

US-France ties damaged but not beyond repair

Powell backs end to Europe-US divisions thru' Iraq rebuilding

Relations between France and the United States have been damaged by France's stance against a US-led war on Iraq, but will not fall apart, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said...

UN is not going to fall apart," Powell said. He noted that there had been disagreements between the United States and other allies in the past, and joked: "The US and France have been married ... for 225 years and we have been in marriage counselling for all of the 225 years."

resort town of Evian near the Swiss border. Powell told the BBC that he was in no doubt that weapons of mass destruction would eventually be found in Iraq.

Europe to reconstruct Iraq. "The war is over," he said in an interview to be broadcast Sunday on Latvian television.



A woman walks past a destroyed Iraqi tank carrying a missile in Baghdad on Friday, days after the US-led invasion that topped the regime of Saddam Hussein.



A Greek Cypriot man waits under an umbrella as others, seen in a traffic mirror, queue to cross the ceasefire line dividing the city of Nicosia on Friday.

UK ministers were ready to quit over Iraq

Senior British cabinet ministers said in interviews on Saturday they would have quit with Prime Minister Tony Blair if his Labour government had failed to win parliamentary support for the war in Iraq.

Powell plans ME trip next week: US officials

Secretary of State Colin Powell will visit the Middle East next week in a new bid to advance the peace process, US officials said.

US sends technocrats to help run Iraq

The Pentagon has begun sending a team of Iraqi exiles to Baghdad to help set up a temporary American-led government.

Americans everywhere in Baghdad but out of reach

Outside what was once Saddam Hussein's chief Baghdad palace, now set to serve as headquarters of the interim US-led government in Iraq, two sobbing women demand answers from soldiers at the gates.

But about 50 families, including Fatiha's, resisted pressure to abandon their homes and ended up finding themselves inside the high palace walls and subject to daily snooping by presidential guards.

run the country until an Iraqi government can take the reins. "I've seen names on the doors, it's a good sign. But until now there's no furniture, no water, no electricity," said Master Sergeant Ron Przyucha, a US public relations officer, on the pace of progress at the headquarters.

UK rules out asylum for Tareq Aziz

Britain on Saturday indicated it would not be prepared to grant asylum to Tareq Aziz after a newspaper reported the former Iraqi deputy prime minister had asked to move here in exchange for information on Saddam Hussein's regime.

Power, water supply restored in parts of Baghdad

Progress in Baghdad has been slow. The streets of the capital are piled high with garbage and debris, electricity is only intermittent where it is turned on at all, most shops remain closed and hospitals are in dire condition.

Garner made his first visit to Baghdad last week as he took the reins of power of the civilian administration that will run the country until an interim Iraqi government has been established.

saying the team of around 150 exiles would "turn over functioning ministries to the new Iraqi interim authority after a period of time."

'Cuban hijackers' execution was to avert US aggression'

In his first public address since launching a crackdown, Cuban President Fidel Castro said the recent execution of three ferry hijackers was an exceptional measure aimed at avoiding US military aggression against Cuba.

US-Russian crew blasts off to keep ISS flying

A US-Russian crew blasted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome on Saturday in a mission to keep the International Space Station operating despite the US space shuttle disaster.

39, aims to keep the \$95 billion ISS flying and underscore the importance of continued work in space. US shuttles have been out of action since seven astronauts died aboard Columbia, leaving Russian spacecraft to ferry crews and supplies to the station from the Baikonur cosmodrome.

4 blasts rip thru' Lebanon camp

Four bombs ripped through Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp overnight on Saturday, ending a shaky lull in violence there that had lasted throughout the US-led war on Iraq.



A United States Navy man stands at a security post on the San Diego Bay on Friday in San Diego, California, as the guided missile cruiser USS Shiloh arrives in port after a nine-month deployment in the Arabian Gulf.