

# Clinton sends delegation to Japan quake site

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Clinton, commemorating the one-year anniversary of California's killer earthquake, ordered a high-level delegation to Japan to help Tokyo cope with the "extraordinary fury" of its quake.

A powerful tremor tore through several western Japanese cities, toppling hundreds of buildings, touching off raging fires and killing more than 1,700 people.

With billboards featuring scenes of the 1994 Northridge earthquake forming a backdrop, Clinton said he ordered Federal Emergency Management Agency and Transportation Department officials to Japan.

He said the United States "sends our profound condolences."

Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is in Japan on other business and has promised U.S. military support, Clinton said.

"We know that nature has stuck again here at home in California, with the floods, and with extraordinary fury with the earthquake in Japan," Clinton said.

He said the administration has made contact with Japanese officials, prompting him to send the high-level delegation. He did not say what the delegation would do.

In a trip loaded with political implica-

tions, Clinton inspected earthquake-damaged sites from 1994 and areas hit by this year's flooding.

The speech was delivered at California State University, a campus heavily damaged in 1994. Clinton's tour of a rebuilt science building was canceled after three devices resembling pipe bombs were found. The Secret Service later determined there was no bomb.

With 54 electoral votes at stake in the 1996 presidential election, the White House cannot afford to look laggard in responding to California's natural disasters — fires, floods, mud slides or earthquakes.

Yesterday was the first anniversary of the Northridge earthquake, which killed 61 people, injured at least 9,000 and caused \$20 billion in property damage, buckling highways and crumbling homes. It was the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history.

Across the Pacific, Japan was reeling today from an earthquake that killed more than 1,700 people, injuring thousands and causing massive property damage.

Clinton, after talking Monday night with U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale in Tokyo, said the United States "will stand ready to help" Japan recover, Press Sec-

retary Mike McCurry said.

Last year's Northridge earthquake triggered a massive outpouring of federal disaster relief. The White House said nearly \$11.5 billion was made available in recovery efforts, with direct aid going to more than 600,000 people.

Clinton was expected to visit flood rescuers at a local fire station. He was then traveling to Roseville, California, to walk a flood-stricken street and talk to local residents.

Storms battering California for almost two weeks created floods and mud slides that killed at least 11 people and caused an estimated \$300 million in damage.

Eager to show his sympathy, Clinton produced special radio and television addresses for California last week. Aides bragged that the administration took less than an hour to approve Republican Gov. Pete Wilson's request for federal aid.

More than 10,000 people already have applied for the aid, hoping for loan guarantees, temporary shelter or direct aid. Several agencies have anted up, including the Transportation Department, which released \$5 million Jan. 12 and was to provide \$15 million more yesterday.

Aides shrugged off suggestions that Clinton's disaster response was political-

ly motivated. But they said it was important to get the federal government involved quickly and visibly; otherwise, voters blame the president.

"I think Americans have the right to expect the government to act swiftly. I don't think there's anything political about that," McCurry said.

Clinton, who won California in the 1992 election and has always found political solace here, has watched his political fortunes sag in recent months. The most recent *Los Angeles Times* poll showed him with a 50 percent approval rating in the state, higher than his national average. But that was in October, and the political landscape has changed drastically since then.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Brown lost to Wilson in November, despite Clinton's efforts in her campaign. California Democrats lost three seats in the House in the midterm elections, and the Republican landslide meant a loss of power for California Democrats who had been running powerful congressional committees.

Aides cite Clinton's immigration effort, the quick response to the earthquake and the administration's plan to cushion defense cuts as reasons the president should hold California in 1996.

## Devices look like bombs; Clinton's tour cut short

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Bill Clinton scrapped plans to tour an earthquake-damaged building today after authorities discovered a device they thought looked like a pipe bomb. It turned out to be just pipes.

Secret Service spokesman Curtis Eldridge said the device discovered in a science building at California State University's Northridge campus was found to be innocuous.

"It just turned out to be some old pipes," Eldridge said from Washington.

Clinton went ahead with his scheduled speech at the university, but security appeared even tighter than usual and he canceled plans to tour the science building.

"The bomb squad was called at 7:40 a.m. after the Secret Service found three devices resembling pipe bombs," said Officer Rigo Romero, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Police Department.

Carl Meyer, another Secret Service spokesman, said that during a routine search of the science building before Clinton's visit, investigators discovered "some pipes in a cabinet," including a pipe that was capped.

Bomb-sniffing dogs were brought in, and one of them "alerted" that it had smelled something of potential concern, Meyer said.

The decision to abandon the tour was made before Clinton left his hotel in Santa Monica and drove the 30 minutes to the college in Northridge.

McCurry said the material — which he refused to identify — was found during a routine security sweep.

