

# THE REGION

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# PEACE ON THE HORIZON?



RELAXING: At top, Robert Kocheran, president of Armenia, (right) and Heydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan, takes the helm of the Schooner America for a leisurely cruise.

## Two sides will meet president

BY JENNIFER BARSON

KEY WEST — After spending the week in Margaritaville, the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia are preparing to leave Truman's balmy Little White House behind for the real thing.

In a surprise announcement on the fourth day of peace talks, the U.S. State Department confirmed Friday that presidents Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Robert Kocheran of Armenia will travel to Washington for a meeting Monday with President Bush.

Peace talk participants have been meeting since Tuesday in Key West at the white-shingled Little White House, which has been used as a tropical retreat for former President Harry S. Truman and other world leaders.

Aliyev and Kocheran are negotiating over the future of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly ethnic Armenian enclave that is occupied by Armenian forces though it is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

The talks formally began with an appearance by Secretary of State Colin Powell, who hosted a luncheon for both presidents.

"We've had extraordinary success here, and we intend to use the leverage with President Bush on Monday to reinforce this process," U.S. negotiator Cathy Carravagh told reporters late Friday.

Carravagh, reviewing the talks with colleagues from France and Russia, refused to elaborate on the details of discussions that occurred behind closed doors.

Observers were skeptical about the outcome of the peace talks, but said the short-sighted, fun-in-the-sun approach this week did set a particular tone for diplomacy.

"They became more smooth more so here," said Diagan

Uluc, a reporter for the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet. "Something happened here, but I don't know what exactly."

Carravagh said negotiators were working well into the early morning hours each day, but that didn't stop key players from taking advantage of recreational activities.

Security guards at his hotel, Kocheran reportedly made at least one run in local waters by jet ski and booked four fish on another outing, including a 40-pound cobia.

His Azerbaijani counterpart, Aliyev, was spotted only in the tank fishing shades for a stroll down Duval Street, and has been seen sipping "mooaholic" cocktails while watching several movies.

Aliyev's spokesman, Elm Sulaymanov, finally spoke at Wednesday whizzing around town on a rented red scooter whose virtues he eagerly extolled. His face fell

Friday when he learned that the next stop for the entourage would be a US airliner.

"I like it here. I'd rather stay," the intimated Sulaymanov said.

The Herald's guard Thursday night through an interpreter over peace he was talking about.

"It's a small city, but every corner of it is just beautiful," Aliyev said.

Key West Mayor Jimmy Weekley said he's hoping both delegations will consider return trips, a request that Carravagh said both presidents have already made.

Armenia's delegation arrived at Boca Chica Naval Air Station on Monday in a chartered executive jet they hopped aboard after taking commercial flights into Miami.

On Sunday, Azerbaijan's Aliyev and his entourage traveled down at the air station in a massive Azerbaijan Airways plane.

Some members of the group

dispersed with "outcases filled with cash," which they said was earmarked to pay for some of their travel expenses — such as fuel — while in the United States, according to a U.S. military official who was on the tarmac when the plane landed.

"They brought thousands of dollars, (presumably) American dollars, to pay for fuel," said the official, who asked that his name not be used to identify the account.

"Normally we take credit cards," he said.

It was clear how much cash the group was carrying, but a U.S. Customs official said Friday that it's perfectly legal to bring large dollar amounts into the U.S., as long as you declare any stash of \$10,000 or more.

Sulaymanov laughed when asked whether government officials rode cash-filled suitcases on their trip. "What is this, James Bond?" he asked, opening his wallet to display an array of plastic. "We have credit cards."

AT SUNSET: Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan chats with Jan Kubis, secretary general of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, during a cruise aboard the Schooner America.

## Juvenile facility ground broken

### Sheriff: Building very much needed

BY LISA FUSB

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office broke ground Friday on an \$8.4 million juvenile justice building slated to house some of the Keys' most troubled youth.

In less than a year, the sprawling state-of-the-art facility is scheduled to open its doors as an addition to the existing county detention center on Stock Island.

The facility will allow an estimated 10,000-square-foot center, which will be shared by the sheriff's office Department of Juvenile Justice and other juvenile justice programs in long overdue. Currently, county youth who have been arrested for various crimes must be transported to a detention center in Miami-Dade County because the Keys has only temporary holding for those under age 18.

Monroe's main detention center, built seven years ago, is equipped only for adults and juveniles who have been adjudicated as adults.

"We have desperately needed such a facility in the Keys," said Monroe County Sheriff Rick Roth, who was one of several local dignitaries participating in Friday's groundbreaking.

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The cost will be split between the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Sheriff's Office Federal Asset Forfeiture Fund. Nearly two years ago, the sheriff's office received \$25 million in federal grant money for a case handled by deputies and the U.S. Customs Service.

## Keys murder trial delayed until June

BY LISA FUSB

The man accused of abducting and strangling Miami Herald employee Janet Accosta last year will not stand trial until June.

State prosecutors and defense attorneys were granted another delay Thursday in the murder trial of Massachusetts driver Michael Anthony Tanti, who police say dumped Accosta's body in a thick mangrove thicket on Oudney Key.

Tanti, whose trial was supposed to start April 16 in Key West, is charged with first-degree murder, kidnapping, robbery, carrying and sexual battery on Accosta, a 40-year-old Herald supervisor.

A pretrial hearing in the case is set for June 4, with Tanti's trial scheduled to begin June 11.

Assistant State Attorney Manny Madruga attributed the delay to witness depositions that still must be taken.