

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:13:00 PM EEST

Job Number: 223507952

Documents (51)

1. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

2. [No Headline In Original](#)

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

3. [Children abused on subcontinent, says Amnesty International](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

4. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

5. [Letters to the Editor](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

6. [Sri-Lanka, DL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

7. [UN World expects United Nations to take stand against atrocities, Sec-Gen tells Commission](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

8. [No Headline In Original](#)

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10. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

11. [BC-CPE-CRAFT-Limits-Asia](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

12. [Sri-Lanka-Villages, Bgt](#)

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Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

13. [Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

14. [Today's Events In Washington.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
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15. [No Headline In Original](#)

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16. [No Headline In Original](#)

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17. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

18. [40 years of people power and Amnesty International](#)

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19. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

20. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

21. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

22. [TELEVISION GUIDE - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 TO THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

23. [UN Children in Armed Conflicts - translating commitments into action most pressing challenge](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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24. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

25. [UN High Commissioner for Refugees - Appeals for international help to Eastern Zaire](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

26. [THE WEEK AHEAD MONDAY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

27. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

28. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
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Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

29. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

30. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

31. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

32. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

33. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

34. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

35. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

36. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

37. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

38. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

39. [UN Foreign Ministers of Canada and Liechtenstein address Commission on Human Rights](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

40. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

41. [No Headline In Original](#)

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

42. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

43. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

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Content Type
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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

44. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

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Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

45. [UN Challenge is to find solutions to economic, social, cultural and political problems - Senegal FM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

46. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

47. [UN Non-governmental organizations claim numerous violations of human rights around world](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

48. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
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Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

49. [AP Top News at Midnight EST Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

50. [AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

51. [AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

No Headline In Original

Associated Press International

May 02, 1996; Thursday 09:00 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 514 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil refugees are streaming back to their homes in war-ravaged Jaffna city, a relief worker said Thursday, but he warned that the collapse of medical services and food and water supplies could lead to more suffering.

Michael Schubert, a medical coordinator for the British-based Medical Emergency Relief International, said that tens of thousands of civilians were returning home.

"It is clear that thousands of them will face additional hardships in this environment," Schubert said.

Last week, the military seized a strategic guerrilla port in Jaffna Peninsula. Four months earlier, it captured the rebel stronghold of Jaffna city.

The government says that nearly 250,000 Tamil civilians are returning to Jaffna city from guerrilla-held areas captured by the military.

"Several people I spoke to said they were happy to be going home ... I did not come across anyone who said that he was forced to return," Schubert told The Associated Press by telephone after returning from a visit to Jaffna City on Friday and Saturday.

He said that on three separate occasions he counted about 1,200 people returning to Jaffna city per hour, "with their baggage balanced on bicycles, carts and tractors."

The doctor feared epidemics because of the breakdown in medical services and food and water supplies.

"Literally nothing is left in the Jaffna Hospital ... What has not been damaged has been taken away," he said.

The hospital had no running water or power, he said. Patients in serious condition were being taken to a military hospital.

Sixty percent of all buildings in Jaffna city have been damaged, Schubert said. But it was not clear how much damage had been caused by the military offensives.

Large areas of the peninsula had still not been cleared of guerrilla booby traps, and there were frequent civilian casualties, said Schubert.

Meanwhile, Tamil Tiger rebels accused the military of torture.

No Headline In Original

"There are well proven incidents of rapes and sexual assaults on young females by the Sri Lankan armed forces," the rebels said in a statement from their London office.

But an independent group of Tamil academics, the University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna), said it had no reports of military excesses in Jaffna in recent weeks.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga said she hoped to end the 12-year-old civil war in the next six months, according to a report in the state-run Daily News on Thursday.

The return of Tamil civilians to areas recaptured from the rebels "is the beginning of the defeat of Tamil Tigers," Mrs. Kumaratunga told a rally in the capital Colombo on Wednesday.

But Lt. Gen. Rohan Daluwatte, Sri Lanka's new army commander, declined to set a time frame for ending the conflict, which has killed more than 42,000 people.

Daluwatte, who took office on Wednesday, said his strategy would be to drive the rebels into the jungles and reduce the level of violence.

The Tamil rebels accuse majority Sinhalese, who control the government and military, of discrimination in education and jobs. They have been fighting for a homeland in the north and east for

minority Tamils since 1983.

Load-Date: May 2, 1996

No Headline In Original

Associated Press International

May 02, 1996; Thursday 09:04 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 514 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

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minority Tamils since 1983.

Load-Date: May 2, 1996

End of Document

Children abused on subcontinent, says Amnesty International

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 22, 1998, Sunday, BC Cycle 04:53 Central European Time

Copyright 1998 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 547 words

Body

New Delhi (dpa)- Children in South Asia face many human rights violations including torture, child labour and enforced prostitution, Amnesty International (AI) said in a report released in Dhaka and Karachi Wednesday. "South Asia's children remain prone to a litany of human rights violation in the hands of state agencies and abuses by armed opposition groups" said AI in the report "Children in South Asia: Securing their Rights". AI said even if state officials deny their responsibility for the abuses, "their complicity, acquiescence and indifference often serve to perpetuate them". The report, which investigated India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bhutan, said nearly 40 per cent of the region's population, around 539 million of the 1.2 billion people, were under 18 and 13.3 per cent under five, together constituting a quarter of the world's children. The children of the region also suffered from deprivation of economic and social rights. The report said, quoting the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) that each year 4.7 million children die in South Asia, the majority from preventable and curable diseases like diarrhoea and respiratory troubles. Two-thirds of surviving children were malnourished. "Urbanization, poverty and the breakdown of family structures have left millions of children displaced or forced to fend for themselves on the streets where they are especially vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Girl children and those from marginalized minority groups face additional discrimination and disadvantage," said AI. AI said girls are particularly considered as a burden in the region. Because of this **female** fetuses are aborted and girls killed at birth or later looked after badly. On the state's treatment of children the report said they were often held illegally and arbitrarily for long periods in police custody without proper procedures being followed. They faced torture and ill-treatment including sexual abuse in prisons where they were kept at times even on false charges or for minor offences such as petty theft, begging or vagrancy, the report said. On trafficking of children for prostitution, the report said every day "a miserable cargo of young girls and **women** is being trafficked across well-beaten paths within South Asia and further afield." It said on just two routes, from Nepal to India and from Bangladesh to Pakistan, some 9,000 girls were sent for prostitution every year. The report said organized groups kidnapped children often very young, and sold them into prostitution, domestic servitude, bonded labour or marriage. The number of very young girls being trafficked was reportedly increasing because of the preference for virgins and fear of AIDS. Police officials and border guards were often hand-in-glove with the racketeers in return for bribes, Amnesty said. The children were also at the receiving end of armed conflicts as in Sri Lanka where the government is battling the secessionist **Tamil Tigers**. Tamil children are routinely picked up by army and police on suspicion of being in league with the Tigers, the report said. Similar situations prevailed in Afghanistan and parts of India where armed groups were fighting the government.

(Embargoed until 0700 GMT Wednesday)

Load-Date: April 23, 1998

Children abused on subcontinent, says Amnesty International

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Associated Press Worldstream

December 05, 1995; Tuesday 10:04 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 549 words

Body

APTV 1300 ADVISORY FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 199

Here is a rundown of the main stories APTV expects to move during the next 12 hours.

APTV's scheduled bulletin times over this period are Europe Update 2 (1430), Agency Window (1540), Europe Late (1600). Europe Update 3 (1800), Latin America (1900), North America Update (1930), Pacific Rim Early (1945). North America Late (2030), Latin America Update (2100), Europe Update 4 (2130) and Asia Early (2145). All times are GMT.

FRANCE: STRIKE - As snow falls in Paris the crippling transport and communications strike is spreading. APTV has coverage of Prime Minister Juppe's address to the National Assembly and another mass demonstration on the streets of the capital.

No Headline In Original

EUROPE: TROOPS - Soldiers from the U-S, Britain and other nations are preparing for the massive deployment in Bosnia. APTV has coverage from Hungary, Germany and Bosnia.

BELGIUM: NATO - A rare meeting of NATO Foreign and Defence ministers will take place in Brussels to discuss NATO's Bosnian mission - its largest ever. APTV has coverage of the meeting and a news conference by the newly-confirmed Secretary-General Javier Solana.

FRANCE: PILOTS - APTV has a special report focusing on the French pilots still being held captive by the Bosnian Serbs. We talk to families who are calling on France not approve the Dayton Peace Accord until the aviators are released.

ISRAEL: RABIN - 30 days after the death of Yitzhak Rabin, Israelis are holding ritual memorials for their slain Prime Minister. APTV expects coverage of services at his graveside and a state memorial in Jerusalem.

SRI LANKA: JAFFNA - Government forces are reported to have raised their flag above the former rebel stronghold of Jaffna, ousting the **Tamil Tigers** after five years. APTV expects military video from the city.

S KOREA: **WOMEN** - More than one-thousand nuns in Seoul demonstrated outside the Japanese embassy to demand an official apology for the use of Asian **women** as forced prostitutes during World War Two. APTV has coverage of their moving and dignified protest.

No Headline In Original

TAIWAN: BRAWL - The first meeting of Taiwan's National Assembly since general elections showed very little has changed - the chamber erupted into a brawl. APTV has the pictures.

MICRONESIA: MASSAGE - The art of massage is used in the Pacific islands of Micronesia as an effective and highly-regarded alternative treatment. APTV reports on massage as medicine

S AFRICA: SANTA - Nelson Mandela receives his award after being voted Santa of the Year by Greenland's Santa Claus Foundation. APTV has coverage.

The Intake Editor is Stella Orakwue at 44-171-427-4100.

The Output Editor is Martin Benedyk at 44-171-427-4130.

The APTV Master Control Room can be reached at 44-171-427-4131.

Please do not give these telephone numbers to your viewer cannot take public calls on these lines - they are for your use only.

Load-Date: December 5, 1995

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Letters to the Editor

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

November 9, 2001, Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 30

Length: 3474 words

Body

Poles apart on drugs

How can people say that there is little difference between the two major political parties? Are they so dulled that all is a blur? There is a great difference between them.

Take drugs, for instance. No, don't take drugs. But please consider this. John Howard's policies on drugs have been very successful. An enormous quantity of illegal drugs has been seized since 1997 and overdose deaths have fallen dramatically.

The Liberals have spent

\$2 billion on law enforcement, education and treatment, whereas Labor plans to fund schemes that will keep people on drugs.

MATP

Kim Beazley has said that he will not prevent any state or territory from conducting heroin trials.

Tom Stukel, Parramatta

By linking the boat people with terrorism, immigration and religion, the Coalition has definitely played the race card in the election debate.

The political rhetoric is strong. "They will not set foot here." But why has the Coalition not mentioned tracking down the 60,000 visa overstayers from England, Ireland and America roaming Australia illegally?

"We cannot guarantee that these people have no terrorist links." Why have they not said that there is also no guarantee that supporters of the IRA, Tamil Tigers, Hamas, Aryan Nation, Black Fist, the KKK and other terror organisations have not entered our country as visitors or otherwise?

I would say it is because refugee-bashing is worth about 500,000 conservative votes that will flow back to the Coalition.

Information has been deliberately left out to give the impression that illegal immigration is dominated by one particular race group; one that has been unfortunately linked with global events. The Coalition seems quite happy to manipulate racial stereotypes, fear, the hysterical media and prejudice for political gain.

Mark Singham,

Letters to the Editor

Kambah, ACT

Voters supporting "choice" and support for independent education in Saturday's poll have little choice in their politics. The reality is that whether there is a Liberal or Labor government, the Senate runs the risk of being under minority control.

However, both the Democrats and the Greens are ideologically opposed to independent schooling.

The Greens' policy indicates they will render religious schools illegal, and the Democrats want to take all funding from the Category 1, 2 and 3 independent schools. These are the goals the minor parties will pursue in doing Senate deals with any government.