"The construction workers who were working in that building weren't able to identify the material quickly, erring on the side of caution. (We) thought it would be smarter for us to make some changes," McCurry said.

At the site, Secret Service agents were seen conferring with construction officials. Then a member of the police bomb squad in a protective suit went inside the Science Two building with some type of equipment.

Several minutes later the bomb squad member came back outside, and a few minutes later White House advance man Dave Nelson told reporters that the president would deliver his speech at the university but would not tour the building.

## FDA approves drug for alcoholics

NEW YORK (AP) — A once-a-day pill heroin addicts take to help them kick the habit will now be given to alcoholics, making it the first new drug used to fight alcoholism in nearly 50 years.

Researchers, who concluded that the drug naltrexone has some benefit in blocking the craving for alcohol, cautioned, however, that it does not represent a "magic bullet" in the battle against alcoholism.

The manufacturer, DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Co., said Tuesday it would sell the drug as a supplement to traditional alcoholism therapy.

Available since 1984, naltrexone blocks the euphoria people feel after taking heroin and other narcotics.

The Food and Drug Administration gave DuPont Merck authorization on Dec. 30 to market the drug for use against alcoholism after two studies involving 167 people showed it also appears to curb alcoholics' cravings.

The only other drug now sold for alcoholism is Antabuse, introduced in 1948, which makes a person nauseous when they drink. Researchers said Tuesday that it hasn't been very successful because 80 percent of patients fail to take it properly.

They were cautious in their expectations for naltrexone.

"None of these studies indicate this is a substitute for good psycho-social treatment — 12-step programs like alcoholics anonymous," said Dr. Charles O'Brien,

a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania.

Drugs like naltrexone "address some unmet needs in alcoholism treatment, but no single medication is a magic bullet," O'Brien said, using the term once applied to penicillin.

The drug, which has been sold under the brand name Trexan, in the future will be called Revia.

Doctors are allowed to prescribe approved drugs for any reason they see fit, and some have already been using naltrexone for alcoholism, the researchers said.

DuPont Merck — a partnership of the nation's biggest chemical company and the biggest prescription drug maker — plans to sell the once-a-day pill for a wholesale price of \$3.80 per day in a treatment program lasting three to six months. Patients who can't afford it will receive it for free, said DuPont Merck's president and chief executive, Kurt Landgraf.

Alcohol is the most widely abused drug in the United States, and about 15 million Americans are alcoholics, the researchers said. Researchers estimated the annual cost of the disease at \$100 billion in premature deaths and illnesses, lost productivity, treatment costs and other expenses.

In the two studies, both done in 1992 in conjunction with counseling, scientists said the drug reduced euphoria, cut the craving alcoholics feel for drink-

ing and also reduced the resulting relapses into drinking that many people suffer after quitting.

A 12-week study of 70 long-term alcoholic men done by the University of Pennsylvania showed 23 percent who were on the drug relapsed compared with 54 percent of those given a placebo. Those who did drink while on the drug drank less frequently and in smaller quantities.

Asked which kinds of people would be best suited to naltrexone, the researchers said they weren't sure and that broader studies are planned to find out.

The major side effect of the drug is nausea, which was experienced by about 10 percent of patients who have taken it. About seven percent got headaches, and smaller numbers suffered from dizziness, nervousness, fatigue or insomnia.

DuPont Merck executives said sales expectations are modest. Naltrexone brought in about \$14 million last year as a narcotics treatment and the company expects an additional \$20 million this year.

Paul Wood, president of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, a New York-based education and advocacy group, said the drug appears to have potential.

"If you could reduce the craving and desire to drink, it would certainly help the standard alcoholism treatment a lot," he said.

## Gay and Bisexual Men

### Drop-In Group

Sponsored by the University of Oregon Educational and Support Services

Wednesday evenings

6-7:15 pm

The Koinonia Center

1414 Kincaid Street

For more information call 346-1142 or the LGBA office at 346-3360

And, don't forget the LGBA coffee/social hour every Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m.

## WANTED U OF O STUDENTS MUST ENJOY

- ◆ Classic Italian Cuisine
- ◆ Wood Oven Baked Pizza
- ◆ Upscale Billiards
- ◆ Free Pool Daily (11:30-4:00 p.m.)
- ◆ Eugene City Brewery Ales



830 Olive St. • 345-1072 • Daily 11:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

No Minors • No Smoking

## great scores...

# DAT

### great skills...

Kaplan students get the most complete test preparation materials available, including practice tests, home-study materials and a training library.

Kaplan helps you focus your DAT studies and build your confidence, so you can get a higher score.

Begin your prep now for the March 25 exam.

Call **345-4420** for more information.

get a higher score

# KAPLAN

720 E. 13th #303, Eugene, OR 97401