



News Summary

INTERNATIONAL A3-16

Arabs Back Israel Overture And Show Support for Iraq

The Arab nations committed themselves to accepting Israel as a neighbor if it met a set of conditions — many of which Israel has long rejected — leading to creation of an independent Palestinian state. The Saudi proposal, adopted at an Arab League meeting in Beirut, departs from previous Arab attempts by assuring Israel that the Arabs would forge "normal relations" with Israel if it took certain steps to end the Mideast conflict. A1

Saddam Hussein secured broad Arab support in opposing any American military action against Iraq. A1

Yasir Arafat, with Israeli tanks and troops moving into position for possible retaliation after a Palestinian suicide bombing at a Passover gathering, declared his "readiness to implement an immediate cease-fire." A15

Polish Bishop Resigns

Pope John Paul II accepted the resignation of a high-ranking Polish prelate, Archbishop Juliusz Paetz of Poznan, left, who had been accused of molesting young seminarians. A12

World Briefing

A16

NATION CHALLENGED A18-20

Report on Towers' Fall Finds Fire Systems Failed

Fireproofing, sprinkler systems and the water supply for hoses largely failed in the twin towers on Sept. 11 in the face of a fire that drove temperatures up to 2,000 degrees and generated heat equal to the energy output of three or more nuclear power plants, a draft of a federal report said. Still, the report says, the towers showed surprising and life-saving resiliency. A1

Big Cache of Smallpox Vaccine

Federal officials said they might have access to much more smallpox vaccine than thought, disclosing that Aventis Pasteur of France has long had up to 90 million doses in cold storage. The finding alters options for responding to a smallpox attack. A1

The vaccine has significant risks and the likelihood of terrorists' using smallpox is considered low, federal health officials said. A19

The Pentagon's Confidence

The Defense Department's top civilian and military leaders said the armed forces were able to expand the war on terror despite the tempo of operations in Afghanistan and concerns from some commanders that troops were being stretched thin. A18

A Navy Seal was killed while training near Kandahar, Afghanistan. A18

Rumsfeld Defends Detentions

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said that preventing Afghan war prisoners from returning to the battlefield was justification for a plan to hold some prisoners even if they were acquitted in military tribunals. A18

U.S. Affirms Death Penalty Plan

Attorney General John Ashcroft said prosecutors would seek the death penalty for Zacarias Moussaoui, who faces trial on conspiracy charges in the Sept. 11 terror attacks. A20

NATIONAL A22-25

G.O.P. Tensions Exposed In Round of Finger-Pointing

Leading Republicans in Congress complain that the White House is not sufficiently energetic in helping them in the November elections. President Bush's advisers respond that members of Congress have not appreciated his help and should be far more aggressive in defending him. A24

President Bush said the Senate's rejection of Charles W. Pickering Sr. as an appellate court nominee would not dissuade him from pushing for "good, conservative judges." A24

Vehicles May Return to Dunes

Federal officials want to reopen land in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area in California that was put off limits to dune buggies and other off-road vehicles in late 2000. A22

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Study Links TV and Violence

Teenagers and young adults who watch more than an hour of television daily are more likely to commit violent crimes and engage in other forms of aggressive behavior later. A25

Prescription Use Soars

Consumer spending on prescription drugs rose more than 17 percent last year, to \$154.5 billion in pharmacies; mail-order sales rose 27 percent, to \$20.7 billion, a study found. A24

NEW YORK/REGION B1-10

Firefighters' Financial Firm Has a Troubled Past

Families of city firefighters killed on Sept. 11 who seek financial guidance are being steered by the firefighters' union to a Long Island firm, Goldis Financial Group, whose record is tarnished by questionable and in some cases illegal conduct by employees and business associates, some of whom had mob ties, officials say. A1

U.S. Indicts City Councilman

Angel Rodriguez, a Brooklyn Democrat who recently sought the speakership, was charged with demanding a \$1.5 million bribe on a real estate deal from a developer in exchange for supporting renovation of a waterfront warehouse in his district. B1

Mr. Rodriguez resigned his committee positions but retains his council seat and its \$90,000 annual salary. B4

EDUCATION

Inquiry Finds Favoritism

SUNY officials repeatedly violated university rules and twisted the process of selecting consultants so that they could award contracts to an architect who is Governor Pataki's neighbor and a relative by marriage, the state inspector general said. B1

OBITUARIES A26-27

Billy Wilder

The caustic writer and director who won six Academy Awards and wide acclaim but who spent his last two decades begging Hollywood to let him make another movie was 95. A1

WEEKEND E1-32; E33-42

SPORTS D1-8

Male Coaches Feel Threatened

A number of the men who coach women's college basketball teams believe that they are being squeezed out because, as Geno Auriemma of Connecticut said, "it's not politically correct anymore" to hire men. D1

QUOTATION OF THE DAY

"One of the things the White House will find is that the nature of Congress is not to stand up and applaud every time the White House does something."

HOUSE SPEAKER
J. DENNIS HASTERT. [A24]

BUSINESS DAY C1-12

Enron and Qwest Had a Deal

Enron and the telecommunications giant Qwest Communications struck a deal last fall to swap fiber optic network capacity and services at exaggerated prices in an effort to improve each company's financial picture, executives said. C1

Arthur Andersen said it would proceed with a plan proposed by Paul A. Volcker, the former Fed chairman, to split its auditing and consulting work into separate businesses. The Justice Department signaled its intention to proceed with prosecution of the firm on obstruction-of-justice charges in the Enron case. C1

Good Quarter for Blue Chips

The Dow ended the first quarter up 3.8 percent, but the S. & P. 500 fell fractionally and the Nasdaq finished 5.4 percent lower. Market strategists say stocks may be poised for a rally as the economy continues to strengthen and inflation remains quiescent. Markets are closed today. C1

Bid to Block Compaq Deal

Walter B. Hewlett, son of a co-founder of Hewlett-Packard, asked a Delaware court to block the company's \$24 billion merger with Compaq, citing actions by managers that he said were improper. C2

Business Digest

World Business

EDITORIAL A28-29

Editorials: Mideast peace, Mideast carnage; college hoops and academics; vindication on clean air; Mr. Television.

