

End To Ukrainian Violence In Sight

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — The chances of ending the violence that has convulsed the Ukrainian capital are high, a spokeswoman for a top opposition leader said late Thursday after a meeting with the president.

Olha Lappo, a spokeswoman for Arseniy Yatsenyuk, made the statement on his Facebook page Thursday after an hours-long meeting with President Viktor Yanukovich. That came after opposition leaders gave a Thursday evening deadline to make concessions or face renewed clashes.

She did not provide details, but the assessment appeared to be the first sign of progress in resolving the two-month crisis that is threatening to spread well beyond Kiev.

However, some protesters were resistant on Thursday night. Opposition leader Vitali Klitschko, one of those who met with Yanukovich, went to the site of clashes to try to persuade demonstrators to hold to an uneasy truce, but was booed and some cried "Shame!"

The demonstrators again set aflame barricades of tires that had been quenched when opposition leaders offered the deadline.

Negotiations Offer Hope In Syria

GENEVA (AP) — Syria's government said stopping terrorism — not talking peace — was its priority, while the Western-backed opposition said "the road to negotiations" had begun, offering a glimmer of hope Thursday for a way to halt the violence that has killed more than 130,000 people.

The two sides did not meet face-to-face, buffered by a famously patient U.N. mediator who shuttled between representatives of Syrian President Bashar Assad and members of the opposition trying to overthrow him. And they did not seem ready to do so Friday as originally scheduled.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem questioned both the point of the talks and the legitimacy of the Syrian National Coalition, which is made up largely of exiles and lacks influence with an increasingly radicalized rebellion.

Infighting among rebels in the civil war has grown so deadly — nearly 1,400 killed in the past 20 days — that the head of al-Qaida called on Islamic militants to stand down, playing directly into Assad's argument that only his government is preventing Syria's further descent into chaos.

Al-Moallem, speaking before his meeting with mediator Lakhdar Brahimi, said his government's priority was to "to fight terrorism."

Va. AG Against Gay Marriage Ban

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Gay marriage moved closer to gaining its first foothold in the South when Virginia's attorney general said Thursday that the state's ban on same-sex matrimony is unconstitutional and he will join the fight to get it struck down.

"It's time for the commonwealth to be on the right side of history and the right side of the law," newly elected Democrat Mark R. Herring said in a state that fiercely resisted school integration and interracial marriage in the 1950s and '60s.

Republicans accused Herring of shirking his duty to defend the state's laws after less than two weeks on the job, while gay rights activists exulted over the latest in a string of victories — this one in a conservative and usually hostile region of the country.

"It's a nice day to be an American from Virginia," Tom Shuttleworth, one of the lawyers challenging the ban, said in an email.

The move reflects the rise of a new Democratic leadership in Virginia and illustrates how rapidly the political and legal landscape on gay marriage in the U.S. is shifting.

Hagel Orders Review Of Nuclear Force

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer



Hagel

WASHINGTON — With public trust and safety at stake, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered immediate actions Thursday to define the depth of trouble inside the nation's nuclear force, which has been rocked by disclosures about security lapses, poor discipline, weak morale and other problems that raise questions about nuclear security.

It amounted to the most significant expression of high-level Pentagon concern about the nuclear force since 2008, when then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates fired the top uniformed and civilian officials in the Air Force following a series of mistakes that included an unauthorized flight of nuclear-armed cruise missiles across the country.

Hagel had recently said he was considering what may lay behind problems in the nuclear Air Force — many revealed by The Associated Press — but his chief spokesman said Thursday that the defense secretary concluded urgent remedies were needed.

"To the degree there are systemic problems in the training and professional standards of the nuclear career field, the secretary wants them solved," the

spokesman, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby said. "To the degree there are gaps in our understanding or implementation of those standards, he wants them closed. And to the degree leaders have failed in their duties, he wants them held to account."

Hagel summoned top military officials to a Pentagon conference, to be held within two weeks, to "raise and address" any personnel problems infesting the nuclear force, and he ordered an "action plan" be written within 60 days to explore nuclear force personnel issues, identify remedies, and put those fixes into place quickly, Hagel said he and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, will host the nuclear summit.

