

WORLD

Albright Asks Russia to Intervene With Saddam

Moscow agrees, but won't back use of force

By Laura Meyer
Associated Press

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright appealed to her Russian counterpart yesterday to use his nation's close relationship with Iraq to persuade Saddam Hussein to allow full access to U.N. weapons inspectors.



U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has not ruled out the possibility of military action against Iraq

Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov has promised to help, but he warns that Russia will not support the use of force if diplomatic efforts fail to persuade Saddam to allow the search of sites that he has designated as "palaces."

firm," Albright said at a joint council session of NATO and Russia after meeting privately with Primakov.

Albright called for persistence in negotiating to gain U.N. Security Council support to force Iraq to give unfettered access to inspectors. But, like President Clinton the day before, she held out the possibility of military action.

"We must persist in diplomatic efforts to secure Iraqi compliance, without ruling out other options if diplomacy fails," Albright told the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council.

Primakov has stressed that Russia won't go beyond diplomacy.

"We are against the use of force," he said at a news conference. "I think in this regard, we have a solid majority behind this position. At the same time, we feel Iraq must work with the special U.N. commission."

A Russian-brokered agreement last month eased a three-week crisis touched off after Iraq expelled American members of the weapons teams.

Albright's appeal came during the second meeting of the NATO-Russia council, created this year to ease Moscow's concerns about the expansion of the military alliance toward its western border. In 1999, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will join NATO, which

was formed after World War II to defend Europe against possible Soviet aggression.

Albright suggested to the 15 other NATO nations and Russia that dealing with Iraq is a test for handling future peril. "I trust we also agree that the gravest potential threat to our security in the next century may come from beyond Europe, from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

Inspectors must certify that Iraq has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction before the council will lift tough economic sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which led to the Persian Gulf War in early 1991.

After two days of talks in Baghdad, chief inspector Richard Butler said this week that Iraq will not budge on palace access.

On another matter, Albright called on the State Duma, Russia's parliament, to approve the START II arms control agreement so that Clinton can go ahead with his planned state visit to Moscow next year, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Primakov told her that the treaty has a good chance of being ratified in the new year.

Albright also told Primakov that Moscow should take all "practical actions" to cut off Iran's development of a nuclear missile program.

BRIEFING Latin America

Civilians Fight Dirty In Mexican Rebel War

Supporters of both sides get violent

By Trina Kiziat
Chronicle Foreign Service

Kolohantaj, Mexico
Pale and weak, Zapatista supporter Maria Perez Santa clutched her shawl-wrapped, 3-week-old son to her breast. Through tears she told how she gave birth to her second child in the mountains, after fleeing an attack by pro-government peasants.

She and hundreds of other rebel supporters have taken refuge in a tiny hamlet in the forest, living in huts draped with plastic sheeting and banana leaves against the torrential rains.

Several mountain ridges away, Angelina Perez Perez wept as she recounted how pro-Zapatista gunmen shot her husband dead a day after her family and 600 other government supporters fled their village of Chiminix in a hail of bullets.

Her two smallest sons hung in frayed shawls around her body, while her barefoot 5-year-old hid his mucous-streaked face in her hand-woven blue skirt.

The women would probably consider each other enemies, each on the opposite side of the conflict between the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army and the state and federal governments in the highlands of Chiapas state.

A new wave of violence between supporters of the two sides has left at least 30 Indian peasants dead and has created at least 6,600 refugees in the northern highlands during the past three months. The bloodshed has poisoned attempts to re-start peace talks, which broke off in August 1996.

The violence is evidence that the conflict has degenerated into a proxy war fought by Indian peasants, paramilitary groups and state police, rather than by the rebels themselves and the federal army.

