



## In a minor spat, Sens. Lugar and Obama are detained for three hours at a Russian airport

# Wasn't the Cold War supposed to be over?

By Jeff Zeleny  
Tribune correspondent

PERM, Russia — The trouble began shortly after the vodka toast.

Sens. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had spent Sunday touring nuclear weapon destruction sites outside this Russian town. Before boarding their plane, they stopped at a reception at the airport to say farewell to their hosts.

"I would like to raise my glass to friendship between Russia and the United States," Lugar said.

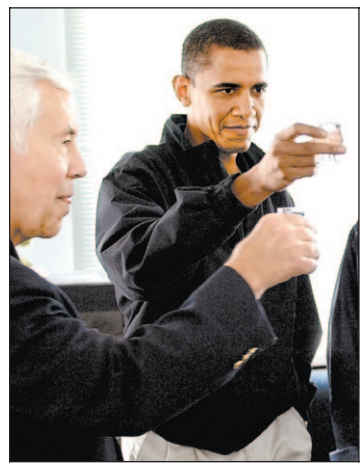
Victor Shmayev, who oversees nuclear warhead destruction at the Federal Space Agency, bid his American friends a safe flight, saying, "Let the number of takeoffs equal the number of landings."

But for more than three hours, there were no takeoffs or landings. At least not for the plane sitting a few hundred yards away, the white and blue DC-9 with "United States of America" painted on its side in large letters.

The senators and a delegation of 12 Americans were detained in a peaceful yet diplomatically chaotic afternoon episode.

What began as a seeming bureaucratic misunderstanding escalated into an incident involving the White House, the State Department and several U.S. military officials in Washington and their Russian counterparts in Moscow.

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Tribune photo by Pete Souza  
Sens. Richard Lugar (left) and Barack Obama toast their hosts in Perm, Russia, right before being detained at the airport for more than three hours.



New York Times photo by Cheryl Gerber

New Orleans residents who could not get out of the city gather Sunday at an emergency shelter set up at the Superdome.

# 'New Orleans may never be the same'

## City empties as huge hurricane threatens a ruinous direct hit

By Dahleen Glanton  
Tribune national correspondent

BILOXI, Miss. — Hurricane Katrina, one of the mightiest hurricanes ever to threaten the United States, bore down on the Gulf Coast on Sunday for what many feared could be a direct hit on the coast's most vulnerable city, New Orleans.

The Category 5 storm, packing 160 m.p.h. winds, was expected to roar ashore around sunrise Monday.

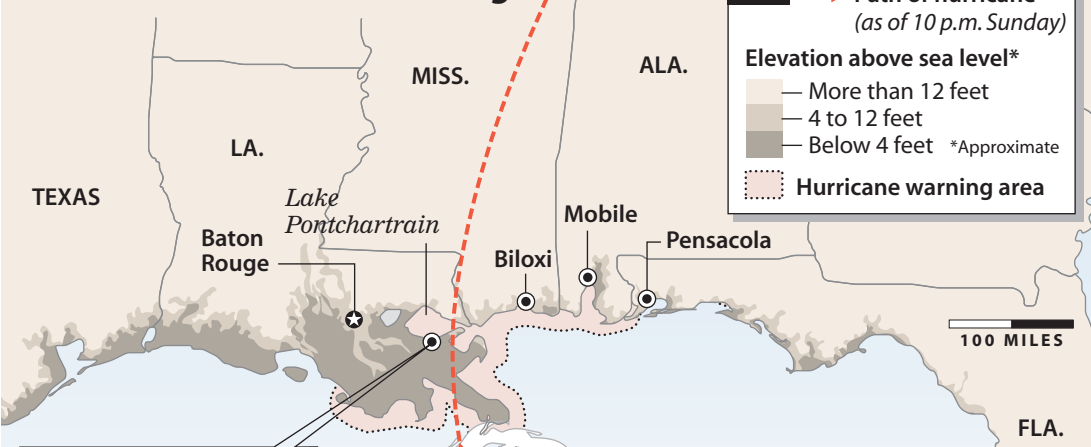
"It's capable of causing catastrophic damage," said National Hurricane Center director Max Mayfield, adding: "New Orleans may never be the same."

The city's 458,000 residents were ordered to leave, causing long backups on roads out. Interstate Highway 10 eastbound was so crowded that police stopped letting people on and diverted them to state roads, which also became clogged.

About 9,000 residents who could not get away hunkered down in the Superdome.