The Pentagon chief also said he would assemble a small group of outsiders with expertise in the nuclear field to conduct a broader review of the U.S. nuclear force, with a focus on personnel issues, and to recommend changes "that would help ensure the continued safety, security and effectiveness of our nuclear forces."



Empty tank cars roll south along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor at Newark, Del., on July 28, 2013. The cars were unloaded at the nearby PBF refinery in Delaware City, Del., and are heading back to North Dakota for another shipment.

NTSB:

Oil Train Crash Risks 'Major Loss Of Life'

BY JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Warning that a "major loss of life" could result from an accident involving the increasing use of trains to transport large amounts of crude oil, U.S. and Canadian accident investigators urged their governments Thursday to impose new safety rules.

The unusual joint recommendations by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada include better route planning for trains carrying hazardous materials to avoid populated and other sensitive areas.

They also recommended stronger efforts to ensure hazardous cargo is properly classified before shipment, and greater government oversight to ensure rail carriers that transport oil are capable of responding to "worst-case discharges of the entire quantity of product carried on a train."

The NTSB also noted that it is still

waiting for final action from government regulators on new requirements to improve the safety of tank cars used to transport oil. The safety board called for changes in the DOT-111 tank cars, which are used for a variety of flammable liquids, after a 2009 accident in Cherry Valley, Ill. The rules aren't expected to be ready until next year.

Last month an oil train derailed and exploded near Casselton, N.D., creating intense fires. The accident occurred about a mile outside the town, and no one was hurt, but about 2,000 people were evacuated to avoid toxic smoke. Rail lines run through and alongside the town.

In July, a runaway oil train derailed and exploded in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, near the Maine border. Forty-seven people were incinerated and 30 buildings destroyed.

The NTSB noted that crude oil shipments by rail have increased by more than 400 percent since 2005. Some oil trains are more than 100 cars long.

"The NTSB is concerned that major

"Personnel failures within this force threaten to jeopardize the trust the American people have placed in us to keep our nuclear weapons safe and secure," Hagel wrote in a memo to a dozen top officials, including heads of the Air Force and Navy.

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., chairman of the Senate subcommittee that oversees the nation's strategic nuclear forces, welcomed Hagel's move.

"I remain concerned by the lapses in judgment and discipline displayed by some nuclear missile launch officers in recent months, and I applaud Defense Secretary Hagel's swift and appropriate actions to identify the root causes of those issues," Udall said. "Our nation demands a great deal of the men and women in our nuclear enterprise for good reason."

Since May, the AP has reported that nuclear missile force officers, from the commanding officer on down, had engaged in numerous misbehaviors or lapses. Some of those included failing security tests, violating security rules like leaving the blast door open while one of two officers napped, morale so low an officer complained of "rot" in his force and a report citing worryingly high levels of burnout.

OBITUARIES

Morris Nelson

Morris Nelson, age 86, of Yankton, South Dakota died Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Yankton with Reverend David Gunderson officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitation is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 24, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. officiated by Reverend Steve Weispennig. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

Pallbearers are Chris Nelson, Ehrin Nelson, Steven Hirsh, Leroy Hirsh, Chris Nelsen and Gary Huchtmeier.

Morris Ivan Nelson was born December 19, 1927 to Christian and Clara (Cook) Nelson. He was born on the family farm north of Yankton where he resided his entire life. Morris was baptized at First Congregational Church in Yankton on June 7, 1928 by Rev. H.H. Lindeman. He attended school at Prairie and Gunderson Schools north of Yankton and graduated from Yankton High School in 1945. Morris had a lifelong love for farming, first with his brothers and then later farming with his sons. The only time spent away from the farm were the years he served in the 549th Engineer Base Survey Company with the United States Army. He was stationed in California and Alaska during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952 and obtained the rank of Sergeant. On April 12, 1953,



Nelson

Morris married Ella Grunwald at St. John's Lutheran Church and was later confirmed in the Lutheran faith on June 26, 1956 by Rev. Walter Buss. Morris was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church and served as an elder for several years. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 12 in Yankton. Besides farming and family, Morris also enjoyed the time spent woodworking in his shop.

