

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world

Russia, NATO to sign historic agreement

1 PARIS — President Clinton and his NATO allies are set to clinch a historic deal with the Russians: an accord that will draw them closer together even as the Western alliance expands onto Moscow's former turf.

The agreement to be signed Tuesday concluded 4 1/2 months of tough bargaining by NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

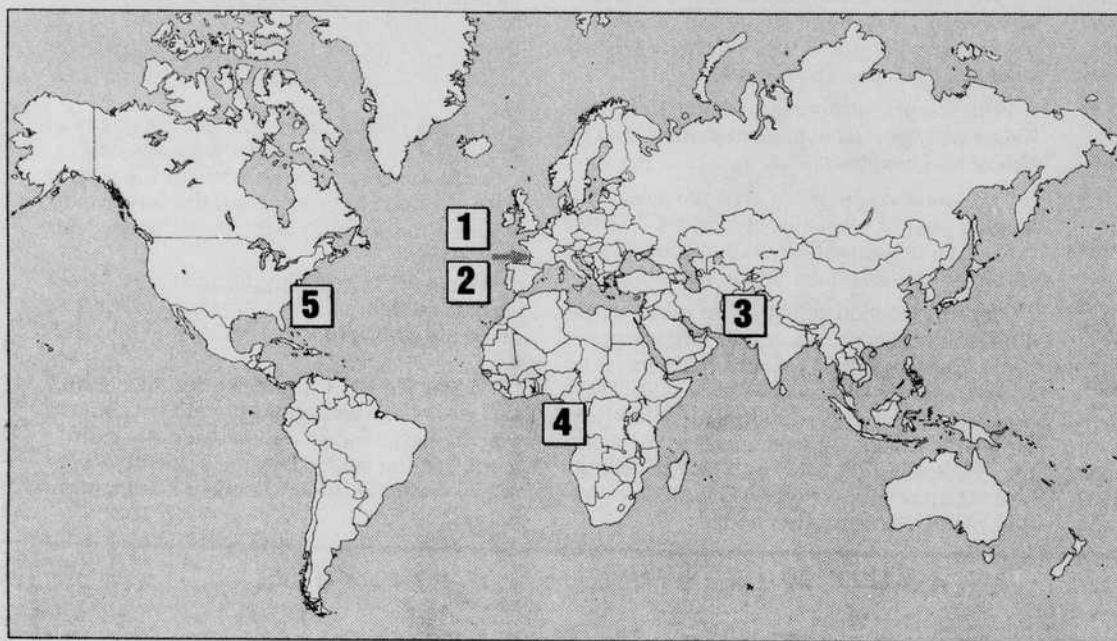
The Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation gives Moscow a consultative voice in NATO affairs, but no vote, and sets out new areas of cooperation and the West's future military intentions.

Yet as Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Clinton and leaders of the other 15 allies gather to formally approve the accord, interpretations of its meaning vary.

Russia continues to call NATO expansion plans "a strategic mistake," and Moscow has asserted that any attempt to expand into former Soviet republics, such as the Baltic states, is unacceptable.

The NATO-Russia agreement is aimed at easing Moscow's fears about the Western alliance's growth toward Russian borders. From the NATO point of view, the allies say the European security structure of the future has to include Russia.

"What we're trying to do is to create a world where the barking dogs of the 20th century don't yelp in the 21st," Clinton said about the agreement.



Prime minister of France will resign

2 PARIS — Scrambling to keep the right in power after its worst election defeat in nearly four decades, France's prime minister, Alain Juppe, announced Monday that he will resign.

The move came a day after the governing center-right coalition suffered major losses in first-round legislative elections. Juppe's planned resignation was a last-minute bid to reverse the tide before Sunday's runoff vote.

"Voters have just given us a serious warning," said Juppe, the man President Jacques Chirac once called "the best among us."

Chirac planned to address the nation in a broadcast Tuesday.

Afghanistan military chief launches attack

3 MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan — The former military chief of Afghanistan's ousted government launched a surprise attack Monday on Taliban forces moving through a mountain pass toward newly conquered territory.

The assault was a minor setback for the Taliban army, which claimed control of 90 percent of Afghanistan with the capture of a northern region.

Fighters loyal to ousted Gen. Ahmed Shah Masood fired rockets and machine guns on hundreds of Taliban soldiers attempting to drive tanks and jeeps on the Salang Highway.

New Congo president bans party meetings

4 KINSHASA, Congo — The government of President Laurent Kabila on Monday barred political parties from meeting, further undermining confidence in his promises to liberate the country from years of dictatorship.

The move is reminiscent of those imposed by Mobutu Sese Seko, the dictator Kabila ousted eight days ago, and is likely to anger Western nations that had pressed him to introduce democracy.

The announcement, made on national radio, did not say how long the ban on political activity would last or exactly what it entailed.

Campaign finance may not be fixed

5 WASHINGTON — The most prominent campaign finance bill just got an overhaul, but chances are bleak that Congress will change the way elections are funded by the July 4th deadline proposed by President Clinton.

Prospects after Independence Day are only marginally better for reformers — who are unlikely to win broad changes in the loophole that permits unlimited donations by corporations, unions and wealthy individuals.

Sen. Don Nickles, the assistant majority leader, said his GOP task force on the issue is "trying to put together a bill that we can get passed."

"No one's near to a consensus on anything," said Nickles, R-Okla.

On this the Democrats agree.

"I don't see any real movement that ought to give us any cause for optimism," said Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Nickles said there's no time in the Senate schedule to consider campaign finance changes in June, although minor legislation could be considered.

"Maybe if we take a bite of it and pass a bill that says you can't contribute to campaigns unless you're eligible to vote, that would solve part of the problem," eliminating donations from non-citizens and children, Nickles said.

Clinton said in his State of the Union address in February that he wanted a bill on his desk by July 4.



STAY ON THE BALL THIS SUMMER!

You can still register for University of Oregon Summer Session classes. Summer Duck Call's ready and waiting.

Pick up your free summer bulletin then pick up the phone.

Bulletins with schedule of classes are available in 333 Oregon Hall and at the UO Bookstore.

OREGON Summer
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
1997 SUMMER SESSION

Need Fall Term Advising? Available in Residence Hall Lobbies

- Duck Call help!
- UO graduation requirements explained.
- Fall term scheduling assistance.
- Information about various UO Depts.
- Help with any advising question you can think of.

Drop by the tables at any of the following times*:

Riley Lobby:

May 27-29
7:00-9:00 p.m.
June 3-5
7:00-9:00 p.m.

UI Lobby:

May 28-29
5:00-7:00 p.m.
June 2, 4, & 5
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Hamilton Hall, Carson Lobby:

May 27-28
5:00-7:00 p.m.
June 2-4
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Provided by
Residence Hall
Peer Advising
Program

*Time slots are subject to slight changes.

NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU TRAVEL,
YOU'RE ALWAYS CLOSE TO CAMPUS.
oregon daily emerald
now on the world wide web