Much of New Orleans lies below sea level, and its network of levees, canals and pumps was likely to be overwhelmed if the forecasts of a 28-foot storm

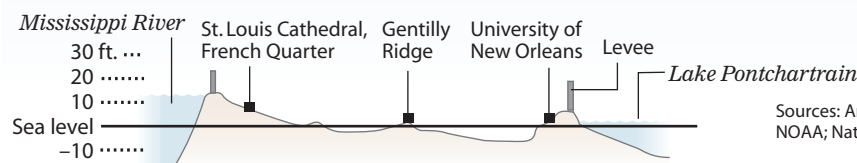
## Gulf Coast braces for flooding



## Much of New Orleans below sea level

Forecasters warned that Hurricane Katrina could produce a storm surge of 18 to 28 feet topped by even higher waves.

### CROSS SECTION OF THE CITY



Sources: Army Corps of Engineers; USGS; NOAA; National Hurricane Center; AP  
Chicago Tribune

surge and 15 inches of rain proved accurate. There were fears that more than 1 million people could be left homeless.

The Louisiana State University Hurricane Center's computer simulations indicated that by

Tuesday, vast swaths of the city could be under water up to 30 feet deep.

The expected disaster could have serious implications for the nation's economy, especially the oil industry. The storm has

shut down an estimated 1 million barrels of refining capacity and sharply curtailed offshore production. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, which handles 11

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# Charter finished without Sunni OK

## Shiites, Kurds risk rejection by voters

By Alex Rodriguez  
Tribune foreign correspondent

BAGHDAD — Iraqi lawmakers finished drafting their country's new constitution Sunday, ending a rancorous process that laid bare sectarian divisiveness impeding the country as it tries to forge a new democracy.

The committee responsible for writing the draft signed it and presented it to parliament without an endorsement from Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, setting the stage for several weeks of heated campaigning to win over Iraqi voters before a ratification referendum Oct. 15.

The draft constitution was praised by U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad as "enlightened," and Iraqi lawmakers said they were proud to present it to the people.

But without solid support from Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, leaders of the country's majority Shiite-Kurdish alliance risk the constitution being rejected by voters in the October referendum. If that happens, the country would have to start from scratch, electing another transitional parliament in December that would begin the constitution drafting process anew.

That would deliver a severe setback to Iraqis and the Bush administration, which sees the constitution as a democratic milestone for Iraq that could

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# Madigan says EPA goes easy on coal plants

By Michael Hawthorne  
Tribune staff reporter

As Chicago gasps through another summer of dirty air, the state's top attorney is accusing environmental regulators of looking the other way while the region's coal-fired power plants repeatedly fill the air with soot.

A scathing letter to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency from Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan's office documents more than 7,600 pollution violations since 1999 at six plants owned by Midwest Generation, including two in Chicago and three in the suburbs.

Monitoring equipment registered the violations of state limits on opacity, or the amount of light blocked by coal smoke. The EPA is supposed to use the information to gauge whether coal plants are releasing too much pollution that can trigger asthma attacks and cause lung disease, heart problems and premature deaths.

Despite the violations, EPA officials say there isn't a problem at the Chicago-area coal plants. They agree with company executives who contend the occasional bursts of dirty smoke are normal and nothing to worry about.

Madigan's office, though, is

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Weather: Sunny; high 85, low 60  
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Billy Hinton owns the Indiana house where the bodies of three boys were discovered under a concrete slab in 2003. He also owns the trouble left behind when investigators damaged it looking for clues against his tenant now charged in the murders. He has sued for some compensation.

# Hammond house a grisly reminder

## Owner fumes as home in slayings sits in ruin

By Jo Napolitano  
Tribune staff reporter

Melted candles and sun-scorched teddy bears make up a nearly 2-year-old memorial outside the Hammond house where three teenagers were found slain in the basement in December 2003.

The pale-gray house with boarded-up windows on Ash Avenue remains largely untouched, leaving a working-class street frozen in time. Children riding bicycles past the abandoned home still see the three white crosses in the front yard, markers bearing the names and pictures of the victims once entombed there.

This is the rental house where convicted murderer David Maust is accused of burying three local boys in concrete.

The home's owner, Billy Hinton, and local residents want to move on, but red tape and a legal battle may prevent that. Hinton has been feuding with city officials since last year, trying to get Hammond to reimburse him for damage done during the police investigation.

Authorities took possession of the house for about a year after the bodies were discovered and ripped open the walls looking for clues. They left behind holes in the floor, a refrigerator

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# HOUSE: Debt mounts for landlord in murder case

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full of rotten, mold-covered food and new carpet caked with mud.

Hinton said investigators did thousands of dollars in damage, telling him they would pick up the tab. He has not seen a dime, he said.

Instead, the city moved last August to have the house demolished as an “unsafe building.” Hinton’s lawyer, arguing that his client should have a hearing on the matter, got an injunction to stop the demolition.