If you support independent schooling and parental choice in school education, steer clear of the minor parties in the Senate poll

Bill Nash, Glenhaven

Kim Beazley is awfully good at telling us, ad nauseam, what he will fix; not so good at telling us how he will fix it. This has been his trademark for some years, so I fail to see what will change if he is elected.

Most of his "policies" are centred on a three- or four-year plan, so we won't see their effects for some time. I suppose that this way, if things

go down the tubes during the first couple of years, he can say: "Well, just wait another 18 months -- I told you I'd have it all together in time for the next election."

Eileen Wornos, Rydalmere

When the then federal Labor government sold the Commonwealth Bank and Qantas, there was uproar from the Liberal Opposition (probably well founded).

Now the Liberal Government has claimed extraordinary financial management by reducing the deficit inherited from the previous Labor government by \$60 billion.

I note in a recent copy of The Daily Telegraph that the Government has sold Australian assets worth \$55 billion, including almost half of Telstra. The sale of Sydney Airport is also in it sights.

Good financial management? I think not. Just a downright un-Australian fire sale of our most precious assets.

What next? The Sydney Harbour Bridge? The Opera House?

David Simpson, Surry Hills

I cannot understand how the opinion polls can show that the election race is so close. John Howard should be miles ahead of Kim Beazley.

The economy is in good shape and the Federal Government has done a good job regarding refugees and the fight against terrorism. Sure, the GST has been a challenge, although we are slowly adjusting. But there are too many other things at stake.

My main concern now is the "new age" push that may sound nice but is in danger of unravelling our families. Once the family is destroyed, the country follows. I love this country and I am scared of what will happen eventually to Australia if Kim Beazley gets in. So, on November 10, think and be careful.

Nigel Ginn, Molong

When you go to vote on Saturday, remember John Howard for the man he truly is.

Letters to the Editor

The man who said there would never, ever be a GST, who taught us the difference between "promises" and "core promises", who promised pensioners \$1000 and then sent them a cheque for \$1 or nothing at all.

He has spent hundreds of millions of dollars turning away refugees when all intelligent people know that he won't follow through after the election, his policies have greatly widened the gap between the rich and the poor and led to the bankruptcy of thousands of small businesses and many large corporations.

He is the man who has allowed the Australian dollar to drop to record lows and then tells us how great it is.

Let us all remember the man and ask ourselves the question: "Do we really need another three years of this?"

Peter Aubrey, Nth Curl Curl

I have been bemused by claims that price rises are a direct result of the GST, even on products not subject to it. Do people really believe that prices would have remained static without it?

At least it is subject to parliamentary review, not only by both federal houses but also by all state governments, unlike the sales tax which it replaced and which was subject to change without consultation.

Many political advertisements and some letters published are not only a spurious slur on the Federal Government, but show an insulting and alarming lack of confidence in the integrity of state governments -- most of which are controlled by the ALP.

W.L. Emery, Epping

Looking on the positive side, I have only come up with one possible benefit of John Howard's re-election -- a slimmer new edition of the Macquarie Dictionary and the resultant savings in paper and print.

After all, according to Mr Howard's view, a future Australia will have no need or use for such concepts as: caring; community; compassion; egal-

itarian; equality; fairness; human rights; justice (as in social); public (as in education, health and indeed service); reconciliation; respect; society; sorry and unity.

Let us think carefully of all we could lose before we vote.

Lesley Garret-Jones, Thirroul

Hope falls victim to fear

Malcolm Fraser has been brave and decent enough to not merely distance himself from the current Government but to speak out and condemn many of its policies.

John Howard may have been a good accountant but he has been unable to bring any sense of unity or vision or heart to issues such as reconciliation and asylum seekers.

History is likely to judge his Government as poll-driven, divisive and overly obsessed with the beloved bottom line.

Hope, tolerance and harmony within our diverse country seem to have been sacrificed to fear and xenophobia. Are these John Howard's true colours or is it a desperate attempt to win the votes of disenfranchised Australians?

Kris Martin, Mapleton, Qld

Laughable idea of balance

Congratulations to The Daily Telegraph editor for his courtesy in publishing a letter yesterday from the editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, Robert Whitehead.

Letters to the Editor

Before Mr Whitehead gives The Daily Telegraph's peerless columnist, Piers Akerman, a lecture on "balanced" coverage of the NRMA, let me inform your readers and remind Mr Whitehead that:

* The NRMA has written over 30 letters or e-mails of complaint and correction to the Herald over the Herald's incorrect and frequently biased reporting of NRMA events. Neither Mr Whitehead nor his predecessor has had the courtesy to publish any of these letters or corrections. His paper's view of a "balanced" coverage of the NRMA is laughable.

* In that regard, because the Sun-Herald refused to publish corrective advertisements, the CEO of NRMA, Mr Rob Carter, has been forced to communicate directly to all 2million NRMA members informing them of the Herald's campaign of "numerous inaccurate, derisive, spiteful and partisan Articles concerning the NRMA". Mr Whitehead has not published details of that statement in the Herald.

* In a speech in the NSW Parliament this week, Mr Barry O'Farrell, Deputy Leader of the Liberal party, condemned the Fairfax Press for its role in assisting the dissident Motorists Action Group "to destabilise and create chaos" in the NRMA. Apart from a brief, sarcastic and self-serving reference in a business column, Mr Whitehead did not report this speech -- let alone its substance.

* Mr Whitehead's journalists seem to have aligned themselves almost exclusively to the cause of what Mr O'Farrell calls "the indulgent and destructive antics" of MAG. Mr Whitehead should examine his own paper's coverage for "sanctimonious and hypocritical rantings" before he

seeks to attack Mr Akerman.

Congratulations to The Daily Telegraph for its accurate, open and balanced coverage of the NRMA. It certainly provides a contrast with the Herald's "standards".

Nicholas Whitlam

President NRMA

Roads no privilege

As one of the sheep "bleating" about toll roads (Daily Telegraph, November 8), I think it is wrong to say that roads are a privilege. Given the money that state and federal governments make from motor vehicles, there is no reason why any motorist should have to pay a single cent for the right to use any road.

Premier Bob Carr and Transport Minister Carl Scully have found a way to pay someone else (with our money) to do their job for them.

One tragic outcome of the Lane Cove problem is that nothing will be resolved. The current gridlock caused by traffic lights will be replaced by a gridlock caused by the toll-booths. At least with traffic lights, some sort of traffic flow is achieved at intervals.

Underlying all this, of course, is that roads are

no good unless there is a strong public transport infrastructure to support them. Unfortunately, we don't have this, we have Carl Scully.

Peter Lawson, Elizabeth Bay

I rely on two forms of transport (bus and train) each day to get to and from school at De la Salle College, Ashfield.

My problem is the unreliability of my bus service, the 412. The train is no problem as I catch it to and from Petersham each day but the 412 is a different matter. On most mornings the 412 is running late and when that happens, I miss the train -- and because of that I'm late for school and we know what happens then.

Letters to the Editor

Christopher Wood,

Marrickville

Shocked in Spanish

I find it hard to believe that the Howard Government has both feet on the ground when it comes to its understanding of multiculturalism in Australia.

As a voter in Tony Abbott's electorate,

I was shocked to receive a personally addressed letter, written entirely in Spanish. Was this an attempt at vote wooing meant to compensate for the

lack of compassionate policies towards immigration?

I have a Spanish surname, I was born in Australia, I have spent all my life in Australia and my parents have been in this country for 37 years after migrating from the Philippines.

Needless to say, my family are proud Australians, and are equally as proud of the culture they have brought with them that forms an integral part of Australian society today.

We may be "migrants" but we do know that cheap publicity stunts are no substitute for policies.

Hasta la vista, Mr Abbott.

Mary Garcia, Manly

Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock says there is a right way and a wrong way for refugees to enter Australia. If such common crassness had existed in 1939 and bureaucrats and residents in neighbouring nations had forcibly turned back the Jewish people fleeing Hitler's evil regime, those bureaucrats and residents would have been no better than the tyrants from whom the refugees fled.

How horrible it must be to flee tyranny. How unimaginably worse to be met with cold-hearted ruthlessness in the country that offers freedom and safety.

Barry Newton, Mt Colah

E-talk

Dropping bombs on innocent men, women and children in Afghanistan is not waging war against terrorism but perpetrating terrorism. History will judge these acts as harshly as it will judge using planes as missiles of destruction against the American World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on September 11.

Meryl Tobin, The Gurdies, Vic

Does Kim Beazley think we are all stupid with his GST scare campaign? Is he saying John Howard has done a deal with all the Labor premiers to increase the rate of GST and impose it on food items? That is the only way it will happen. In any event, the Democrats certainly won't allow any such changes through the Senate.

John Shailer, East Lindfield

I don't recall voting for a preferential voting system. If I vote for a party, that's where my vote should stay, not to be passed on to a party I did not vote for. Add up the true votes and then, and only then, should the most popular party be elected. Let democracy rule.

Rhondi Gartenfeld, Picnic Point

Letters to the Editor

Next Sunday is Remembrance Day. It is a day for reflection on true heroes, Australians of various conflicts. Some of us will remember them for their deeds and bravery, some for the fact that they were simply there, helping in the defence of Australia. Sunday also happens to be the day after the federal election. Some of us will remember the promises made by Kim Beazley and John Howard, for that is what they were destined to become, memories.

Russ Grigg, Lorne

Saving the entire St Marys ADI site from housing development is still a vote-winner in the marginal western Sydney seats of Lindsay and Macquarie. The Coalition recently said it would save the Heritage-listed section. Lindsay ALP candidate David Bradbury said the ALP would do the same. But development on the non-Heritage half would introduce cats, dogs, foxes, vehicles and pollution to slowly kill off and render extinct this last vestige of Cumberland woodland. Come on, politicians, save the entire site. Set up a regional park showcasing kangaroos, emus and myriad birds and reptiles -- a terrific boon for tourism so close to Sydney. Those preferences from the Save The ADI Site Party and the Greens might just get you into Canberra, and you would achieve something long-term and worthwhile for us all.

Helen Burnie, Windsor

Exchange

QHow and why did the American accent originate, given that the founding fathers (the Pilgrims) of the east coast were English?

Brian J. Corcoran, Sydney

The way the Americans speak English today is much closer to the way the people from whom the founding fathers came spoke English than the way it is spoken in England itself. Language is a living thing that is forever in a process of change -- in the way we use it, write it and even speak it. Because the Pilgrim Fathers established a small colony far away from Mother England, language there tended not to evolve, whereas changes occurred in England. For example, in old nursery rhymes, there are words that no longer sound the same to our ears because the way we pronounce them has changed.

Joan Baker, Sydney

Of course, the first Americans were British. They named Boston after the Boston town in Lincolnshire, England. The accent was probably invented by individuals who resented continuing to sound British.

Dorothy Streeter, Cabramatta

QHow did the tennis scoring system of 15.30.40 come to be used? Why not 1.2.3?

K.B. Smith, Wauchope

To clear up the mystery of "love" in tennis, I quote from the 1991 NTC's Dictionary of Word Origins: "The derivation here is not the same as 'duck' in cricket, which comes from the 'duck's egg' or round zero ... it in fact comes from the expression 'play for love', i.e. play for nothing ... (as in a 'labour of love', which is done without any financial reward)."

Kevin Phillips, North Entrance

QUESTIONS

In the English language there are three words that end with the letters "gry". They are angry, hungry and the third one, which eludes me completely. Can anyone help? Also, is there any other word in the language besides "dreamt" that ends in the letters "mt"?

D. Rice, Tumut

Letters to the Editor

What is the origin of the phrase, "They got off scot free"?

T. Brown, Lake Heights

* Is there a question to which you've always wanted to know the answer? Or can you answer a question? Send questions or answers to Exchange, Letters Editor, PO Box 2808, GPO Sydney NSW 2001 or email letters@dailytelegraph.com.au. A selection will be published but we are not able to enter into individual correspondence.