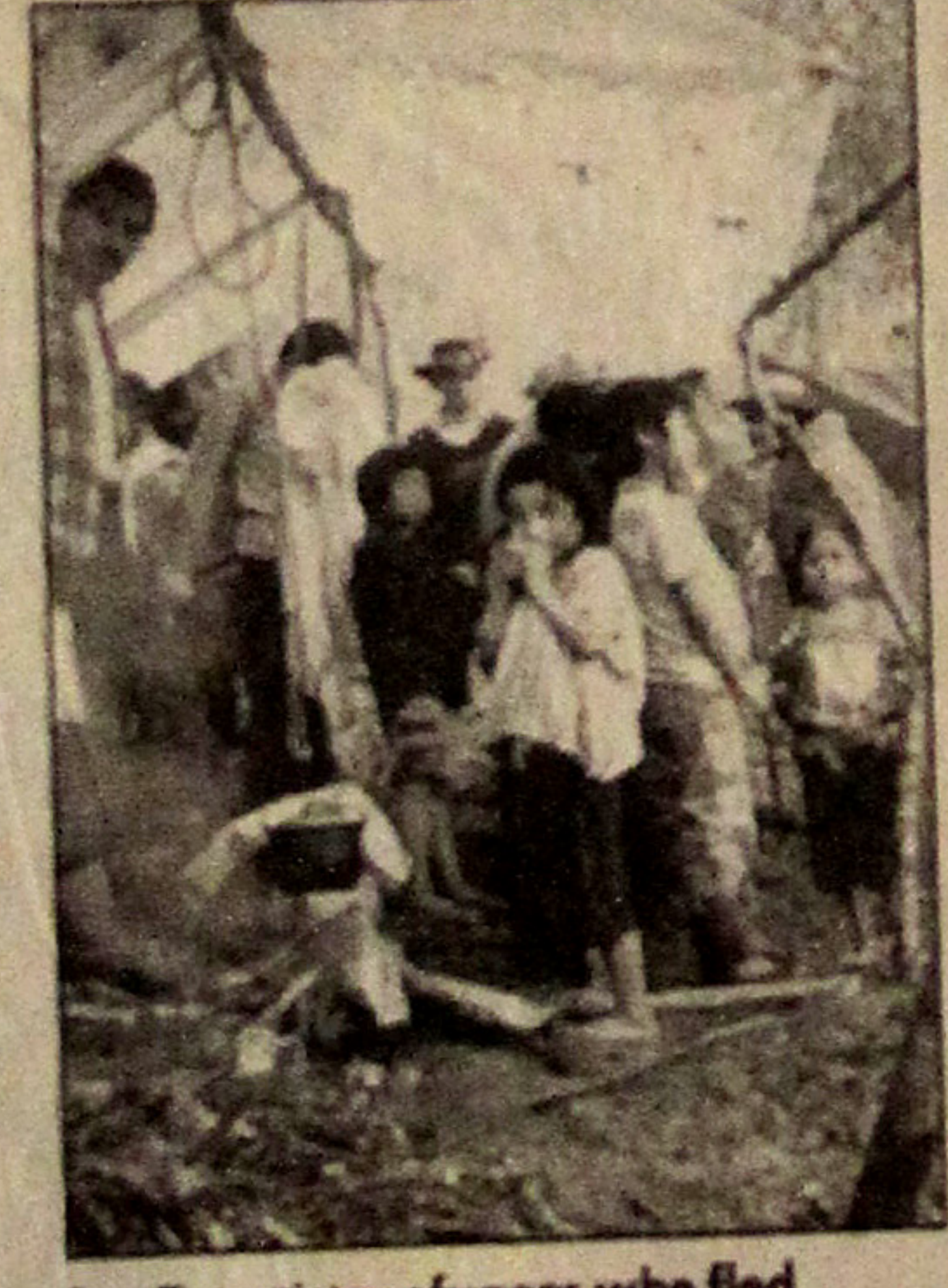
"What we are seeing is the thesis that it is not sufficient to confront the armed insurrection directly," said former congressman and mediator Cesar Chavez of the left-of-center



Chi'ol Indians who back the government showed a photo of a man who they say was killed by Zapatistas



Angelina Perez said her husband was killed by Zapatista supporters



Pro-Zapatista refugees who fled government gunmen in Chenalho county, Chiapas state

KEY EVENTS IN THE ZAPATISTA REBELLION

- Jan. 1, 1994: About 2,000 Zapatistas attack and briefly occupy five major Chiapas towns. Ten days of intermittent fighting follow, with death toll estimates ranging from 130 to 400.
- January 12, 1994: After adopting a hard line against the rebels in early fighting, the government backpedals and agrees to a cease-fire.
- March 1994: Government and Zapatistas start peace negotiations.
- February 1995: The government identifies rebel leader Subcommander Marcos as former university professor Rafael Guillen. Thousands of federal army soldiers advance into rebel areas. Although little combat occurs before the

troops' advance stops, the offensive dramatically reduces the amount of territory the rebels control.

- February 1996: In the Chiapas village of San Andres Larrainzar, rebel and government representatives sign a partial peace accord on indigenous rights.
- August 1996: Rebels pull out of peace talks, accusing the government of stalling.
- November 1996: Congressional mediators offer a draft bill to implement the indigenous rights accord. The rebels accept it, but President Ernesto Zedillo asks for changes. Each side has blamed the other for intransigence.