During the last 21 months, Hinton has been saddled with mortgage payments and taxes. Hammond brought in a company to appraise the house’s value, which was put at \$65,000. Hinton said the city should pay him that amount, plus the cost of the mortgage for the months it

could not be inhabited—or at least the time it was in the city’s possession.

Hammond officials said they could not discuss the matter because it is the subject of a pending legal case and there is a gag order in the Maust case.

“Mr. Hinton fails to understand that no one from the city is able to speak to him, or take any action, while the case pends,” City Atty. Kristina Kantar said in an e-mail. “This has been explained to him.”

In Villa Park last week, the Searer family’s house was heavily damaged during a tense standoff with Juan Silvas, who police say robbed a La Grange bank and then fled from authorities. Silvas was found dead inside more than a day after he chased the family out.

Police fired tear gas canisters and stun grenades into the home to flush out Silvas. Even after Silvas’ body was recovered, the house was uninhabitable. FBI spokesman Frank Bochte said officials were documenting the damage so the owners could be compensated.

Hinton, who authorities say was extremely helpful in the investigation, had no problem an-

swering questions from police and even handed them keys to the house so officials could come and go as they wished.

“I acted like I would want someone to act if my kids were missing,” he said. “I did everything I could do to help them.”

But after fighting the city for reimbursement and the future of his house, he has a different attitude. Facing financial problems, he feels he was treated unfairly. “If I ever got into a similar situation, I wouldn’t want to help,” he said.

Hinton, who also was Maust’s employer, even went back to work the day the bodies were recovered, pretending everything was fine so Maust wouldn’t panic and flee. Careful not to turn on the television or the radio because reports on the crimes had begun, Hinton tried to act as normal as possible until the work day ended and Maust climbed onto his bicycle to head home. He was arrested just after he crossed the state line.

Maust soon was charged with strangling James Raganyi, 16, and later was accused of killing Michael Dennis, 13, and Nick James, 19. Police say Maust befriended the boys, gave them

drugs and liquor, gained their trust and killed them.

Although Hinton may feel like a victim, he won’t get help from a state fund set up to help relatives of victims.

Insurance has been no help either, Hinton said. When he insured the house nine years ago, it was owner-occupied. He moved a year later and rented out the house, a fact not disclosed to the insurer. As a result, he said, the company declared his policy void from the moment he moved out, even though he paid premiums for eight years.

The house remains eerily preserved. Maust’s Herbal Essence shampoo rests on a shower shelf, his allergy and headache medicine a few feet away. Two packs of Marlboros and a couple of dusty plastic lighters are as he left them on a stand in the living room. Exercise equipment takes up most of his bedroom.

Hinton carried a stick to cut through the cobwebs as he walked through the dark house last week, recalling how he met Maust in 2001.

Maust told Hinton he had been in prison for stabbing a man in a bar fight. Hinton, who owns a trophy shop, believed

the story and hired Maust to do metal work in the back of his Dolton store. He had no idea Maust served time for two killings and that he was accused of other stabbings.

Maust, who lived in Oak Park at the time, did not have a car, so Hinton picked him up for work each morning as he was coming from his home in Elmwood Park. Hinton still describes Maust as one of his best employees: an even-tempered and diligent worker who stayed long after his shift ended to make sure he completed his projects.

Maust eventually moved into the house on Ash, renting the second floor. He cleaned out the cluttered basement and added wall mirrors to his bedroom. The apartment was meticulously kept while he lived there, Hinton said.

Maust’s employment was unremarkable until September 2003, when police first asked Hinton about his employee and tenant. Hinton said police visited the house a few weeks later with a cadaver dog. When the dog did not pick up the boys’ scent, Hinton was relieved.

But police came back, this time asking to drill holes in a

mysterious concrete slab—a seemingly new addition to the basement—to see whether they would find evidence of a body.

When hundreds of tiny black bugs called “coffin flies” came buzzing out of the holes, they knew something was buried underneath. It wasn’t long before they reached the bodies, filling the small basement with a smell Hinton said he will never forget.

Neighbors too, have not been able to forget, or move past the day when dozens of reporters converged on their block for what was called one of Hammond’s most gruesome crimes.

Vincent Dial, sitting on his front porch with his family on a recent afternoon, said the house depresses the community.

“I’d like to see somebody do something with it,” he said. “I’d like to see it fixed up.”

Lisa Clavier, 35, a mother of four who lives across the street, said she wishes the house would be torn down. Standing just outside her front door, staring at the house, she said the neighborhood needs to put this chapter behind it.

“It’s not a happy sight.”  
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