In search

DONOR CONCEPTION SUPPORT GROUP

The Donor Conception Support Group of Australia would like to invite people conceived using donor sperm to a screening of a video entitled Are You My Father? This video features Rebecca, a 24-year-old adult conceived by donor insemination. The video was shown on national TV in New Zealand two months ago. Rebecca lives in Sydney and is a keen member of the DCSG. People will have the chance to speak to her and others after the video is shown on November 10, 2001, from 1.30pm to 5pm at the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, Level 2, 407 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills. Ring 0297241366 or e-mail dcsq@optushome.com.au.

JOHN GORDON

If anyone knows the whereabouts of John Gordon, please contact Trish Tagg (Hoskins) and Peter Noble on 0247517181 or petepan1@bigpond.com.

COLINA MASTERTON

I am trying to find my half-sister, Colina or Colleena Masterton, daughter of George Masterton. I last saw her in Sydney in about 1957 and she was probably about 12 years old then. Write to Stephen Masterton at 44 Goodwin St, Lyneham, ACT 2602 or phone 0262570830.

MISSING FRIENDS

My wife and I have recently moved to Australia to live permanently. I was in the Royal Navy during World War II and spent the last two years in the Pacific, where I met many kind Australians who showered us with hospitality whenever we were in port. I have kept in touch with many of these people. After the war I was working in London for a company called Tubewrights and met two Australian girls who were working for the same company as "temps". They spent one Christmas with us while we were living at Sydenham, south-east London. Neither my wife nor I can remember their names, only that they were living in Newcastle at the time. It would be nice if we could make contact again. Contact Iris and Norman Watson, 2/130 Marine Pde, Kingscliff, NSW 2487. Phone: 0266744637.

If you have a reunion or are seeking information, send the details to In Search, Letters Editor, PO Box 2808, GPO Sydney, NSW 2001 or email us at letters@dailytelegraph.com.au. Include a contact name and phone number. Emails should not include attachments.

Schools say thank you

Schools have asked The Daily Telegraph for a forum to thank the thousands of people who have contributed tokens as part of our Free Books for Schools program. The following are today's messages of thanks.

Thanks to The Daily Telegraph for giving us the opportunity to update our library books. We were fortunate enough and really excited to collect 7500 tokens. We will have 58 new books to add to our library. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile promotion. Upon receipt of our final order, we plan to display all our books in a special part of the library to show the children just what they have achieved, and to invite parents up to the school too, as they were involved as well. Once again, many thanks.

Letters to the Editor

Margaret Mathers, school assistant,

Ermington West Public School

Thank you to The Daily Telegraph, Telstra BigPond and HarperCollins for sponsoring Free Books for Schools. All at Christ the King Bass Hill made a wonderful effort and we really appreciated the contribution of our parishioners in collecting tokens. Our school has 212 children and we have collected a total of 9200 tokens and are now selecting the remainder of our free books. Tokens are still coming in. Thank you to all families, friends, parishioners and workmates who helped us achieve such a great effort and add to our library collection. This promotion has added to the great spirit of community already present in our school.

Robyn Thomas, teacher/librarian,

Christ the King School, Bass Hill

Schools can email us at news@dailytelegraph.com.au or fax us on 92882535.

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Letters should be no more than 250 words, clearly typed or neatly hand written. Name and address and phone number must be supplied for verification.

Letters may be edited.

Load-Date: November 8, 2001

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Sri-Lanka, DL

The Canadian Press (CP)

August 13, 1990 Monday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 568 words

Body

--- Sri-Lanka, DL --- ERAVUR, Sri Lanka (AP) _ White flags of mourning fluttered today above Muslim homes in five fishing villages where Tamil gunmen massacred 173 residents with machine-gun fire and machetes. Military officials raised the death toll as families brought in more bodies from the stricken villages after the Saturday night massacre. It was one of the worst eruptions of violence in Sri Lanka's escalating ethnic conflict, which pits Tamil separatists against the Sinhalese-dominated government. Although Muslims claim neutrality in the seven-year civil war, the government says Tamils suspect them of siding with the army. Elsewhere in Sri Lanka, military officials said rebels suspected of being Tamils ambushed a truck in the northeastern Trincomalee district at dawn today and killed 15 Sinhalese. On Sunday, at least 15 Tamil Tiger rebels, four Muslims and six government soldiers were killed in separate incidents. A Tamil politician said Saturday's attack on Muslim villages was in retaliation for the killing of 33 Tamil villagers by Muslims earlier the same day. The People's Front of Liberation Tigers, the main Tamil rebel group, denied involvement in the massacre. At least 538 people have been killed on Sri Lanka's east coast in the past 10 days. The victims include 363 Muslims, 100 Tamils and 75 Sinhalese, military officials and politicians say. In Eravur, tension lingered as the military lifted an overnight curfew and stepped up patrols. Victims were given a mass burial. Brig. Upali Seneviratne, the top army officer in the eastern province, said at least 40 Tamil gunmen attacked the villages. "They broke into three groups and shot at everybody in sight," he said. He said the dead included 29 women and 31 children, one of whom was a nine-day-old girl. After a 90-minute raid on Eravur, the gunmen moved to adjacent villages, the officials said. The villages are clustered on the east coast, 200 kilometres east of Colombo. On Aug. 3, gunmen raided another eastern village and massacred 140 Muslims in two mosques. The incident set off a chain of vengeance killings. On Sunday, Sri Lankan police shot and killed 15 Tamil rebels after the guerrillas killed four Muslim farmers in Sammanturai, officials said. Six soldiers died in a rebel attack in northeastern Talaimannar on Sunday. The government blames attacks on Muslim and Sinhalese civilians on the Tamil Tigers, the militia fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east. The Tigers said Saturday's killings were carried out by pro-government Tamil agents to discredit their organization. "Why should we attack Muslims?," said Lawrence Thilakar, a Tamil Tiger leader, from the group's press office in London. "We need the fullest co-operation of the Muslim people," he said. "This dangerous game being played by the government will not last long, very soon the truth will come out." Tamil separatists, seeking an independent country, resumed fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government on June 11, breaking a 13-month ceasefire. At least 3,200 combatants have been killed since June. Hundreds of civilians have also been killed. Tamils say they are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese. Tamils make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, while Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent and Moslems seven per cent. In all, 14,000 people have died in the civil war, which began in 1983.

Load-Date: October 16, 2002

Sri-Lanka, DL

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UN

World expects United Nations to take stand against atrocities, Sec-Gen tells Commission

M2 PRESSWIRE

April 8, 1999

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Length: 7682 words

Dateline: GENEVA

Highlight: Ministers from Sudan and Pakistan, Secretary- General Of Organization of Islamic Conference address Commission

Body

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan this morning told the Commission on Human Rights that when civilians were attacked and massacred because of their ethnicity, as in Kosovo, the world looked to the United Nations to speak up for them. The same happened when people were assaulted and mutilated, as in Sierra Leone, or when women were denied equality, as in Afghanistan. The world expected the United Nations to take a stand.

Rights were not relative, and whatever happened within national borders was of concern to the organization of sovereign States that was the United Nations, the Secretary-General said. Collectively, all should say no, we will not and we cannot accept a situation where people are brutalized behind national borders.

Mr. Annan said that of all gross violations, genocide knew no parallel in human history. It was a tragic irony of this age of human rights, that it had been repeatedly darkened by outbursts of indiscriminate violence and organized killings. Though the United Nations did not have independent observers on the ground, the signs were that this may be happening, once again and once more, in Kosovo. The result was a humanitarian disaster throughout the region.

The Commission on Human Rights continued its debate on the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world. Several speakers stressed that the situation in Kosovo was of grave importance and a durable solution was needed.

Azeddine Laraki, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, spoke of the gravity of the situation in Kosovo, and the plight of the people of that region in terms of harassment, abuse, and violation of their rights. The international community should shoulder its full responsibility for ensuring both the present and future protection of these people.

Sartaj Aziz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, called for an end to the human rights violations occurring in Kosovo and in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Just and peaceful solutions were necessary to restore harmony to these regions, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin, Minister of Justice of Sudan, addressed the Commission, speaking of the implementation of a number of positive constitutional, political and legal developments in Sudan.

UN World expects United Nations to take stand against atrocities, Sec-Gen tells Commission

Representatives of China, Cuba and Indonesia addressed the Commission, as did speakers for the following non-governmental organizations: Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America; the Arab Organization for Human Rights; Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation; Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme; the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America; Centro des Estudios Europeos; International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious Linguistic and other Minorities; Liberation; International Buddhist Foundation; Indian Movement Tupaj Amaru (joint statement with Union of Arab Jurists); International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty; the World Muslim Congress; Article XIX International Centre Against Censorship; Women's International Democratic Federation; the National Union of Jurists of Cuba; International Educational Development; and the All-China Women's Federation.

The Commission resumes its plenary at 3 p.m. to continue its debate on the question of human rights violations in any part of the world.

Statements

KOFI ANNAN, United Nations Secretary-General, said that human rights were a priority in every United Nations programme and mission. He saluted the Commission on Human Rights' determination to ensure a firm foundation for the rights of future generations, and said that its work in combatting violations of human rights and establishing norms to protect them made history and helped to save lives.

The Secretary-General said it was his belief that human rights were at the core of the sacred bond between the United Nations and peoples of those nations. When civilians were attacked and massacred because of their ethnicity, as in Kosovo, the world looked to the United Nations to speak up for them. When people were assaulted and mutilated, as in Sierra Leone, again the world looked to the United Nations. When women were denied equality, as in Afghanistan, the world expected the United Nations to take a stand.

Mr. Annan said perhaps more than any other part of the work of the United Nations, the struggle for human rights resonated with the global constituency, and was deeply relevant to the lives of those most in need. It was vital, in order to answer that global constituency, to speak up and speak out in defence of human rights and to advocate their lasting universality.

Rights were not relative, and whatever happened within national borders was of concern to the organization of sovereign States that was the United Nations, the Secretary-General said. Collectively, all should say no, we will not and we cannot accept a situation where people are brutalized behind national borders. This was because a United Nations that could not stand up for human rights was a United Nations that could not stand up for itself. The United Nations mission began and ended with the individual, and his or her universal and inalienable rights.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations work was never done, for with every proclaimed right, hundreds of abuses were committed every year. For every freedom secured, more were threatened. Thousands suffered from discrimination or violence, and children were denied the right to education and a peaceful childhood.

Mr. Annan said the Commission on Human Rights could claim with pride to have been an architect of the international structure of rights, having created an international code of human rights. The Commission had been a pioneer in establishing norms and advancing justice. There had been great contributions towards promoting economic, social and cultural rights, and work on the right to development had opened up new horizons in the field of human rights. By the recognition that human rights were interrelated, indivisible and interdependent, the Commission had helped to ensure that the implementation of social and economic rights went hand in hand with political and civil rights. Human rights had been brought home to where they belonged: in the lives of the weakest and most vulnerable of our world. These were accomplishments in which the Commission could take great pride.

Gross and shocking violations of human rights continued daily around the world, offending the global conscience, outraging all people of good will, and undermining the deepest sense of a shared humanity. If there was no response to these acts, then the foundations laid elsewhere would crumble beneath the weight of these violations. The Commission on Human Rights had long recognized this. A vast array of envoys from the United Nations had

UN World expects United Nations to take stand against atrocities, Sec-Gen tells Commission

travelled the world, planting the flag of human rights, extending the reach of the Commission, and giving victims hope of a better, freer, less repressive future.

The achievements of the last 50 years were rooted in the universal acceptance of those rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration, and in the equally universal abhorrence of practices for which there could be no excuse. Still, it was not enough to know what the world was against. The world needed to know who it was against. The United Nations should have the courage to recognize that just as there were common aims, there were common enemies. For those guilty of gross and shocking violations of human rights, impunity was not acceptable. The United Nations would never be their refuge. Only in their defeat could the promise of the great Organization of the United Nations be redeemed.