Morris is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ella Nelson of Yankton; three sons: Dennis (Gloriz) Nelson, Darrell Nelson, and David (Lauren) Nelson, all of Yankton; and three grandchildren: Mary, Beatrice and Fredrick Nelson of Yankton.

Morris was preceded in death by his parents; infant twin granddaughters, Claire and Katie Nelson; sister, Leona Oloson; and three brothers: Harold, Luverne and Floyd Nelson.

Memorials may be directed to St. John's Pre-school at 1009 Jackson St. or Missouri Valley Christian Academy at PO Box 902, both in Yankton.

To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 24, 2014



Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Red

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with the Convention and Visitors Bureau," Mors said. "We need to have our Convention and Visitors Bureau send the SDHSAA an agreement that we will have (a certain number of) our restaurants open until at least 11 p.m. in order for us to be able to host a state oral interp or state debate."

Yankton last hosted the state oral interp festival in late 2012. The state debate tournament was held in Yankton last March.

During the oral interp festival, the SDHSAA currently requires 228 hotel rooms for various participants, fans and officials. It also stipulates adequate restaurant space to feed a minimum of 200 or more participants and coaches Friday noon through the Saturday noon meals. In addition, the SDHSAA requires restaurants to accommodate participants after 10 p.m. with both sit-down and fast-food options on Friday and breakfast options on Saturday.

The requirements are similar for state debate, but a slightly smaller figure of 200 hotel rooms is stipulated.

Yankton is not recommended to host a one-act play contest because it lacks enough stage space and entrances from the stage area to the outdoors, but Mors said the district was still willing to have such an event.

All-state band is not something the school district has hosted before but was willing to, according to Mors. However, the SDHSAA wants the host community to have commercial airline service so the conductor can fly in for the event.

Yankton still meets SDHSAA requirements to host boys and girls "A," "AA" and "B" golf, cheer and dance, and volleyball.

SDHSAA executive director Wayne Carney presented the chart during a meeting in Pierre last week.

The Press & Dakotan obtained the chart from Mors. Events for which the community is rated as deficient are highlighted in red, but there is no explanation included as to what factors contributed to the rating.

Fifteen communities across the state received red marks for one to as many as eight state events.

According to P&D correspondent Bob Mercer, who at-

tended last week's meeting, the perceived deficiencies covered a wide range, from not enough motel rooms in Aberdeen and Huron, to not enough seating at the Young Center in Spearfish.

Vermillion received no red marks for the three state events it is interested in hosting.

Mors was in attendance at last week's meeting.

"It was a surprise (when I saw the chart)," he said. "A lot of people were asking questions."

Instead of seeking specifics about Yankton at the public meeting, Mors decided to pursue answers from SDHSAA officials afterward.

Scheve said she will work with the SDHSAA in the coming weeks to determine what needs to be in the agreement and then visit with local restaurants about their willingness to stay open later on the days when state debate or oral interp is held in Yankton.

"Because of the size of Yankton, there are certain

state events that we're not able to host," Scheve said. "So we want to be able to host the ones it is possible to host. They are great events, not only for our community but also for our schools. We're willing to visit with restaurants and work on an agreement."

"The businesses are the ones that are going to be asked to help sponsor different programs and events," she added. "We need to be able to make sure we're bringing spectators into those restaurants so they are able to recoup those sponsorship dollars."

Mors said he is hopeful Scheve and local restaurants can work out the necessary agreement.

"Maybe we can get back on the rotation for (oral interp and debate)," he stated.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

All-U-Can-Eat FISH FRY
Saturday, Jan. 25th
5:30-8pm
Serving Fish, Fries, Coleslaw and Baked Beans. Free Will Donation
Proceeds will go to our building fund. Everyone Welcome!
VFW Post 791 209 Cedar, Yankton

IN REMEMBRANCE

Donna Jean Konken 10:30 AM, Friday Immanuel Lutheran Church Coleridge	Morris Nelson 10:30 AM, Saturday St. John's Lutheran Church Yankton
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