Chronicle research

Mandela's Ex-Wife Shut Out of Race

New ANC leader has slate to become president in '99

Chronicle News Services

Mafikeng, South Africa
Only a few dozen hands went up yesterday when Winnie Madikizela-Mandela sought the governing party's No. 2 job, and she bowed out gracefully by hugging the winner.

The reversal by President Nelson Mandela's ex-wife, who had hoped to overcome her isolation by the African National Congress leadership, gave new party president Thabo Mbeki the slate of top officials he wanted to guide the ANC through the 1999 election.

As leader of the party that won nearly two-thirds of the vote in the historic all-race elections of 1994, Mbeki is virtually certain to become the country's next president in 1999.

Mbeki, 53, an ex-combatant who studied economics at Britain's Sussex University, was the only candidate to succeed Mandela as ANC president on the second day of the party's 50th national conference. He is expected to bring a new direction as leader, emphasizing the need to transform the economy of the apartheid-scarred country over the need to reconcile nervous whites with impatient blacks.

Madikizela-Mandela wanted to challenge national chairman Jacob Zuma for the deputy presidency of the party. Shut out of the pre-conference nomination process, she tried to engineer a nomination from the convention floor and force a vote by the 3,064 delegates.

But earlier yesterday, the ANC made it more difficult to be nominated from the floor — requiring nominations to be seconded by 25 percent of the delegates rather than 10 percent. When only a few dozen people raised their hands for her, Madikizela-Mandela asked for a moment to consult with supporters.

When her request was denied, she announced her withdrawal.

"Those comrades who nominated me, I apologize for having to decline," Madikizela-Mandela said from the stage, drawing cheers.

Zuma then was confirmed as the winner, and Madikizela-Mandela hugged him as the conference celebrated the result with singing and dancing.

Later, Madikizela-Mandela refused to speak to reporters.

A victory over Zuma would have made Madikizela-Mandela the party's second-ranking official and could have positioned her to become deputy president of South Africa.

Madikizela-Mandela, 63, was divorced from Mandela last year and has long been ostracized by the mainstream anti-apartheid movement because of her insubordination and the persistent accusations that she ordered slayings and torture by her bodyguards in the late 1980s.



Thabo Mbeki



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela

Israel Digs in Heels Over U.S. Request for Larger Withdrawals

Netanyahu to meet Albright without any new offers

By Serge Schmemmann
New York Times

Jerusalem
After another brutal and inconclusive battle within his Cabinet, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu left yesterday for a meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris without a formal proposal on further Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

Netanyahu's departure was delayed for five hours while Cabinet ministers fought over the details of any deal on the West Bank. In the end, the leader of the most hawkish camp, Infrastructures Minister Ariel Sharon, wrested a pledge from Netanyahu not to present Albright with any new maps or plans.

That led Foreign Minister David Levy, who had insisted that Netanyahu go with something concrete to present, to boycott the trip.

Yet even as the political battle raged, there were reports that American mediators are secretly

working with Israeli and Palestinian negotiators on a new package to restart peace talks.

The daily newspaper Maariv said senior Israeli and Palestinian security officials are working with representatives of the CIA to set up a joint program to fight terrorism.

Israeli television and Maariv said Netanyahu is prepared to propose a withdrawal from more than 10 percent of the West Bank, coupled with a slowdown in settlement activities in the occupied territories, and conditioned on solid evidence that the Palestinians are combatting terrorism. After the

withdrawal, negotiations would begin on a comprehensive agreement.

But because of the stormy Cabinet battles, it is unclear whether Netanyahu can find support for such a plan in his government.

The fray stems from the growing pressure Albright has been putting on Netanyahu to advance the negotiating process, which has been frozen for 10 months. The key demand is that Israel make three further withdrawals from the West Bank, pullbacks that according to the Oslo agreements were to have been completed in September.

Netanyahu agreed to a modified schedule last March but has reneged on its commitments, claiming that the Palestinian Authority has failed to combat terrorism.

For the hawks and religious nationalists who form the majority in Netanyahu's government, the withdrawal is the real issue in any deal with the Palestinians. Sharon fired the first shot, presenting detailed maps that would keep 64 percent of the West Bank in Israeli hands, including all Jewish settlements.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mor-

dechai countered with a map prepared by the Army that retains a more modest 52 percent of the West Bank for Israel. More explosively, the map designated 42 of the 144 Jewish settlements as not critical to Israeli security.

After reports Tuesday of secret negotiations with the Americans, Sharon reportedly exploded at Netanyahu, warning the prime minister that he is approaching "the point of endangering the national interests of the state of Israel," after which Sharon would not hesitate to "go all the way" to oust Netanyahu.