The Secretary-General said he had chosen to dwell not only on common aims and shared accomplishments, but also on the magnitude of the human rights abuses that the United Nations was committed to ending. He had sought to draw attention to the importance of combatting the most outrageous violations of human rights, including summary executions, forced displacements, massacres, and indiscriminate attacks on civilians. This was done because this Commission met under the dark cloud of the crime of genocide.

Mr. Annan said that of all gross violations, genocide knew no parallel in human history. It was a tragic irony of this age of human rights, that it had been repeatedly darkened by outbursts of indiscriminate violence and organized killings. Though the United Nations did not have independent observers on the ground, the signs were that this may be happening, once again and once more, in Kosovo. The result was a humanitarian disaster throughout the region. It was deeply regretted by all that the international community, despite months of diplomatic efforts, had failed to prevent this disaster. The hope lay in that a universal sense of outrage had been provoked. Slowly emerging was an international norm against the violent repression of minorities that would and should take precedence over concerns of sovereignty.

This was a principle that protected minorities and majorities from gross violations. The rights and ideals the United Nations existed to protect were those of peoples. The United Nations as an institution would always place the human being at the centre of everything done. No government had the right to hide behind national sovereignty in order to violate the human rights or fundamental freedom of its peoples, since these were sacred.

The Secretary-General said this developing international norm would pose fundamental challenges to the United Nations. But if this challenge was not met, if the United Nations were to become the refuge of the ethnic cleanser or mass murderer, the very ideals that inspired the founding of the United Nations would be betrayed. This hope for humanity could be too late for the thousands forcibly expelled from Kosovo, and for the thousands who had been murdered simply for who they were. But it would not be too late for the United Nations, if this emboldened it to enter a new century with a renewed commitment to protecting the rights of every man, woman and child, regardless of ethnic, national or religious belonging.

ALI MOHAMED OSMAN YASSIN, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Sudan, said it was unfortunate that coercive unilateral measures based on flimsy pretexts sometimes were taken to deprive some countries of their right to development; the bombing of the Shifa pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum was a clear example of how the right to development and to health of a least developed country was being denied, in total disregard of international laws and human rights standards. Sudan nonetheless had recently enacted many reforms, including adoption of a new Constitution with a wide-ranging Bill of Rights; establishment of a Constitutional Court; release of political detainees; and fostering of independent newspapers. State and national elections were in the planning stage.

Mr. Yassin said the Khartoum Peace Agreement signed in April 1997 with seven southern rebel factions and the agreement signed with the central committee of the rebels of the Nuba mountains illustrated the Government's commitment to peace. Unfortunately the remaining rebel faction, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army, remained unwilling to sign a peace agreement although the Government was pursuing such an agreement relentlessly.

Recently the SPLM/SPLA rebel movement had committed an abhorrent act of barbarity when it ruthlessly executed four Sudanese nationals, one of them a Red Crescent worker; all were on a humanitarian relief mission. Mr. Yassin

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said it also was most regrettable that the Commission had allowed the leader of those committing this crime, John Garang, to address the Commission under the banner of the non-governmental organization Christian Solidarity International (CSI), even while his hands were soaked in the blood of those victims. CSI should be strongly condemned, and it also should be vilified for accusing the country of the crime of slavery - the Government emphatically and categorically rejected this false charge. It was CSI that was the main source of abduction and kidnapping of children in areas controlled by the rebels; CSI was purposely and maliciously creating this practice to tarnish the image of the Sudan, and the Government had instituted criminal cases against it in the Sudan.

AZEDDINE LARAKI, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said the meetings of the Human Rights Commission invariably offered an opportunity to recognize achievements of the field human rights. However, the events that took place in Kosovo today were such that he had to pay attention to this single issue, namely the human tragedy afflicted on the people in that region. The Organization of the Islamic Conference was drawn early to the gravity of the situation in Kosovo and the plight of the people in that region in terms of harassment, abuse and violation of their rights.

The Organization condemned the massacres perpetrated against the Muslim people of Kosovo at the hands of Serbian forces, and urged the international community to shoulder its full responsibility for ensuring their protection.

Mr. Laraki said that despite all the serious and prolonged negotiations for the achievement of a solution, the Serbian Government had persisted in its policy of ethnic cleansing that had thrown the region into a human tragedy and a vast military escalation with unpredictable repercussions over the future of the people and their human rights. If the military intervention was aimed at thwarting the vicious policy of the Serb forces, the international community was duty-bound to see that the Muslim citizens of Kosovo were not compelled to leave their homes and that generous initiatives on the part of the various States which offered shelter to these citizens were not taken as an advantage by the Serb regime to empty this region of its Muslim citizens.

SARTAJ AZIZ, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, said that the Commission epitomized the moral response of the world community to the atrocities and barbarism of this century. Since 1948, the nations of the world had constructed extensive norms in the field of human rights, and had made considerable progress in creating the mechanisms to advance observance of these norms. The world today was confronted simultaneously with twin crises: an economic crisis, and a political crisis, manifested in proliferating conflicts, wars and turmoil in many countries and regions of the world. It was now imperative to promote growth with equity; to promote globalization with a human face. The right to development should be actualized, and this right should be accorded primacy in the pantheon of human rights.

Mr. Aziz said the impact of military, political and humanitarian crises in the globalized world was also more severe and widespread. Despite human rights instruments and declarations, recent conflicts had witnessed some of the most serious violations of human rights and crimes against humanity. It was most regrettable that the United Nations Security Council had been unable to respond to the grave political crisis in Kosovo, and the ongoing massive human tragedy there. Until the Council could act, it was hoped that other organs of the United Nations, especially the Commission, would be able to respond with courage and clarity to the Kosovo crisis. The international community also had a duty to take urgent steps to respond to the crisis.

Mr. Aziz stated that the human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir were well-documented and universally acknowledged. For the past decade, the people of Kashmir had been engaged in a valiant struggle for self-determination, a struggle that Pakistan supported morally, politically and diplomatically, whereas India had sought brutally but unsuccessfully to suppress the Kashmir freedom struggle and thus deny the Kashmiri people all their human rights. A complete and durable normalization could become a political reality once a just and peaceful solution had been found, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

QIAO ZONGHUAI (China) said the twentieth century was a century when the Chinese people had profoundly changed their destiny. Over the past 100 years, great changes had taken place with regard to the human rights situation in China. China entered the twentieth century in a state of deep humiliation amid the roar of cannons, when the eight-Power allied forces invaded Beijing in 1900. China had made remarkable achievements in the field

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of human rights over the past year. Externally, the country was faced with the Asian financial crisis. Domestically, it had suffered from severe floods. The promotion and protection of human rights of the Chinese people was not to be divorced from the specific circumstances in China.

Mr. Zonghuai said due to different national situations, it was normal for countries to have different opinions on human rights. The Chinese Government had long maintained such differences should be solved through dialogue and exchanges on the basis of equality and mutual respect. The Chinese Government had noted with appreciation that the European Union had decided for the second time not to sponsor a China resolution at the current Commission session. This was a sensible move not only for the China-European Union human rights dialogue but also for defusing the confrontation in the Commission. However, on March 26, the United States' Government had announced it would sponsor an anti-China resolution by itself due to the "sharp deterioration of China's human rights record." Turning a deaf ear to the appeal of the majority of the Member States, the United States made the decision arbitrarily. This was sheer politicization of human rights issues and the work of this Commission.

CARLOS AMAT FLORES (Cuba) said that last year, during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, it had become more apparent than ever that the so-called situation of human rights in Cuba was fabricated and promoted by a powerful and costly propaganda machine that served only the big Power's intrusive policy, urged in this case by its disappointment for the failure to accomplish as far as Cuba was concerned its goals of domination and hegemonism. The United States, however, had not let up in its efforts to condemn Cuba, whilst trying to strangle it.

This time, with no courage to assume its responsibility for such an action, the United States had assigned the Czech Republic, seconded by Poland, the job of serving as spearheads for its attempt. It was an open secret that the anti-Cuban draft resolution that had been circulating informally had been conceived in vitro, promoted in the shadows, and ultimately cloned by Washington in these two countries. Cuba was now accused of repressive measures against its citizens, as fallaciously exemplified in the National Independence and Economy Protection Act. Cuba had every right, in use of its sovereign powers, to defend itself against anti-Cuban extraterritorial law passed by the United States.

Mr. Flores said that if the intrusive and aggressive United States policy against Cuba, the Helms-Burton Act and the genocidal blockade imposed by the United States had not been in force, it would not have been necessary to promulgate such laws in Cuba. Thus, any new resolution against Cuba would prompt a new spiral of confrontation and politicization of the forum, which would damage its credibility and seriousness. Double-standards, selectivity and political manoeuvring were self-evident in the Commission. The Cuban commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights went beyond its borders, as did its commitment to democracy.

SUSANTO SUTOYO (Indonesia) said rhetoric and confrontation were often preferred over genuine dialogue under this agenda item; it was a shame that some countries tended to point fingers, and that the same countries did not list their own faults as pointed out by many non-governmental organizations and the media. It also was unfortunate that discussions of human-rights performances by developing countries often did not take into account the impressive progress many of them had made, or understand the pressures they were under.

Mr. Sutoyo said Indonesia had taken strategic steps to strengthen institutions and legislation and to redress past abuses; it had released political prisoners and engaged in dialogues with various groups; and it had adopted and was implementing a national plan of action on human rights. In East Timor it was negotiating a wide-ranging autonomy plan, which, once adopted, would be followed by a direct vote by East Timorese in July on the subject of Indonesia's offer of autonomy; should that offer be rejected, the Government would consider discussion of the parting of East Timor from the State of Indonesia. Meanwhile the Government was taking all possible measures to address the root causes of social unrest - including unfortunate incidents where religious or ethnic sentiments were manipulated

- in various parts of the country following the economic crisis and political changes that recently had occurred.

EMMA MAZA, of Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America, expressed concern over the impunity measures used in Mexico. There was a serious deterioration of human rights and Mexico gave priority to impunity over its indigenous people. The Inter-America Human Rights Commission had expressed concern over independent

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relationships and judicial guarantees in operation as the system showed serious irregularities in trial methods of investigation. Such was the case with the fight against drugs which had brought about forced disappearances and arrests.

Ms. Maza asked the Mexican Government to adopt measures against those who committed these violations of human rights. It urged the Government to allow the Commission to send a Special Rapporteur to investigate the reports of arbitrary executions, detentions and arrests and to follow up on the situation of human rights in this country. He urged the Mexico Government to set dates for this.

MOHAMMED FAYEK, of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, said that although a number of Arab countries had witnessed positive developments in the field of human rights and basic freedoms, these steps, although of great importance, had not alleviated the magnitude and the nature of the significant violations which continued to occur in the region. These were namely that the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people remained absent, and geographical and demographic transformations of the occupied territories were ongoing.

Mr. Fayek said the continuing application of international sanctions on Iraq had resulted in tens of thousands of innocent victims, mostly children, and in deteriorating health conditions and education in Iraq; in Somalia, the peace agreement signed in Cairo at the beginning of 1998 had not been implemented; in the Sudan, nothing had been done to normalize political life; and there had been thousands of victims of violence and terrorism in Algeria. Numerous regrettable human rights violations had also occurred in Iraq, Sudan, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon and Libya. Human rights organizations had been a target of a campaign of criticism, and human rights workers had been arrested. The Commission should adopt an effective programme to implement the United Nations Declaration regarding the protection of human rights defenders.

RAFENDI DJAMIN, of the Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation, said arbitrary actions had been carried out beginning early in 1998 by the Indonesian military to safeguard President Suharto's re-election, and at that point violence and human-rights violations had escalated. Later these violations had continued under the country's new regime. Thousands of Megawati's PDI supporters were arrested and detained without trial; kidnappings, torture, and secret detentions were inflicted against activists; when thousands of students demonstrated, they were fired on and some female students were sexually abused by security forces; then there were terrifying riots in which at least 1,190 people died and many ethnic Chinese women were gang raped.

