

# Elian's father cleared for visa, travel to US

By George Gedda  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The State Department cleared the way last night for Juan Miguel Gonzalez to travel to the United States so he can pursue his quest to be reunited with his son Elian, as negotiations continued between immigration officials and the boy's Miami relatives. The department granted the senior Gonzalez's visa request along with those of his wife, infant son and Elian's male cousin, kindergarten teacher and pediatrician. The visas for the six could be issued as early as today. The Cubans' request for 22 other visas — to Elian's classmates as well as National Assembly President Rafael Alarcon, a top aide to Cuban President Fidel Castro, was still being reviewed. State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said U.S. diplomats in Havana will submit lists of questions to the Cuban government concerning these requests to determine the merits of the cases. Negotiations over the custody

issues recessed last night without any word on whether any progress had been made.

Manny Diaz, attorney for Elian Gonzalez's Miami relatives, said, "We continue to be first and foremost concerned about the mental, psychological well-being of this young 6-year-old. To that extent we have spent a lot of time talking about numerous issues and we will be back tomorrow to continue our conversations."

Outside the family's Miami house, Elian and two cousins played on a slide. They hid behind a blue tarp hung in front of the slide and teased photographers by pretending to shoot at them with toy guns.

About 150 protesters gathered in front of the home, some waving signs like "Miss Reno, are you ready for another Waco? We are." and "Clinton Coward, Reno Witch, Fidel Loco." The Immigration and Naturalization Service had said earlier it would end the Miami relatives' custody of Elian this morning if they did not agree to give him up if they lose an appeal of a federal court decision they lost last month.

# Japan faces leadership crisis

By Joseph Coleman  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO — Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was on life support yesterday after a stroke, leaving the Japanese government to grapple with a leadership crisis and the possibility of dissolving the Cabinet and finding a successor.

There was also growing anger over the delays by the government in reporting Obuchi's illness to the public.

Despite assurances from officials that Japan would not veer from its economic and political course, speculation was rife that Obuchi's illness could plunge Japan into turmoil and possibly lead to early elections.

However, the political establishment appeared to be moving quickly to name a successor to the prime minister, with media reports saying the Cabinet could resign as early as tomorrow so a new one can be formed. With that as a possibility, it appeared likely that Chief Cabinet Secretary Mikio Aoki, who took over as acting prime minister yesterday, would be able to keep the government together until then.

Media reports were widespread that Yoshiro Mori, the secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was the likely successor. Obuchi, 62, was hospitalized early Sunday after complaining of fatigue. His condition deteriorated rapidly, and Aoki announced yesterday that Obuchi had suffered a stroke and was in a coma. He was put on a respirator. His wife, Chizuko, was reportedly at his side. Tokyo's private TBS television network quoted unidentified doctors late yesterday as saying that Obuchi was clinically brain dead. The prime minister's office said it could not confirm the report, and officials at Tokyo's Juntendo University Hospital were unavailable late yesterday. Meanwhile, Aoki defended the timing of the reporting Obuchi's illness to the public. The government waited nearly 24 hours to announce that he had been hospitalized and leaving the public in the dark about the

seriousness of his condition for 12 more hours.

"When the prime minister went to the hospital initially, all he said was he wasn't feeling well," Aoki said. "We never thought things would turn out this way."

President Clinton praised Obuchi. "He has been a good friend to me personally, he's been a good friend of the United States," Clinton told reporters.

Aoki is seen as well-connected in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. However, party leaders were expected to look at other candidates for a nominee to replace Obuchi. Whoever is selected would likely win the approval of parliament, which is controlled by the LDP.

Opposition lawmakers were also expected to resist the appointment of a stopgap prime minister from the ruling coalition ranks, said Shigenori Okazaki, a political analyst at Warburg Dillon Read.

"They will keep demanding an early election," he said. "This raises the possibility of a lower-house election even before" the G-8 summit of industrialized nations in July. Japan is to be host of the summit.

Besides Mori, another name that has come up as a possible successor is that of Foreign Minister Yohei Kono.



Obuchi

# Senior war crimes suspect arrested

Jerome Socolovsky  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — U.N. prosecutors rejoiced as the most senior war crimes suspect to date was arrested yesterday in Bosnia and brought for trial, galvanizing their crusade to bring the architects of the Balkan "ethnic cleansing" campaigns to justice.

Momcilo Krajisnik, a close ally of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, was arrested at his home in Pale by French NATO troops who witnesses said forced open his door before dawn. Yugoslavia's state-run Tanjug news agency said Krajisnik was led away in his pajamas and bare feet.