Columns: Nicholas D. Kristof, Paul Krugman.

Crossword . E42 TV Listings . E31 Public Lives . B2 Weather . D8

Corrections

An article on Tuesday about testimony at a sentencing hearing for Krishna Maharaj, who was convicted of having killed two Jamaican businessmen, misspelled the given name of the judge. He is Jerald Bagley, not Jerard.

An article on Sunday about yoga instruction in some San Francisco schools misstated the name of the organization that provided a stipend to train teachers in hatha yoga. It is the San Francisco Education Fund, not Education Foundation.

A report in the Bulletin Board column of the Education page on Wednesday about a \$2 million pledge to Quinnipiac University referred incorrectly to Robert W. Evans, a former dean for whom a liberal arts center is to be named. He is not "late"; he is retired, in Arkansas.

A report in the Boldface Names column on Tuesday about a memoir by Thomas Von Essen, the former fire commissioner, referred imprecisely to the role of Rebecca Kurson. She is still his agent; her representation was not limited to the initial stages of finding a publisher.

The report also misstated the timing of the book proposal. It went to publishers and was sold to Regan-Books/HarperCollins by the literary firm of Liza Dawson Associates before Ms. Kurson left the firm.

Because of an editing error, the report also misstated the current

working title of a book that Rudolph W. Giuliani is writing with Ms. Kurson's husband, Ken Kurson. It is "Leadership," not "Rudy's Rules."

Because of an editing error, the obituary of Milton Berle yesterday referred incorrectly to his son, Bill. Bill Berle did not die in 1989; he resides in Sherman Oaks, Calif., where he writes grants and raises money for a charity that helps the homeless.

An obituary of the Canadian artist Jean-Paul Riopelle on Sunday misidentified a project known as Refus Global and his involvement with it. It was a manifesto against Canadian social conservatism that he and other artists signed, not a group of

which he was a co-founder.

A brief report in the News Watch column of Circuits yesterday about a digital voice recorder with a cradle for transferring audio to a computer misstated the model number. It is the Olympus DS-330, not D330.

The Times welcomes comments and suggestions, as well as information about errors that call for correction. Messages may be e-mailed to nytimes@nytimes.com or left at this toll-free number: 1-888-NYTNEWS (1-888-698-6397). For comments on an editorial: letters@nytimes.com (by fax, 212-556-3622). For news/paper delivery questions: 1-800-NYTNEWS (1-800-698-4637).



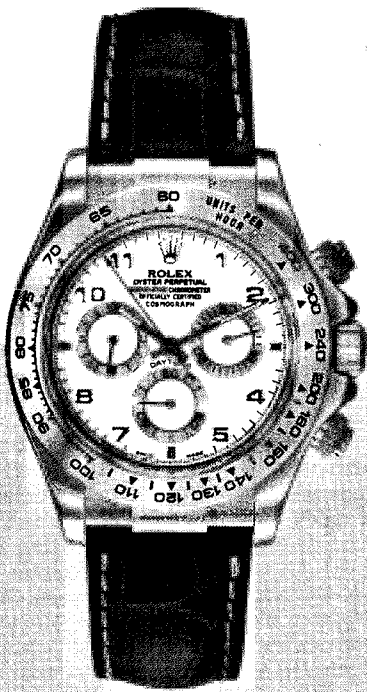
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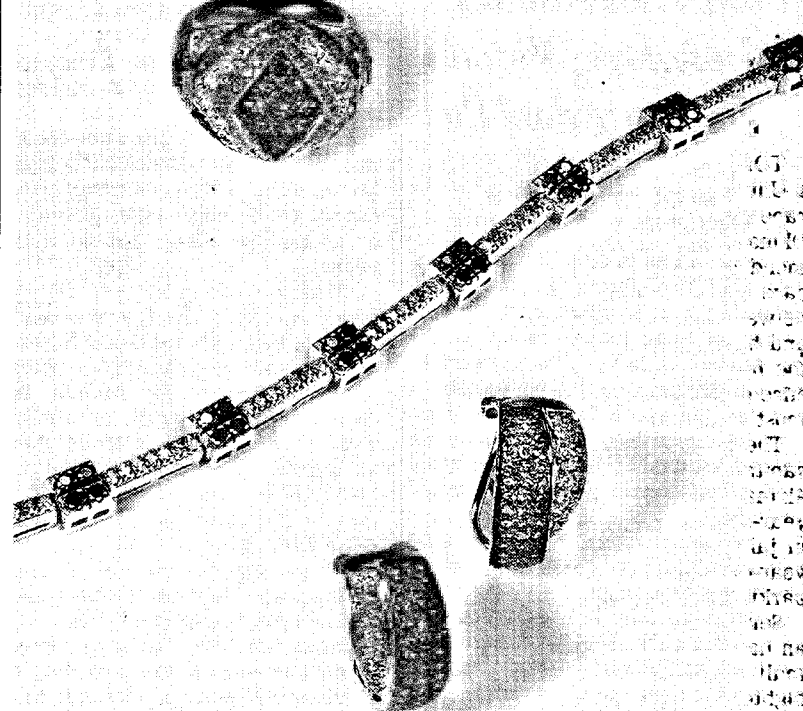


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