Mr. Djamin said the transition of power to President Habibie evidently had not brought about any meaningful change in human-rights protections, unfortunately - security forces already had killed dozens of students engaged in political activities. The Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances should visit Indonesia, along with the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial executions.

Mr. HENDARDI, of Agir Ensemble Pour le Droits de L'homme, said the fall of former dictator Suharto last May opened new opportunities for human rights defenders in Indonesia to end the country's poor record on human rights by bringing justice to all the victims of the various gross human rights violations perpetrated since 1965. The new Government led by President Habibie and Chief of the Armed Forces General Wiranto had stated its commitment to democratic reform and respect for human rights. However, the lack of political will so far to persecute Suharto and the appointment of generals with poor human rights records had strengthened public scepticism about President Habibie and General Wiranto's commitment to genuine reform.

Mr. Hendaradi said all steps taken by President Habibie's Government to promote human rights in Indonesia, such as the launching of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and allowing the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to visit Indonesia last November 1998, did not have any structural impact and had not changed the gross human rights violations that continued to take place. The failure of the State to contain the conflict among the various ethnic and religious groups within the judicial system and to prevent large scale communal violence in several parts of Indonesia had created a chaotic situation and disintegration that legitimized the presence of strong military rule. Based on the above observations, the Commission was urged to request the Indonesian Government to invite the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial killings in 1999 so that she could present her finds for the next

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session in year 2000. The organization also urged the Commission to closely-follow up all recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Working Group on arbitrary detentions.

LOURDES CERVANTES, of the Organization for the Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, expressed several considerations of a general nature. It was time to study human rights in southern countries, whilst not forgetting that it was globally understood that the state of human rights in northern countries was more than acceptable, whilst southern countries needed to prove this. This was due to an undue politicization and double standards, as exemplified by the state of human rights in Cuba, and the draft resolution on this matter, as created by the United States in a political attempt to undermine the Cuban Government. Different cultural and social standards should be thought of during the implementation of human rights standards. Economic blackmail should not be allowed, nor should northern countries be allowed to interfere. It was time to work for a more integrated and updated view of human rights, and to face up to the multiplication of violations that were due to social and financial inequalities. The problems facing mankind had put in jeopardy the most basic human rights across the globe.

LAZARO MORA SECADE, of Centro de Estudios Europeos, said that when the renewal of the Special Rapporteur for Cuba was rejected last year, it appeared an important step had been taken to halt double standards and selectivity in the Commission's activities; but on 30 March the delegation of the United States had organized a meeting and had introduced an item on the situation of human rights in Cuba, and when it was asked if the new members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Poland and the Czech Republic, were going to introduce a resolution on Cuba at this year's Commission session as a reward to the United States for this membership, the question was lightly put aside.

Mr. Secade said it was very clear that the United States did not care about human rights in Cuba, since it had carried out an economic blockade against Cuban citizens for decades, thus causing intense human suffering. The United States in fact had a political aim - it wanted to destroy the type of Government Cubans had chosen; it wanted to destroy the Cuban revolution. The United States Government also had fostered dissident organizations and subversive elements within Cuba. Faced with this aggression, the Cuban people were defending themselves.

KYRIACOS KALATTAS, of the International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic and Other Minorities, said that the Cyprus problem had been before the Commission for over 25 years. According to the Turkish Government's statement of 20 July 1974, the purpose of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus was to eliminate the danger directed against the rights of all Cypriots, and to restore the independence, territorial integrity and security of the region. Instead of doing this, Turkey had committed barbarism and atrocities in the course of the invasion by bombing civilians and committing torture, as well as repeated assaults, mass rapes and murder. Turkey had since refused to comply with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, amongst others.

Turkey's policy of colonization of the occupied part of Cyprus was contrary to the Geneva Conventions and Protocol. The declaration of independence of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was a violation of the 1960 treaty that had established the Republic of Cyprus. The Security Council should impose mandatory sanctions against Turkey, or it would never comply with United Nations resolutions upon the matter. All States, international organizations, legal bodies and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights should focus their attention on the breaches of international law and the violations of human rights committed in Cyprus by Turkey, and should strive for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Turkey.

HALEPOTA MUNAVAR, of Liberation, said human rights and fundamental freedom in Yemen had been abused for a long time and its citizens had been routinely subjected to arbitrary detention, torture and other forms of discriminatory, and inhuman treatment and punishment. There was also suppression of freedom of opinion as well as missile military bombardments on civilian communities. In one such incident, 100 women and children were killed and wounded last year in Mareb and Dhala. The Commission should look into the deteriorating state of human rights in Yemen and the Government should abide by its international commitments. Concerns were raised over the people of Sindh in Pakistan. The "state of emergency" declared last year, following "nuclear explosions"; the establishment of military courts; and the issuing of death sentences after four-day trials further undermined the constitutional rights and fundamental freedom of the people of Sindh.

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Mr. Munavar said there was a widespread violation of human rights in Pakistan, as reported by the Special Rapporteur. Rape, torture and death in custody by security forces were being used to suppress the right to self-determination by the people of Sindh. Also the people of Aceh since 1989 had been subjected to thousands of killings, disappearances, rapes and torture. On 3 February, soldiers had opened fire on a large crowd of Acehnese returning from a public rally in east Aceh, killing an unknown number of people. Some bodies which had been bound hand and foot and weighed down with stones were later recovered from Avakonda River. The Indonesian Government should be urged to initiate proceedings against those known perpetrators of human rights violation in Aceh and provide for thousands of widows and orphans who were victims of the region.

TED AKITO, of the International Buddhist Foundation, said all must speak out against violence or terrorism that took away human life and destroyed religious sites, whether in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, or anywhere else in the world. Indiscriminate violence was not justified under any circumstances. Whoever supported or promoted terrorism was totally against Buddhist philosophy.

This momentum towards violence led to such things as the savage attack on one of the holiest shrines in the world, the sacred Tooth Relic Temple in Kandy, Sri Lanka, by the **Tamil Tigers** early last year. The attack was part of a cycle of violence, a pattern of action and reaction involving the army of Sri Lanka, the Indian army, and the terrorist **Tamil Tigers**. Justice there had to be made to function independently and properly so that democracy could be restored. Governments must not hesitate to put their own soldiers behind bars for human rights violations. The Commission must find suitable ways both to condemn Governments which were guilty of barbarism and to reject attempts to glorify criminal or terrorist organizations.

LAZARO PARY, of Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", said the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization had launched vicious attacks against Iraq's people without the agreement of the Security Council. The deadly bombs launched from the warships and planes against the military and civilian population in Iraq were more than those launched during the whole Persian Gulf War. The United States had impeached the international law under the so-controlled wars.

Mr. Pary said the Congress of the United States had sanctioned wars against Iraq with the help of its Arab neighbours. Bombs and missiles continued to fall on Serbs and Kosovars in Yugoslavia to show the world that it was back in 1941 when massive exodus of populations occurred. The embargo against Cuba by the United States maintained terrorist acts on the island to close its economic circles, causing millions to starve. Imposing laws on sovereign countries was a violation of international laws and the international community was urged to put an end to these measures.

WILFRED WONG, of the International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, said there were serious problems with religious liberty in Indonesia, where Christian churches had been attacked by Muslim rioters in February; six Christians also had been killed in the violence, and mob violence against Christians in Indonesia in fact had been going on since 1945 - over that period at least 390 churches had been destroyed. During fighting between Muslims and Christians on the Indonesian island of Ambon recently at least 200 had died, and Ambonese Christian leaders had accused some members of the Indonesian security forces of siding with the Muslim rioters. The Government was urged to ensure that its security forces acted impartially to protect all religious groups.

Mr. Wong said meanwhile there also were problems in India, where Hindu extremists had burned and vandalized churches, and in Burma, where the military regime continued to carry out a policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide against the country's minority peoples; the regime should be tried by an international tribunal for crimes of genocide.

GHULAM MUHAMMAD SAFI, of the World Muslim Congress, said although India claimed to be the largest democracy in the world, it had one of the worst human rights records that encompassed all conceivable types of human rights abuses and exercises. Over 50 per cent of India's population were the majority and were out-castes merely by accident of birth. These included the Dalit "untouchables" who by law were classified as scheduled castes. They were the economically and socially most deprived half of the Indian population. They were born and died in servitude. Dalit **women** and girls were bought and sold, subjected to all forms of exploitation and sexual

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abuse, and treated as property by the landed class. Approximately 20 per cent of the Indian population fell in the category of minorities. These included Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and other religious beliefs. Religious intolerance was deep-rooted in India as evidenced by the massacre in 1984 of Sikhs in New Delhi and other parts of India, the destruction of Babri Mosque and widespread killing of Muslims in Bombay in 1992.

Mr. Safi said that according to Indian human rights organizations, state agents participated in and abetted crimes of violence against women. The Indian Minister of Home Affairs had admitted 4,414 incidents of rape of minor girls below age of 16 and 10,922 of adult women during 1997. Prostitution was widespread in India, with half a million child prostitutes. Dowry deaths continued to plague the Indian society along with female infanticide. The problem of child labour was highly acute and according to independent sources, approximately 87 million children were employed in labour of one form or another.

EDETAN OJO, of Article XIX, International Centre against Censorship, addressed the situation of human rights in Nigeria and Algeria. The significant progress already made in Nigeria in the programme of transition to civilian rule and the expected inauguration of a new civilian Government and President was most welcome, but the transition to civilian rule did not mean that democracy and human rights had been secured. The transition had been flawed in many respects, and much remained to be done if the latest democratic experience was not to be short-lived and superficial. In Algeria, widespread killings, disappearances and suppression of other basic human rights, including freedom of expression, continued. While many abuses were committed by shadowy armed groups, others had undoubtedly been the work of government forces. There was a suppression of independent information on the conflict, which served to protect the perpetrators and throw a cloak of impunity over their actions. Article XIX urged the Commission to appoint a Special Rapporteur to study the situation of human rights in Algeria.

LEYLA AGDAS, of the Women's International Democratic Federation, said there was growing recognition of State responsibility to respect human rights, but that did not mean there were no serious human-rights problems; hundreds of thousands still were deprived of their rights. Worse, those responsible for serious abuses enjoyed impunity. Abdullah Ocalan, head of the PKK, had gone to Italy to exercise his right to political asylum, but had not been allowed to stay, nor had he been allowed to stay in Russia; and thanks to complicity between the Turks, Israelis, Greeks, Americans, and Kenyans, he had been arrested and brought back to Turkey where it was clear that he would be tried in a judicial process that did not respect the fundamental rights of defendants; he probably would be sentenced to death.

Ms. Agdas said that given Turkey's policy of brutal repression of the Kurdish people, the Kurds had had no choice but to resort to violence; they had suffered murders without investigation or resolution; torture; arbitrary executions. The Commission must call for a peaceful political solution to the war in Kurdistan.

FRANCISCO GARCIA HENRIQUEZ, of the National Union of Jurists of Cuba, lamented and condemned the obvious intent of the United States Government to manipulate and confuse the intent of the Commission by misinterpreting Cuban legislation. The United States had consistently attempted to undermine the Cuban Government in many ways, and this was deplored. The United States Government had no right to maintain an economic embargo against Cuba for the last 30 years. This harmed the citizens of Cuba, not only by the embargo, but by the United States policy of state terrorism against Cuba. The United States criminal actions against peace violated the Nuremberg statutes. There was a need for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to investigate the state of human rights in the United States.

KAREN PARKER, of International Educational Development, said that Africa alone had 16 wars and at least seven near wars. As a result there were millions of deaths, and hundreds of thousands were wounded, disabled, displaced and facing starvation. In Sierra Leone the closing down of the Bo/Kenema roads since January 1999 new offensive by Sam Bokarie and the Revolutionary United Front against Freetown and other parts of the country had made hundreds of thousands sick and at risk of starvation. The involvement of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional political body, had not defused the armed conflict between Kabbah's Government and the Revolutionary United Front. There were equally bad wars in the Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and Burundi. It was less catastrophic in Rwanda, Uganda, Lesotho, the Comoro Federation, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Angola and between Ethiopia and Eritrea and Morocco and the

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Western Sahara. In fact, the United Nations mandate was postponed for the Western Sahara. In Asia, there was war in Sri Lanka and the Government rejected all international efforts to monitor and negotiate. The situation in Myanmar was grave, in part due to the failure of the international community to address the illegal nature of the regime in control.

