

# National News

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## 'Maggie' greets Thatcher in Washington

Protesters greeted former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher when she appeared at an event sponsored by the Heritage Foundation, the Hoover Institution, and the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

Outside the hotel where the meeting was held, "Maggie Thatcher," dressed in drag with "George Bush" on a leash down on all fours, was carrying a sign which read, "The Empire Lives. Yesterday the Falklands, Today Iraq, Tomorrow the World" on one side, and "I Love the U.S.A., It's my favorite colony!" on the other. "George," on his knees, barking like a dog, was holding a sign that read "Join the new world order."

When the real Mrs. Thatcher arrived, she laughed and waved at the demonstrators. The scene was recorded by a Reuters photographer, who said "this will be all over the papers tomorrow."

Thatcher was awarded the U.S. "Medal of Freedom," America's highest civilian medal, on March 7 by President Bush. Americans are more likely than Britons to empathize with the former Conservative leader, the March 8 London *Times* reported. "Many, unfamiliar with the British political system, are shocked that her once loyal supporters in the Commons appear to have dumped her so unceremoniously after more than a decade of defiant leadership."

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## Foreign corruption faulted in drug war

Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters Melvin Levitsky told a Washington, D.C. press conference March 4 that the major obstacle to a successful war on drugs is the "corruption of foreign politicians and law enforcement officials bought by the drug runners." The Bush official claimed that "it appears that except for the United States, drug abuse is rising all over

the world," despite the fact that law enforcement officials and medical experts nationwide have denounced the Bush administration's claims of a domestic "near victory" as an outright lie.

Levitsky emphasized that the U.S. will continue to concentrate its anti-drug efforts *abroad*, focusing on disrupting the "supply" side of the narcotics industry's free enterprise initiative. He said nary a word about the escalating drug consumption and *production* problem at home, including, for example, the \$50 billion a year U.S. marijuana industry, which produces 27% of the world's marijuana supply. Nor did he address the problem of the drug-dependent U.S. banking system, which launders most of the "dirty" dollars stemming from the international drug trade.

Levitsky worked hand-in-hand with Henry G. Barr, a long-time top aide to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, in "fighting foreign corruption." Barr, only one of several Thornburgh aides who are either under indictment or suspicion of drug crimes, was convicted on Feb. 5 on charges of cocaine possession and conspiracy to distribute.

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## Korea next hotspot, says Pentagon official

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Carl Ford Jr. told a Senate committee that Korea is the likely next site of military confrontation, Hessischer Rundfunk radio reported March 7.

"We remain concerned that this is the most likely place in the region for hostilities to erupt," Ford told the committee. North Korea's Kim Il-Sung, "one of the few communist ideologues left in the world . . . persists in ruling North Korea with an iron hand and continues a military buildup that in no way could be called defensive."

Ford and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon warned that Kim Il Sung's regime continues strengthening the military despite a sagging national economy, has weapons production far larger than needed for its own defense, and that North Korea

remains the last dictatorial communist regime which threatens to expand.

Concern was also expressed about North Korea's atomic weapons programs. Solomon told the House East Asia and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee that North Korea continues to violate its obligation to submit to international nuclear inspection, and that this is creating a "most destabilizing" situation. "Japan is concerned, the Soviet Union and China are concerned," he said, the March 8 *Bangkok Post* reported.

On March 9, Pyongyang claimed that South Korean troops opened up fire with "large-caliber weapons" on a North Korean post on the Demilitarized Zone near the town of Panmunjom, where the armistice negotiations took place at the end of the Korean war, according to Radio Moscow. Pyongyang said that the joint U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit" military exercises, which it calls a "military provocation," are now in "active combat operations."

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## Los Angeles police brutalize unarmed victim

Rodney King, a black motorist who had violated his parole, was beaten by officers of the Los Angeles Police Department March 7 while he begged for mercy. Numerous witnesses have come forward to complain, and a citizen who was awakened by police cruisers, recorded the horror show on videotape.

King was chased by police, who claimed that he charged one of the 10 officers who surrounded him in a circle as he got out of his car. The photographer, George Holliday, says that "Before they started hitting him he was pretty much cooperative." According to other witnesses, the police first shot King with a stun gun, then began beating him. The videotape shows police jostling one another to take turns swinging at King, two at a time, wielding their batons like baseball bats, hitting on both the fore-swing and the backswing, with over 30 blows and numerous kicks recorded.

