judge Lance Ito, more than 700 have already returned one-page questionnaires discussing their availability to serve in a trial which could stretch into 1995.

About two-thirds have said it would be a hardship.

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