Krajisnik is charged with every war crime on the Yugoslav tribunal's statute, including genocide, in an indictment filed secretly by Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte in February so as not to let the suspect know prose-

cutors were on his trail. The indictment, unsealed yesterday, charges Krajisnik with being the principal strategist, along with Karadzic, behind civilian massacres aimed at carving an ethnically pure Serb state out of Bosnian territory.

It catalogs dozens of destroyed villages and the massacres of hundreds of people, as well as naming 11 prison camps where non-Serbs were detained and tortured, executed or deported. Conviction would mean a maximum life sentence for Krajisnik, 55. He is expected to appear before the court this week to enter a plea.

Krajisnik is the 19th suspect arrested by the military alliance on a warrant from the tribunal, established seven years ago to prosecute those responsible for atrocities in the Balkans following the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991. NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson warned remaining war crimes suspects that "the net is closing" on

them. The arrest was an indication of how far the tribunal — the first international war crimes court since after World War II — has come since its early years, when its indictments were largely ignored and support from the Security Council was halfhearted at best.

"It's a very good day for the tribunal," said prosecution spokesman Paul Risley.

Krajisnik outranks the 36 other suspects in tribunal custody, including three Bosnian Serb generals arrested since 1998 for some of the worst atrocities in the war.

One of them, Gen. Radislav Krstic, entered the third week of his genocide trial for the massacre of thousands of men in the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. In a separate proceeding, a Muslim rape victim sat with her back to the accused as their lawyers cross-examined her following her testimony last week of being raped and tortured nightly as a teen-ager in a Bosnian Serb camp.

# CIA discloses high cost of covert war espionage

By Robert Burns  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The CIA lost so many Korean agents in futile attempts to operate behind enemy lines during the Korean War that the agency later privately judged its use of American-trained loyalists as "morally reprehensible," declassified records show. This frank judgment is significant not only for the internal angst it exposes but also because the Central Intelligence Agency had never before publicly acknowledged the scope or the outcome of its covert operations during the war.

The records show the CIA sent untold numbers of agents — in the thousands,

judging from the censored documents — into North Korea during the 1950-53 war. Their missions ranged from intelligence collection to establishing "escape and evasion," or E&E, networks to rescue pilots.

"E&E operations as conducted by CIA in Korea were not only ineffective but probably morally reprehensible in that the number of lives lost and the amount of time and treasure expended was enormously disproportionate to attainments therefrom," a July 1973 CIA historical review said, quoting from a January 1954 report. Early in the war, CIA espionage efforts scored some notable successes, but most of its efforts at penetrating North Korea once peace talks began in the summer of 1951 failed.

# Neighboring villagers deny knowledge of cult members' corpses

By Tim Sullivan  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



Ugandan Arsen Oworyan, who lives in the house seen in the background, stands next to a mass grave underneath the mat at right, where over 100 cult members' bodies are buried.

RUGAZI, Uganda — Sound carries easily from the village to the top of the hill, to the place where an excommunicated priest exhorted followers to await the apocalypse, and where later two hidden graves disgorged over 150 rotting corpses.

The hilltop compound can be seen from homes, from schools, from the village clinic. A week after the bodies were discovered, the choking stench of decaying flesh still fills the air.

Today, everyone in Rugazi knows what happened where the people they called "the visionaries" gathered.

But after hundreds of bodies were found

here and at similar spots across the lush hills of southwestern Uganda, the question remains: How could so many people not see what was happening in their midst?

It's a question they ask with special urgency in Rugazi.

"How this could happen without anyone else's knowledge?" demanded Deos Bagomba, head catechism teacher at the Roman Catholic church just in front of the compound built by excommunicated parish priest Dominic Kataribabo. "I'm still asking people."

There are a few explanations: Cult members and villagers lived side-by-side but were still divided; hundreds of cult followers came and went at odd hours; cult leaders knew how to stop officials from probing too closely.

And there was a silent fear: Maybe, just maybe, the cult leaders had powers that would make it better to steer clear of them.

Everyone here, however, insists they had no idea there were corpses buried at Kataribabo's compound, where followers of the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God often gathered for prayers — and where 155 of their bodies were discovered.

"We didn't know anything about the killing," said Amos Agaba, a 21-year-old mechanic who lives nearby, and who walked up one day recently to look at the now-abandoned site. "We heard no sounds."

The same words are repeated in Buhonga and Rushojwa, two other southwestern villages where mass graves were found.

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