"It was a weird feeling," said Holliday, "I was trying to think, what could he have

done to deserve that?" Another witness said, "I never saw him offer any resistance." Another witness, a 52-year-old nurse, told the *Los Angeles Times* she could hear King pleading "Please stop, please stop," and that after the beating was over, the policemen "were all laughing and chuckling, like they had just had a party."

Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates claims that the incident was "an aberration." But the LAPD conducted public beatings and torture of elderly women, priests, and bishops during an Operation Rescue pro-life rally two years ago, for which action Gates was compared to a war criminal by a California legislator. Recently, Gates suggested that blacks die as a result of choke holds administered by the police because their bodies are somehow abnormal. According to the *New York Times*, he also asserted that an El Salvadoran resident killed by a police officer had no place in the United States. Last September, Gates proposed to a U.S. Senate committee that casual drug users should be shot.

## Two anti-war black soldiers win backing

Kevin Mills, a 19-year-old Army reservist, and Jean-Claude Rainey, a 21-year-old Marine reservist, who have resisted deployment to the Persian Gulf, appeared at the Union Temple Baptist church on Sunday, March 5, a black church in Washington, D.C. whose congregation had voted to open their church as sanctuary to war resisters. They spoke to reporters on the church steps, and then surrendered to military authorities.

Rainey refused deployment to the Gulf War after hearing Don Alexander speak at a Washington anti-war rally Jan. 4, and has said on TV that his objections to war strengthened when he found out what the U.S. did in the Panama invasion.

Rainey has been charged with a number of military violations, including missing a troop movement and desertion. His lawyer, Hope Brown, called the charges "extremely harsh," and said the military didn't process his conscientious objector application in

time, and he was forced to "go AWOL" to avoid the Gulf deployment. A *Philadelphia Inquirer* story noted that the charge of desertion, in wartime, carries a possible death sentence under military law.

Lamont Mitchell, chairman of the church's board of trustees, told reporters that the church's congregation is "adamantly opposed" to the war. "We support the troops but we live the mandate of Christ. We have a situation here where George Bush has injected religion throughout this conflict, as if God has given him a mandate to kill hundreds, thousands of people. We don't care how popular Bush supposedly is; our God doesn't tell us that, our church doesn't tell us that, and our goals don't change with the polls."

## Medical journal renews drive for euthanasia

The *New England Journal of Medicine* continued its drive to legalize euthanasia, reporting in early March on the latest action of a doctor assisting in a patient's suicide.

The journal reports how Dr. Timothy E. Quill instructed his patient, "Diane," whom he describes as having leukemia, to contact the Hemlock Society for information and assistance to complete her suicide plans. Quill says after he discussed all her treatment and suicide options, his patient opted for suicide. Despite the fact that the patient had a 25% chance of beating her disease, Quill went public with his role so that physicians would know "that it was right" for doctors to help dying patients have a dignified death. Quill said he prescribed barbiturates for his patient, knowing they would be used for her suicide.

The editor of the journal argued that it is a doctor's duty to help his patient, and that is what Quill was doing. Quill's main objection to the latest known assisted suicide/murder by Michigan doctor Jack Kevorkian, was the method involved. Kevorkian did not know his patient well, and he focused on machines, making the killing a "mechanized, sterilized process."

## Briefly

● **CONLEY HOLBROOK**, 26, who was beaten unconscious eight years ago, has come out of his coma and given police the names of his attackers. Holbrook had been unable to speak, unaware of anything around him, and in the constant care of relatives, but fortunately had not been put to death like other comatose patients.

● **SEN. CHUCK ROBB** (D-Va.) thinks only Bush Democrats have a shot at the White House. On the Gulf war, Robb advised Democrats: "Anyone who might be looking at [running for President] ought to praise the President to the hilt for the way he has handled the war. Anyone who doesn't will simply look foolish."

● **OLIVER NORTH'S** firm, Guardian Technologies, has been awarded a nearly \$1 million contract to supply bullet proof vests to Kuwaiti law enforcement.

● **THE U.S. PLANS** to cut its troop strength in Europe by half over the next five years, Gen. John Galvin, commander of the U.S. European Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee March 7.

● **THE U.S. SECOND** Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers New York, has ruled that airports are not public forums and that solicitation can be prohibited. In their opinion, which sets back the clock 60 years on freedom of speech, the court cites the U.S. Supreme Court opinion in *U.S. v. Kokinda* which prohibited solicitation at post offices.

● **THE SPOTTED OWL**, whose supposed threatened extinction is used to halt logging, has begun to mate with another, more common owl, the barred owl (offspring are called "spurred owls"), according to *National Geographic* magazine, endangering its own species. The spurred owl seems to be adapting easily to areas already logged.