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Oregon Daily
Emerald

U.S. continues to honor treaty

By William C. Mann
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States will continue to honor a nuclear test ban treaty despite its rejection by the Republican-controlled Senate, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Sunday.

A leader of anti-treaty senators warned the administration that if President Clinton again tries to have the Senate ratify the treaty, "It will be defeated."

Appearing on CNN's "Late Edition," Albright said Wednesday's 51-48 Senate vote against the Comprehensive Test Ban treaty — far below the 67 needed to ratify — "hurt us internationally" and mystified her colleagues around the world.

"What we've lost for the time being is the real international leadership in terms of trying to make others live up to the CTBT," she said.

"But I want to assure all your viewers, around the world, that the United States is going to live up to the conditions of the treaty."

She noted that Clinton was the first world leader to sign the global treaty, which has been signed by 154 nations and ratified by 51, including only 26 of the 44 countries potentially capable of producing nuclear weapons.

"The Republicans defeated a major landmark treaty that would really have helped generally in controlling nuclear weapons and our whole nonproliferation agenda," Albright said.

She did not say whether the administration would submit the pact for the Senate to reconsider its first treaty rejection since the League of Nations treaty in 1920.

John Podesta, the White House chief of staff, said, "The treaty remains before the Senate."

The administration, he said on ABC's "This Week," will "continue to press the Senate to consider it and to respond to the arguments that have been made."

Two leaders of the treaty opponents, Sens. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., and

James Inhofe, R-Okla., gave no indication such an appeal might succeed.

"It will not come up again, because the United States cannot unilaterally amend the treaty," Kyl said on ABC. "It will not come up again, and if it does, it will be defeated."

Inhofe suggested that Clinton's problem was that he failed to inform the Senate of his plans before he signed the treaty in 1996. That way, Inhofe said, the Senate would have made clear it never would have given its advice and consent required under the Constitution for a treaty's ratification.

"What the president should have done," Inhofe said, "is come to the Senate first and say, 'This is what we want to do. ... Do you think that this is going to be consented to by the Senate, if we do promulgate this?'"

Because of the treaty's flaws, Inhofe said, the answer would have been no.

Former nurse found guilty of murder

By John Kelly
The Associated Press

BRAZIL, Ind. — A former nurse was convicted of murder Sunday in the deaths of six patients who authorities said were deliberately given lethal injections at a western Indiana hospital.

Jurors hearing the case of Orville Lynn Majors told the judge they could not reach a verdict on the seventh count.

Majors, 38, could be sentenced to life in prison.

"How could they do this to him? He didn't kill anyone," Majors' sister, Debbie McClelland, said as she paced the courtroom.

Majors had contended the patients died of the ailments that put them in the hospital, but prosecutors said the deaths were consistent with injections of potassium chlo-

ride, epinephrine or both. Police found containers of those drugs at Majors' house and in his van.

The judge set sentencing for Nov. 15. Majors faces a maximum of 65 years in prison on each count.

Defense attorneys said they plan to appeal the verdict.

The patients died in a 13-month span at Vermillion County Hospital in Clinton. Relatives of the seven testified they saw Majors near the patients just before they died, and witnesses said they saw him give injections to four of the patients.

The defense called family doctors of several patients as witnesses, who said their patients died from the illnesses that brought them to the hospital.

Once the verdicts were read, relatives of the patients who died cried, hugged each other and clutched

portraits of their loved ones.

"There was never a doubt in my mind," said Paula Holdaway, daughter of Dorothea Hixon, 80, one of the six patients the jury agreed Majors killed.

Amid the celebration, Majors' elderly parents, Orvil and Anna Bell, remained in their front-row courtroom seats with shocked expressions on their faces.

Prosecutors built their case around the fact that Majors was present, and often alone, when each patient died.

Jurors never saw statistical studies that linked Majors to as many as 130 of 147 deaths at the hospital. Special Judge Ernest Yelton, fearing the deluge of information would overwhelm the jury and bog down the trial, didn't allow prosecutors to use the studies.

Irene rains on Floyd-weary North Carolina

By Emery Delesio
The Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Hurricane Irene drenched southeastern North Carolina with nearly half a foot of rain Sunday as it churned up the coast, unleashing more flooding in a region still saturated by record floodwaters from Hurricane Floyd.

A flurry of beach town evacuations preceded the storm, North Carolina's third hurricane in two months. Torrential rains in front of Irene's core swamped dozens of roads, and National Guard troops were called out to sandbag against rising flood waters.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said there was a chance Irene and its 75 mph winds might skirt the North Carolina coast without coming ashore. "It's too close to call," said meteorologist Bill Frederick.

But the greatest concern was rain, not wind, and the eastern coastal plain, inundated by Hurricane Floyd just four weeks ago, was especially vulnerable to more flooding.

By late afternoon, up to 5 1/2 inches had fallen in parts of eastern North Carolina, with several more inches possible, said the National Weather Service.

State public safety secretary Richard Moore said the worst flooding was expected in the Fayetteville area and along the Cape Fear River, expected to crest 20 feet above flood stage later this week.

No deaths had been reported in association with the storm in North Carolina by Sunday night.

Irene has been blamed for three deaths in Florida and two in Cuba.

A flash-flood warning was issued for a 100-mile-by-50-mile swath of eastern North Carolina straddling Interstate 95 between Fayetteville and Rocky Mount. Gale-force winds were measured at the coast, and a tornado was reported by radar over Jacksonville on Sunday morning.

Irene initially was expected to come ashore near the South Carolina line Sunday night, but then it picked up speed and tacked to the northeast, a path that may guide it along the coast. At 5 p.m., it was 115 miles south-southwest of Wilmington, moving northeast at 14 mph.

A hurricane warning was posted from north of Edisto Beach, S.C., to Cape Hatteras. A tropical storm warning was in effect north of Cape Hatteras to Virginia.

An evacuation order was issued for several beach towns near Wilmington, and people living in low-lying areas and mobile homes were encouraged to seek shelter. Many left homeless by Floyd were evacuated from temporary trailer villages to shelters.

"I'm getting to the point where I can't take it any more," said Herbert Person Jr., 48, who lost his Princeville home and was living in a government trailer park when he was evacuated to a shelter. "I've worked hard all my life and paid taxes, and now I feel like I have nothing."

The prospect of more flooding from Irene disheartened others still recovering from Floyd, which

drenched eastern North Carolina with up to 20 inches of rain on Sept. 16.

"I can only imagine the frustration and anxiety I have seen on people's faces, having to move again into shelters and not knowing what they will find when they go back," said Moore. "It's devastating."

The American Red Cross reported at least 410 people were staying at 40 shelters Sunday night.

State officials prepared for Irene by activating 300 National Guardsmen, opening 39 Guard armories and putting 10 water rescue teams on standby in anticipation of flooding.

Because of Floyd's destructiveness — at least 49 deaths and some 6,000 homes destroyed and billions in damages — people were taking Irene very seriously, Moore said.

"If anything, people are going to err on the extreme side of caution," he said, adding that heavy rainfall could keep eastern North Carolina rivers above flood stage all week.

In South Carolina, dozens of church services were canceled, draw bridges were locked down and the Charleston International Airport was closed. Up to 6 inches of rain fell in parts of the state.

Across the state line, Catherine Angel and her four children loaded up with steaks and videos in Wrightsville Beach outside Wilmington. She said the oil lamp and floating candles were ready, too.

"It's just the primitive nature of man to huddle around the campfire when nature's threatening. It's just the beach version," she said.