Ms. Parker said the organization was encouraged by the efforts of Indonesia's new Government concerning East Timor to date. The organization had worked intensely on the situation in Mexico for the past five years. There were violations of human rights and brutality by the Mexican authorities. In 1997, there was a massacre of innocent indigenous population which could only have taken place with collusion of the Mexican authorities. It was imperative that the Commission adopt a resolution in which it appointed a Special Rapporteur for Mexico.

SONG WENYAN, of All China Women's Federation, said that unfortunately in many parts of the world, the protection of human rights, including women's rights, was still inadequate. In the United States, for example, 18 per cent of American women had been victims of attempted rape or had been raped; the United States had the worst labour protection for women; child abuse was a serious problem; racial discrimination and police brutality were at unacceptable levels. Now the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, led by the United States, was carrying out military attacks with modern weapons against a small sovereign State, leaving large numbers of innocent civilians displaced, injured, or dead. The All China Women's Federation expressed its great indignation and demanded a stop to these attacks.

Ms. Wenyan said the Federation hoped the Commission would find a way to play a more positive role in the promotion and protection of human rights, and that the violations that had occurred in the current century would not be repeated in the next.

CORRECTION

The statement by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Pedros Eftychiou, which appeared in press release HR/CN/896 of 6 April 1999, should read as follows:

PEDROS EFTYCHIOU (Cyprus) said 25 years after the Turkish invasion and occupation of 37 per cent of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, massive violations of human rights continued in a systematic manner well after the end of hostilities. He reminded the countries of the tragic consequences of the 1974 Turkish invasion and the human rights situation in Cyprus today.

Mr. Eftychiou said that as a result of the Turkish invasion, 200,000 people living in the area occupied by the Turkish army were forced to abandon their homes and turn into refugees within their own country. Some 25 years later, not a single displaced person had been allowed to return home. The agony and drama of the families of the missing still continued. With the occupation, a large part of Cyprus' cultural heritage, including religious and archaeological monuments, found itself under the control of the occupied regime. At the time of the invasion, there were approximately 120,000 Turkish Cypriots living in Cyprus. Today there were only 60,000 left and at the same time, 114,000 Turkish settlers had been implanted in occupied Cyprus. With regard to the case of Cyprus, the relevant resolutions and high level agreements would offer a sound basis for achieving a just and viable solution to the problem.

The statement by Emmanuel Manoussakis of Greece, which appeared in press release HR/CN/896 of 6 April 1999, should read as follows:

EMMANUEL MANOUSSAKIS (Greece), speaking in right of reply, said Turkey once again had misled the Commission; he wished to state once and for all that Greece did not and never would support terrorism and did not support the PKK. In fact the Kurdish situation was a human rights matter and needed to be faced up to and resolved on that basis by Turkey. It also should be pointed out that fighting against terrorism could not be used as an excuse for human rights violations.

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Mr. Manoussakis said that as to the Muslim minority residing in Greece, it enjoyed all freedoms and guarantees and full equality with all Greek citizens, contrary to the Greeks who lived in Istanbul, the number of which had diminished from 150,000 to only 3,000 since the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923.

Load-Date: April 9, 1999

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COURIER-MAIL

October 28, 1995 Saturday

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Length: 684 words

Byline: LAIDLAW R

Body

KEYWORD-HIT] THE invasion of the papaya (papaw) fly in north Queensland worsened. Japan banned Queensland mangoes. Scientists warned the fly could become established in all of Australia's mainland fruit-growing areas. A political row erupted over quarantine measures. The quarantine zone was steadily enlarged over the week. Mackay veterinarian Margaret Preston, whose husband Mark, 35, died after testing positive to equine morbillivirus, the disease which killed Brisbane horse trainer Vic Rail 13 months ago, said she did not believe the virus had caused his death. Mrs Preston is 38 weeks pregnant. The State Government announced it would spend \$225 million rebuilding the Princess Alexandra Hospital on its existing site at Annerley in Brisbane. Ansett suspended six Queensland employees who called in sick but were later photographed at the company's social golf event at Noosa last month. Queensland was found to be the home of the poor family, in a report on national income distribution: 35 percent of families were in the bottom 30 percent of income groupings. Another study found Queenslanders spent the least on leisure. The Cairns Colonial Club Resort was judged best hotel in the world, by 1600 readers of the British magazine Executive Travel. A Townsville scientist reported Indonesian farmers could cheaply reduce liver fluke infestation in cattle by spreading duck droppings in grazing areas. Businesses fear a State Government revamp of stamp duty laws could cost them millions in extra taxes, having seen a confidential draft that proposes extending stamp duty to a wide range of items not now subject to duty.

QNPCompulsory third-party motor insurance could soon cost \$100 a year more, Suncorp warned, because of a rash of compensation claims it said was partly fuelled by new laws allowing lawyers to advertise for business.] FAMILY Court Chief Justice Alastair Nicholson criticised the legal system for failing children, homosexual couples and women from split relationships. He also supported voluntary euthanasia. The Federal coalition would target small business, retirees and women as forces for change in the lead-up to the next election, and tag every Labor candidate with Prime Minister Paul Keating's name during the campaign, Liberal Party federal director Andrew Robb told a Liberal Women's Forum in Brisbane. Federal coalition industrial relations spokesman Peter Reith announced a coalition government would provide paternity leave and paid family leave for workers and guaranteed not to cut youth wages. Senator Cheryl Kernot criticised a Labor Party fund-raising scheme that invited businesses to donate \$20,000 to the ALP in return for an opportunity to press the flesh with Cabinet Ministers and possibly the Prime Minister. The ALP later conceded the scheme was an error of judgment. Many Australian women were finally testing the glass ceiling in business life but were trapped in a pink ghetto, the Affirmative Action Agency said. Federal authorities urged pregnant women to avoid the increasingly popular consumption of rare or uncooked meat because of the danger of toxoplasmosis infection resulting in birth defects or foetal death. Inflation hit its highest level in nearly five years _ 5.1 percent on an annual basis after the September quarter CPI result _ and wages rose 5.3 percent, sparking fears, which the Government pooh-poohed, of a return to high inflation.] RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin was taken to hospital when he returned to Moscow from the US, with a recurrence of his heart trouble. The war against the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka escalated. President Fidel Castro, who wore a suit, addressed the 50th general assembly of the United Nations and attacked US policy towards Cuba. Later he changed back into his

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jungle greens to tour Harlem in New York. Interviewed on US television he said Cuba's mistake had been to become too reliant on the Soviet Union. Ahead of Monday's separatist referendum in Quebec, Canadian leaders warned of the consequences of breaking the federation: opinion polls showed the Ouis et Nons virtually neck and neck.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

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No Headline In Original

Associated Press Worldstream

December 19, 1995; Tuesday 05:21 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 380 words

Byline: NIRESH ELIATAMBY

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels accused the military Tuesday of murdering thousands of Tamil civilians and using forced labor in eastern Sri Lanka during the 12-year-old ethnic war.

"It is estimated that 9,000 Tamil youths of both sexes have been massacred in the eastern province prior to 1994," the rebels said in a statement. "Their actual fate is not known. ... But they were arrested by the armed forces."

It was unclear where the bodies had been buried, said the statement from the guerrillas' London office.

A military spokesman in Colombo denied the allegation. "If the army has massacred 9,000 civilians, the **LTTE** (rebels) must prove it by producing the bodies," said the spokesman, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

The rebels said 27 Tamils, including seven **women**, had disappeared this year after being arrested by the military in the eastern Trincomalee district.

Their statement also claimed 62 Tamil prisoners were being used for forced labor in military bases in Trincomalee, 230 kilometers (140 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Human rights groups have expressed concern over arbitrary arrests and disappearances of Tamils in military custody throughout the country.

They also have criticized the rebels for attacking Sinhalese and Muslim civilians in the north and east, in a form of "ethnic cleansing" of areas they claim as a Tamil homeland.

The state-appointed Human Rights Task Force warned this week that many soldiers and policemen are ignoring government guidelines to ensure the safety of rebel suspects.

The military previously admitted that soldiers were responsible for the massacre of 50 Tamil civilians in June 1991 at Kokkadicholai village in eastern Batticaloa district.

In September, Sri Lankan warplanes bombed a school in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, killing 71 people, including 42 children. The military denied the bombing, but relief agencies operating in rebel-held areas confirmed the incident.

No Headline In Original

In October, the rebels attacked six Sinhalese villages in the northeast, shooting and hacking to death 108 people, including children.

The rebels are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils alleging widespread discrimination by the majority Sinhalese who control the government and military. More than 39,000 people have been killed since 1983.

(ne/am)

Load-Date: December 19, 1995

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Associated Press International

October 25, 2002 Friday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 765 words

Body

Cabo San Lucas, Mexico - Leaders of 21 APEC nations discuss fight against terrorism and trade. Through Oct. 27.

Pristina, Yugoslavia - Municipal elections in Kosovo.

Port of Spain, Venezuela - Foreign and energy ministers of Group of 15 developing nations meet. Through Oct. 29.

Damascus, Syria - Arab officials discuss reviving economic boycott against Israel. Through Oct. 30.

Borovets, Bulgaria - Royal wedding of Princess Kalina, daughter of Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

Tokyo - Tokyo International Film Festival. Through Nov. 4.

Brasilia, Brazil - Presidential runoff between former labor boss Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and government-backed candidate Jose Serra.

Warsaw, Poland - Local elections across Poland.

Madrid, Spain - Demonstrations across Spain to protest U.S. war plans against Iraq.

Tehran, Iran - Swiss Foreign Minister Joseph Deiss, whose country looks after U.S. interests in Iran, visits to discuss Iraq, Afghanistan and other issues.

Kuwait - Ruling expected in appeal of Filipino man sentenced to life in murder of Canadian man for insurance money and of victim's Filipina wife sentenced to three-year term for providing false testimony.

Cairo, Egypt - Arab Thought Foundation, private group formed by Arab business leaders to foster development, culture and East-West dialogue, holds first conference following Sept. 11 attacks. Through Oct. 29.

Cairo, Egypt - Opening of bribery trial of Mohammed El-Wakil, news director of state TV accused of soliciting money from people who wanted to appear on popular show.

Cairo, Egypt - Start of Mexican cultural week in Egypt. Through Nov. 2.

Yangon, Myanmar - Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, U.N. envoy on human rights in Myanmar, ends 10-day visit to investigate allegations soldiers raped ethnic Shan women to retaliate for Shan guerrilla activity.

Copenhagen, Denmark - European Union meeting to brief 10 candidate countries about EU summit on expansion of 15-nation bloc.

No Headline In Original

Rome - Catholic-Jewish seminar on 37th anniversary of landmark Vatican document condemning anti-Semitism.

Cairo, Egypt - James Zogby, founder of Arab-American Institute, speaks on Arab-American life in United States since Sept. 11.

Madrid, Spain - Iranian President Mohammad Khatami visits. Through Oct. 30.

Tokyo - Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah visits. Through Oct. 31.

Tripoli, Libya - Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi visits.

Seattle - South Korean President Kim Dae-jung arrives in Seattle for two-day visit; to attend economic conference and meet with Microsoft's Bill Gates.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Senior officials from North Korea and Japan hold talks on normalizing relations. Through Oct. 30.

London - First in series of strikes threatened by British firefighters in pay dispute. Through Oct. 31.

Madrid, Spain - Nationwide teachers strike to protest new education law.

Berlin - Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder makes first formal address of second term to parliament.

Helsinki, Finland - Scandinavian royalty, Nordic leaders meet for 50th anniversary of Nordic Council.

