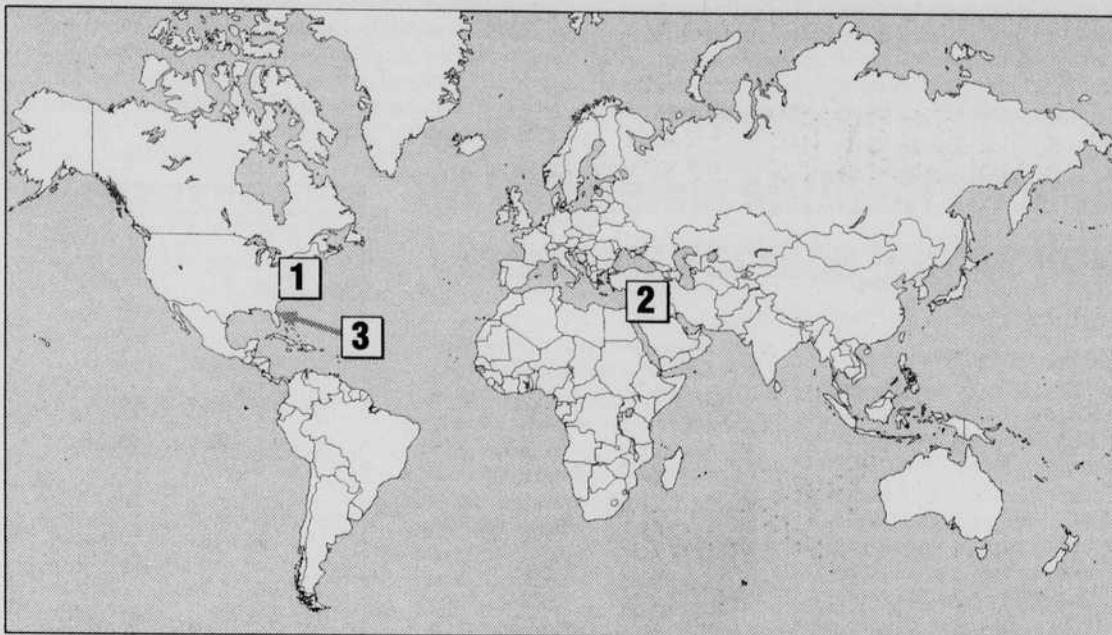


NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world



Decision on Clinton case expected by July

1 WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court aggressively questioned both sides Monday in a battle over the sexual-harassment lawsuit against President Clinton.

As the politically charged case was argued just one week before Clinton's second-term inauguration, the justices gave little indication whether they will let Paula Jones' lawsuit go forward while he is in office.

The decision, which also could affect future presidents, is expected by July.

The hour-long argument did not address the merits of Jones' allegation that Clinton propositioned her in a Little Rock hotel room in 1991 when he was governor of Arkansas. Clinton has denied her allegation and has said he cannot recall ever meeting the former Arkansas state employee.

Instead, lawyers debated whether any part of the case can proceed during the next four years. The court has never before been asked to decide if a sitting president can be sued over acts unrelated to his job, whether they took place before or during his term.

Israel, Palestine ready to sign accord

2 JERUSALEM — After months of hard-fought negotiations and a final push from the king of Jordan and a U.S. envoy, Israel and the Palestinians looked ready Monday to sign a deal to pull Israeli troops out of the West Bank rural areas by August 1998.

The compromise also sets the stage for an Israeli pullout from Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli occupation. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would struggle to get Israeli politicians behind him.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said the sides were discussing "final details."

"If the Palestinians don't bring up new things, I believe we will be able to sign tomorrow," he said.

In Gaza, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called his Cabinet together in what he said would be a continuous session until the agreement is finished. Cabinet members intended "to follow the negotiations step by step," he said.

Once the draft is finished, Arafat and Netanyahu must meet to approve it. Netanyahu also has promised to try to attain Israeli Cabinet and Parliament approval of the accord.

GOP conference call caught on scanner

3 GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A pair of staunch Democrats said Monday they were thinking of history, not political skullduggery, when they taped a GOP strategy session about House Speaker Newt Gingrich off their police scanner.

Now John and Alice Martin have been swept into a political firestorm.

Democrats are angry that Gingrich was plotting his own ethics defense, and Republicans want a federal probe of how the conversation ended up on the front pages of national newspapers.

The Martins could even wind up in trouble for intercepting and recording a cellular phone call in violation of state and federal laws.

Martin said he has listened to the police chatter on scanners for more than 20 years.

They were eavesdropping on a conference call that included Gingrich, Rep. Dick Armey of Texas and several other Republican leaders, including Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, who was using his cellular phone while vacationing in Florida.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Alpha Lambda Delta/Phi Eta Sigma will be holding its Second Annual Scholarship Symposium in the EMU Maple Room at 7 p.m. For more information, call 346-8994.

Alpha Phi Omega, a national service organization, will be hosting an information table outside the Hamilton cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and an interest meeting in the EMU Century A at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 346-6122.

OAASS is hosting a National Student Exchange Informational

Meeting in the EMU Century A at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 346-3211.

MISCELLANEOUS

Collier House is hosting an exhibit of sculpted bowls and papier-mache by Kelly Terwilliger at Collier House, located at 1170 East 13th Avenue, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. until January 31. For more information, call 346-5268.

Pagan Student Union will be hosting a discussion entitled "Defining Your Path" in the EMU Century E from 7:30 to 11 p.m. For more information, call 334-6842.

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