Bin Laden

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ian crusader campaign that is lead by the chief crusader Bush under the banner of the cross."

At the same time, Pakistan withdrew its diplomats Afghanistan's capital Kabul, leaving that nation's Taliban leaders and bin Laden's protectors - increasingly isolated.

nounced a new, heartbreaking form of assistance for relatives of the more than 6,400 people still lost and presumed dead in the ruins of the World Trade Center. Family members soon can apply for death certificates - even if the remains of their loved ones have not been found and identified.

The president's "Executive Order on Terrorist Financing" pro-In New York City, authorities anhibits all U.S. citizens and businesses from contributing to or engaging in financial transactions with bin Laden and others on the list. It also freezes any assets hoarded in the United States by those on the list.

Bush described the action as the first real shot of his broad, unconventional counter-offensive against those who attacked America two weeks ago or have triggered other terrorist actions.

'A major thrust of our war on terrorism began with the stroke of a pen," he said. "Today, we have launched a strike on the financial foundation of the global terror net-

The executive order lists about a dozen terrorist leaders, including Ayman al-Zawahri, bin Laden's chief deputy, and about a dozen organizations, including al-Qaida, bin Laden's main network.

Also on the list: the Wafa Humanitarian Organization and the Al Rashid Trust. Both describe themselves as charitable groups that provide food or medical care to the poor, but the administration called them terrorist fronts.

In more visible financial circles, the stock market staged a vigorous rally after last week's dramatic selloffs motivated a key Wall Street analyst to flash a buy signal.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 8,603.44, up 367.63 points. The NASDAQ ended the day at 1,499.13, up 75.94 points.

In the Middle East, bin Laden issued a statement broadcast by Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite television channel, a frequent outlet for his remarks.

He urged supporters around the world, and particularly in Pakistan, to fight what he framed as "the American crusade" against Islam. U.S. officials have been careful to focus their fury solely on bin Laden and other terrorists, and to make clear that they harbor no ill will toward Muslims.

"A major thrust of our war on terrorism began with the stroke of a pen. Today, we have launched a strike on the financial foundation of the global terror network."

> George Bush President

Bin Laden also went out of his way to praise Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban leader of Afghanistan and bin Laden's strongest shield against the West.

"I announce to you, our beloved brothers, that we are steadfast on the path of Jihad (holy war) with the heroic, faithful Afghan people, under the leadership of Mullah Mohammed Omar," said the statement from bin Laden, who has operated under Taliban protection since 1996.

In other developments:

· U.S. troops and equipment kept streaming toward the Persian Gulf area, and the Air Force announced that it was activating a special rule that allows it to suspend, for at least 30 days, all scheduled retirements and separations from active service.

· New York Mayor Rudy Giu-

liani acknowledged that virtually no hope remains of finding survivors in the trade center's rubble.

"I believe it is certainly time to say chances of finding anyone alive would involve a miracle," Giuliani said. The toll at the World Trade Center stands at 276 bodies recovered and 6,453 people missing.

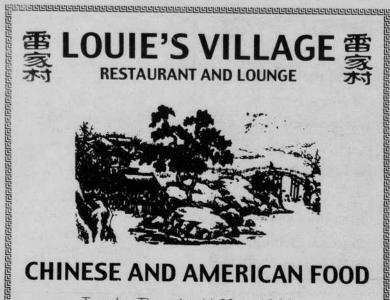
· In another move to shore up Pakistan, the administration said it would ask Congress to lift sanctions imposed in 1999 after that nation's military overthrew a democratically elected government. That would allow Washington to provide economic and military assistance to the government of President Pervez Musharraf.

 The Senate approved a longdelayed free trade pact with Jordan, a demonstration of support for a key Middle East ally. The House approved the measure nearly two months ago.

• Russian President Vladimir Putin said his nation would ship weapons and military equipment to Afghan rebels. He did not offer to contribute troops to the U.S. anti-terrorist offensive, but he suggested that former Soviet republics in Central Asia might allow their airfields to be used.

· As a condition to joining a U.S.-led coalition, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is demanding not only persuasive evidence about bin Laden or other suspects but also advance notice about potential targets, according to a Western diplomatic source.

(Knight Ridder Newspapers correspondents Seth Borenstein, Sumana Chatterjee, Ron Hutcheson, Jonathan S. Landay, Mark Mc-Donald, Carol Rosenberg and Bob Cox contributed to this report.) @ 2001, Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.



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