Baltimore - U.S. District Court hearing for sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad.

Washington - National Transportation Safety Board begins hearings into the crash of American Airlines Flight 587, which killed 265 in New York City last November.

Washington - German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, Secretary of State Colin Powell meet to discuss Iraq.

New Delhi, India - High-level segment of eighth session of Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Through Nov. 1.

Kish, Iran - International air show, first for Iran.

Halloween

Nakhon Pathom, Thailand - Second round of peace talks between Sri Lankan government and **Tamil Tigers** in Thailand. Through Nov. 1.

Rome - Polish-born Pope John Paul II made honorary citizen of Rome.

Prague, Czech Republic - Local elections and runoffs for Senate seats. Through Nov 2.

Cochin, India - First World Ayurveda Congress, with 2,500 delegates discussing traditional Indian cures and cosmetic treatments. Through Nov. 4.

London - Second round of strikes threatened by British firefighters in pay dispute. Through Nov. 4.

Manama, Bahrain - World Islamic Banking Conference.

Cairo, Egypt - Hearing in retrial, criticized by rights groups, of 50 men accused of debauchery in case focusing on their homosexuality.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia - ASEAN summit. Through Nov. 5.

Ankara, Turkey - National elections.

No Headline In Original

Jaipur, India - Britain's Prince Charles plays polo match against India's top polo players during weeklong visit to India.

Santiago, Chile - Meeting of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Through Nov. 15.

Load-Date: October 26, 2002

End of Document

BC-CPE-CRAFT-Limits-Asia

The Canadian Press (CP)

March 15, 1992 Sunday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 734 words

Body

--- BC-CPE-CRAFT-Limits-Asia --- code:3 By Andrew Quinn= BEIJING (Reuter) _ What do Xanadu, ancient summer capital of Kublai Khan, and the Flying Pigeon Bicycle Factory have in common? They're both off-limits to foreign journalists by order of the Chinese government. In a world where information flows across borders faster than ever, Beijing and many other Asian governments have found a simple way to avoid public relations headaches: keep the media out. Countries ranging from India, the world's largest democracy, to China, the largest remaining communist state, are united in their wariness of the foreign media and their determination to limit journalists' activities. The obstacles take many forms _ from road-blocks and jittery, gun-toting soldiers to blank-faced bureaucrats who politely refuse to grant travel permits. The result: hundreds of millions of people with a possible story to tell are denied access to journalists and news is blocked at its source. By far the most secretive of Asia's security-conscious leaders are the rulers of Burma and North Korea. Burma's military junta has made no secret of its contempt for the foreign media and has refused to permit western journalists to enter the country since elections in May 1990 were scuttled. Hardline communist North Korea does sometimes let foreign reporters in to cover special events under the watchful eyes of official minders. China has effectively banned the world's media from vast sections of the country, including the regions of Tibet and Xinjiang which are periodically shaken by anti-Chinese unrest. Beijing's elderly Marxist rulers, stung by the massive foreign media coverage of the army's Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989, keep extremely close tabs on all resident foreign correspondents. Phones are tapped, cars followed and permission denied for most visits outside Beijing. "Sorry, it's not convenient," has become China's answer to requests to visit virtually anywhere ranging from a simple bicycle factory in the port city of Tianjin to the ruins of Xanadu in Inner Mongolia. In Asia's other main communist power, Vietnam, all foreigners are required to obtain written police permission to go from one province to another. Hanoi has turned down requests to visit the central highlands, where ethnic minorities served as mercenaries for U.S. forces in the Vietnam War, as well as mining areas. Cambodia, where the radical communist Khmer Rouge is thought to have executed foreign journalists during its 3 1/2-year reign of terror in the mid-1970s, remains sticky for journalists under its new coalition government. Bans have been slapped on reporters who have offended sensibilities in Phnom Penh and permission is needed for all trips to the countryside. Rebellion against central authority is one certain cue for many Asian governments to declare an area off-limits. Indonesia, a land of relatively few open bans on foreign media, has closed troubled East Timor to journalists wanting to investigate an army massacre of civilians last November. Sporadic separatist unrest by tribal insurgents, coupled with security concerns, have prompted both India and Pakistan to clamp down on the media's access to their border regions. India's wild, northeastern states bordering China, Burma and Bangladesh require special permission, which is rarely given. One western journalist recently able to reach India's northeastern Arunachal Pradesh because his wife was from the state, was the first correspondent there since the Second World War. "You have a situation with Indian troops eyeball to eyeball with Chinese troops, so obviously you don't want foreigners running around possibly tipping off strategic information to the other side," he said. Pakistan's coast and the lawless states bordering Afghanistan are subject to special controls _ forcing more adventurous foreign journalists to disguise themselves in the top-to-toe chador worn by local

Muslim women. In Sri Lanka, where Tamil rebels have fought for years to establish a separate state in the north, the rebels seek to hold journalists on a tight leash. While the government issues foreign journalists with passes to visit guerrilla-controlled areas, the rebels provide them with an "escort" to monitor their progress. "It is difficult to get an independent assessment of things up there if the (Tamil) Tigers arrange your schedule," said one journalist.

Load-Date: October 13, 2002

End of Document

Sri-Lanka-Villages, Bgt

The Canadian Press (CP)

June 20, 1990 Wednesday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 691 words

Body

--- Sri-Lanka-Villages, Bgt --- By Lisa Schlein= ANURADHAPURA (CP) _ T. H. Chambrapla can't forget the night Tamil guerrillas attacked his Sri Lankan village and massacred 44 people, including 19 children, in their sleep. "I feel miserable whenever I think about the future," he said in a recent interview. "I'm very uncertain about my life. Everytime I enter terrorist areas, I'm haunted by the thought that I will become a victim." Chambrapla, his wife and their three small children narrowly escaped death because the terrorists did not enter the kitchen where they were sleeping. However, members of his and his wife's immediate families were not so lucky. Most were killed. Only one niece survived. Houses in the Sinhalese border village of Mahakonegaskada have been abandoned since the attack on Oct. 8, 1988. They now lie in ruin. Nearby, an unmarked mass grave, overgrown with weeds, bears silent witness to the atrocities which destroyed the hopes and future of the village. Survivors have either left the area or, like Chambrapla, 38, moved to adjacent communities where the government and a UN agency are trying to help residents resume something close to a normal life. Chambrapla recounted his fearful experience before the most recent clashes erupted between the **Tamil Tigers** and the Sri Lankan army. The fighting threatens to plunge this island into civil war, as the Tamil guerrillas continue their fight for a separate homeland in this small country in the Indian Ocean off the southern tip of India. It was formerly called Ceylon. Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, claim they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of the population. Before this month's fighting, at least 11,000 people had been killed since the Tamil rebellion began in 1983. The ethnic violence has exacted an onerous toll on Sri Lanka's economy and physically and psychologically traumatized much of its population. By the end of 1987, about 675,000 persons or almost one-third of the population in the northeastern provinces had become displaced. Thousands more are expected to be rendered homeless by the current round of fighting. **Women** and children have suffered the most. Many children have become orphans. Large numbers of **women** and children have been uprooted from their villages. They are destitute and depend on charity for their survival. UNICEF, in conjunction with the government, has been working for the last two years to rehabilitate some of Sri Lanka's most severely damaged villages. The UNICEF project officer, Ubhaya de Silva, said government health and welfare services have not been reaching families in the villages for several years. "We were informed that immunization services and other basic services like pre-natal clinics were not taking place because the medical staff was not going into these villages due to the security problems," he said. Six badly damaged Sinhalese border villages in north Anuradhapura and another five Tamil and two Sinhalese villages in Vavuniya were selected for the UNICEF project. In both areas, large numbers of houses had been burned down and all basic services including transport and health had broken down. From the outset, UNICEF _ the United Nations Children's Fund _ consulted local leaders. Health services should be resumed and preschools reopened, the leaders stressed. "In a program like this, we have to be flexible because things change so quickly," said de Silva. "In order to keep up our credibility, we have to provide the people with what they need." Conditions in the project areas are not good, but they are improving. Despite the unsettled conditions, some of the communities in the project area have slowly been coming back to normal. "If we can have the stability, I think we can have prosperity," said Manik de Silva, editor of Sri Lanka's largest English newspaper, the News. "We have been

Sri-Lanka-Villages, Bgt

abundantly blessed by nature, we are well-placed geographically and we have a very educated population so I think we have a good chance of moving on provided we don't dissipate our energies in senseless, useless bloodshed."

Load-Date: October 16, 2002

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Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

Associated Press International

October 11, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: International news

Length: 2833 words

Dateline: SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador

Body

Hospitals are quickly running out of hospital beds in light of a bizarre epidemic of methyl alcohol poisoning, which has caused 117 deaths so far, officials said Wednesday.

"The situation gets more difficult every minute there are no beds left in the hospital," said Dr. Hector Manuel Rosales, director of the hospital in Ilobasco, 55 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of San Salvador.

Ilobasco is in the province of Cabanas, where 43 people have died over the past four days. Rosales said he referred six patients to the country's largest hospital, also named Rosales, but "they have told us that they can't take anymore."

Police say the poisoned alcohol was sold openly to poor farm workers at liquor stores under the brand name Thunderbolt.

Thunderbolt is a well-known cheap sugarcane liquor, but police suspect black-marketers of refilling discarded bottles with a mixture of methanol, which is normally used as an antifreeze in cars.

The Salvadoran Congress on Tuesday imposed a nationwide 10-day ban on the sale of liquor.

The number of deaths has reached 117 with the victims spread over 6 of this Central American country's 12 provinces, including the capital San Salvador, the authorities said.

The first cases appeared last week in the small town of San Vicente, 35 miles east of San Salvador, where a total of 44 people have died, said Dr. Roberto Cea, director of the morgue at the Legal Medicine Institute.

Those who ingest it experience headaches, vomiting, stomachaches, blindness and usually death.

Some wrote poems, others condolence messages, and still more cried as they bid farewell to this island nation's political matriarch, Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

Mourners at the home of the former prime minister, who 40 years ago became the world's first **female** leader, remembered her with fondness and respect.

"She was very special and brave," said Damayanthi Dissanayake, who came to Bandaranaike's home to pay her respects.

Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

Bandaranaike, 84, died of a heart attack while returning to her home after voting in legislative elections on Tuesday. A state funeral will be held Saturday.

"Mrs. B.," as she was popularly known, came from a political dynasty that dates back to 1956, when her husband became prime minister. Her husband, Solomon Bandaranaike, was shot and killed by a deranged Buddhist monk in 1959 and she carried his torch, being sworn in as prime minister the following year.

Her daughter is President Chandrika Kumaratunga; her son an opposition candidate contesting a seat in Parliament.

"We miss you and grieve for you, may you attain nibbana," wrote a mourner in a condolence book at the house, referring to the highest form of afterlife for Buddhists.

"We will always be proud of her. She made Sri Lanka world-famous," said Gamini Kulatunga, who came from Polgahawela, 60 kilometers (36 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo.

"She had great instincts about people and the country," said one of Sri Lanka's popular singers Nanda Malini, clad in the traditional white sari of mourning.

Bandaranaike served three terms as prime minister in the last 40 years. She stepped down in August so her daughter could appoint a hard-liner to boost the government's battle against Tamil rebels.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels have been fighting since 1983 to carve out a Tamil homeland from parts of Sri Lanka's north and east. The war has killed some 63,000 people.

During Bandaranaike's second term, she veered toward extremist policies and was influenced by strong personal ties with China and the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Bandaranaike kicked out the U.S. Peace Corps in 1970 and shut down the Israeli Embassy. In May 1972, she made the country a republic.

Also during her second term, she nationalized private companies. Imports were banned, giving rise to long queues for bread and rationing of basic necessities such as rice and cloth.

She used the military to crush a 1971 insurrection by Marxist rebels, killing an estimated 20,000 people.

With the crushing of the rebellion and the lack of domestic development, Bandaranaike's popularity began to wane.

