

## IRAQ ACCEPTS ...

1,440 all ranks, of which the infantry temporarily attached to it would be approximately 680, and the field engineer unit, if it is deployed, approximately 300," he said.

Perez de Cuellar stressed that his estimate of costs dropping from \$83 million to about \$40 million after six months is predicated on the assumption that the infantry and engineer units can be withdrawn by that time.

If it is necessary to keep them longer, the long-range costs will be substantially higher, he said.

Perez de Cuellar also warned that the United Nation's capacity to deploy UNIKOM "would depend in large measure on the availability of financial resources necessary to meet the start-up costs of the operation."

U.N. officials say the organization currently does not have the funds that would be required, and the secretary general appealed to member states both to pay their arrearages and "to make voluntary contributions in cash and in kind for setting up and maintaining the mission."

In other Mideast-related matters, staff writer David Hoffman reported:

Secretary of State James A. Baker III, embarking on a trip to Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Syria and Switzerland, is to meet with Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Masri on Friday in Geneva, according to State Department officials. The meeting will be the first high-level contact with officials of that Middle Eastern kingdom since the gulf war, when King Hussein tilted toward Iraq.

The meeting could signal the start of an effort to include Jordan in the Middle East peace process. Jordan could be critical in pulling together a group of Palestinians acceptable to the Israelis for a peace conference.

"It is a proper step," Bush said of that meeting. "Jordan will obviously have an important role to play in whatever the final answer proves to be."

Both Bush and Baker sought to temper expectations for the secretary of state's mission to the Middle East.

"I'm not suggesting there are any new factors . . . that have occasioned this trip," Baker said.

But Bush said he did not want to miss any opportunity to try to bring peace to the troubled region.

"The United States has a newfound credibility in that part of the world," he said. "I want to see us use that to be the catalyst for