The small Marxist parties who were part of her coalition government began to desert her. Her unpopularity grew with the nationalization of the country's largest newspaper groups.

After postponing elections for two years, she was defeated in 1977, but then went on to become the opposition MP leader. In 1980, Parliament expelled her, accusing her of misusing power while prime minister and banned her from public office for seven years.

In 1986, her civic rights were restored. Her daughter named her prime minister yet again in 1994. Though her post was largely ceremonial, her name was widely known worldwide.

"It (was) during Mrs. B's tenure that any Sri Lankan traveling in any part of the world would be given a nod and a smile of instant recognition by simple virtue of the fact that he or she came from the country that had produced the first woman prime minister," said political analyst Dayan Jayatillake.

Bandaranaike was one of the founding members of the Non-Alignment initiative and condolence messages from world leaders spoke of her contributions to international affairs.

"Mrs. Bandaranaike was an outstanding leader and an old friend well-known to and respected by the Chinese," said China's legislative chairman, Li Peng.

Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

"Mrs. Bandaranaike's demise represents the passing of a pioneering figure," Indian President K.R. Narayanan said.

"As the first democratically elected woman prime minister in the world, she made history and was an inspiration to the women of the world," he said. "It is appropriate that her last act was to cast her vote in the democratic elections being held in Sri Lanka."

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's governing party had the lead in parliamentary elections, partial results showed Wednesday, a day after the vote that Kumaratunga hopes will give her a mandate to try to end Sri Lanka's long civil war.

As the results rolled in, this island nation off India's southern tip digested a tumultuous election marked by violence, death and bitter accusations.

The streets of the capital were mostly quiet after an overnight curfew ended at 6 a.m. Many people remained at home, monitoring state radio and television for results of Tuesday's election. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

With 80 percent of the vote in, the president's People's Alliance did not have enough seats to form a government and the country could be headed toward a hung Parliament.

According to results announced by the Elections Commission by 7 p.m. (1300 GMT), the Peoples' Alliance was leading with 46 percent of the vote, or 70 seats from 15 districts, compared with the opposition's 41 percent and 58 seats.

A party needs at least 113 of the 225 seats in Parliament to form a government.

Elections Commissioner K. Senanayake said that 75 percent of the 12 million registered voters cast ballots in the country's 11th parliamentary elections on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka's complex electoral system involves a mix of preferential voting and proportional representation. The number of electoral votes won by a party does not directly give them seats in Parliament. Seats are allocated based on the percentage of total votes polled by a party in districts.

The central political issue here is the bloody civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has sought to push through a new constitution giving more power to regional governments. It's an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

Political disputes blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, and she sees the vote as a referendum on the measure.

Final election results were expected late in the day. The commission said it was delaying counting in four districts after poll monitors asked for an annulment in some areas due to fraud and violence. A record 5,477 candidates were running for 225 parliamentary seats.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on election day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence. A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended Tuesday, wounding 32 supporters of Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said.

The monitoring center asked election officials to annul votes in at least 365 of the country's 9,500 polling centers, citing violence and election-related violations.

A pall fell over voting Tuesday after former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike died at age 84 of a heart attack. Bandaranaike, who in 1960 became the world's first female prime minister, was Kumaratunga's mother.

Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

A state funeral will be held Saturday for Bandaranaike, who died shortly after casting her vote. The government has requested all national flags be flown at half-staff, while liquor and meat sales have been banned over the weekend.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister on July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India. She regained the office for a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: <http://www.eelamweb.com>

Sri Lankan government: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

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As the results rolled in, this island nation off India's southern tip digested a tumultuous election marked by violence, death and bitter accusations.

The streets of the capital were mostly quiet after an overnight curfew ended at 6 a.m. Many people remained at home, monitoring state radio and television for results of Tuesday's election. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

With only one district remaining to be tallied and made public, Elections Commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake announced late Wednesday that final results would not be given until Thursday.

After widespread accusations about vote rigging in the central Kandy district, Kumaratunga huddled with monitors late Wednesday, said Alavi Mowlana, a government minister for local affairs.

Dissanayake said he would meet with those party officials Thursday before announcing final results.

According to results announced by the Elections Commission at 9 p.m. (1500 gmt), the president's Peoples' Alliance was leading with 48 percent of the vote, or 88 seats, compared with the opposition United National Party's 39 percent and 72 seats.

With 90 percent of the vote in, the Alliance did not have enough seats to form a government and the country could be headed toward a hung Parliament. A party needs at least 113 of the 225 seats in Parliament to form a government.

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Sri Lanka's complex electoral system involves a mix of preferential voting and proportional representation. The number of electoral votes won by a party does not directly give them seats in Parliament. Seats are allocated based on the percentage of total votes polled by a party in districts.

The central political issue here is the bloody civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has sought to push through a new constitution giving more power to regional governments. It's an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

Political disputes blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, and she sees the vote as a referendum on the measure.

Final election results were expected late in the day. The commission said it was delaying counting in four districts after poll monitors asked for an annulment in some areas due to fraud and violence. A record 5,477 candidates were running for 225 parliamentary seats.

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On the Net:

Tamil rebels: <http://www.eelamweb.com>

Sri Lankan government: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's ruling party appeared on the verge of winning a majority of Parliament seats Wednesday on a promise to end the country's 17-year civil war.

With more than 90 percent of the vote in the Parliament election tallied, Kumaratunga's People's Alliance had 48 percent of the vote, or 88 seats in the 225-member Parliament. The opposition United National Party was next with 39 percent and 72 seats.

With the votes in one district still to be counted, the elections commissioner announced that the final results would not be made public until Thursday.

Tuesday's vote in this island nation off India's southern tip was tumultuous, marked by violence, death and accusations of vote rigging.

With an overnight curfew imposed, many people remained at home Wednesday, monitoring state radio and television for results. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

The driving election issue was the civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead and displacing an additional 1 million people.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has sought to push through a new constitution granting more autonomy to the provinces in an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

With only a one-seat majority in the last Parliament, legislators blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, so Kumaratunga saw Tuesday's vote as a referendum on her plan.

Though Kumaratunga has pledged to bring an end to the war, her government has spent some dls 375 million in military hardware and weapons in recent months, Army Brig. Sanath Karunatelike told The Associated Press. The hardware was purchased from China, Pakistan, Ukraine and Czechoslovakia.

"She will keep the military option open, because given the track record of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), she cannot afford to lower her guard," said Jehan Perera, an analyst with the National Peace Council, an independent think tank.

"If the political efforts fail, she may have no other option but to go flat out after the separatists," he said.

Although the People's Alliance gained the most seats in the 225-member Parliament, it still needs at least 113 seats to form its own government without resorting to a coalition.

Deputy Elections Commissioner K. Senanayake said that 75 percent of the 12 million registered voters cast ballots in the country's 11th parliamentary elections on Tuesday.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on polling day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence.

The elections were also marred by the death of former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 84, who died of a heart attack moments after voting.

A state funeral will be held Saturday for Bandaranaike, the world's first female prime minister and Kumaratunga's mother.

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On the Net:

Tamil rebels: <http://www.eelamweb.com>

Sri Lankan government: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

Load-Date: October 11, 2000

Today's Events In Washington.

The Bulletin's Frontrunner

July 24, 2002 Wednesday

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Section: Washington's Schedule

Length: 3242 words

Body

White House:

PRESIDENT BUSH - Meets with the prime minister of Sri Lanka, Oval Office, White House.

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY - Delivers remarks at the Korean War Service Medal Award Ceremony, Export Import Bank of the U.S. US Senate: FLOOR SCHEDULE _ 10 a.m. . _ Meets for morning business. At 11 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of S/812, The Affordable Pharmaceuticals Bill.

10 a.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE _ Hearing on "Measuring Economic Change." Commerce Secretary Donald Evans. Location: Room 311, Cannon.

9 a.m. SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP _ Full Committee. Markup of Small Business Drought Relief Act, Native American Small Business Development Act, and other legislation. Location: Room 428a, Russell.

9:30 a.m. GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS _ Full Committee. Business meeting on Chairman Lieberman's amendment in the form of a substitute to the Department of Homeland Security bill, S. 2452. Location: Room 342, Dirksen.

9:30 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS _ Full Committee. Markup of pending legislation and to consider pending nominations. Location: Room S-116, Capitol.

9:30 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS _ Hearing on mental health care issues. Location: Room 418, Russell.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS _ Full Committee. Markup of FY03 appropriations. Location: Room S-128, Capitol.

10 a.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS _ Hearing on S1344-a bill to provide training and technical assistance to Native Americans who want commercial driving careers. Location: Room 485, Russell.

10:30 a.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS _ Joint hearing. Hearing on implementation of environmental treaties. Location: Room 406, Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS _ Housing and Transportation Subcommittee. Hearing on management challenges at HUD. Location: Room 538, Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION _ Science, Technology and Space Subcommittee. Hearing on the role of women in science and technology. Location: Room 253, Russell.

Today's Events In Washington.

3 p.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES _ Full Committee. Hearing on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Location: Room 366, Dirksen.

4 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS _ Transportation Subcommittee. Markup of FY03 appropriations. Location: Room 116, Dirksen. US House: FLOOR SCHEDULE _ 10 a.m. _ Meets for legislative business. Highlights: H.R. 4965-Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2002. H.R.4628-Intelligence Authorization Act of FY03. The House will consider H.Res. 495, a resolution calling for the expulsion of Rep. James Traficant Jr. Consideration of the resolution is expected to begin at approximately 6 p.m.

10 a.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE _ Hearing on "Measuring Economic Change." Commerce Secretary Donald Evans. Location: Room 311, Cannon.

10 a.m. GOVERNMENT REFORM _ Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee. Hearing on cyberterrorism and critical infrastructure. Location: Room 2154, Rayburn.

10 a.m. RESOURCES _ Full Committee. Markup of pending legislation. Location: Room 1324, Longworth.

10 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS _ Benefits Subcommittee. Hearing on pending legislation. Location: Room 334, Cannon.

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. SCIENCE _ Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards. Hearing on "Satellite Data Management at NOAA." Vice Adm. Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr., Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA; Linda Koontz, director, Information Management Issues, General Accounting Office; Mark Abbott, Oregon State University, and chair, Committee on Earth Studies, National Research Council. Location: Room 2318, Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS _ Full Committee. Hearing on economic development and peace in the Mideast. Location: Room 2172, Rayburn.

10:30 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE _ Full Committee. Hearing on implementation of the "No Child Left Behind: education act. Location: Room 2175, Rayburn.

11 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE _ Full Committee. Markup of pending legislation. Location: room 2167, Rayburn.

1 p.m. GOVERNMENT REFORM _ Technology and Procurement Policy Subcommittee. Hearing on the Commercial Activities Panel Final Report and Recommendations. Location: Room 2154, Rayburn.

1 p.m. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS _ Europe Subcommittee. Markup of pending resolutions. Location: Room 2255, Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. SELECT INTELLIGENCE _ Full Committee. Hearing on trouble spots around the world. Closed. Location: Room H-405, Capitol.

2 p.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES _ Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee. Hearing on to prohibit financial holding companies from dealing in real estate brokerages or management. Location: Room 2128, Rayburn.

2:30 p.m. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS _ International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee. Markup legislation concerning sexual exploitation of refugees and execution by stoning. Location: Room 2255, Rayburn.

2:30 p.m. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS _ Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. Oversight hearing on problems with coffee. Location: Room 2200, Rayburn.

3 p.m. SELECT INTELLIGENCE _ Technical and Tactical Intelligence Subcommittee. Closed. Location: Room H-405, Capitol.

Today's Events In Washington.

4 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE _ Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee. Markup of H.R.3880-a bill to provide a temporary waiver from transportation rules and planning requirements under the Clean Air Act in New York City, where planning offices and resources have been destroyed by acts of terrorism. Location: Room 2123, Rayburn.

4 p.m. RULES _ Full Committee. Meeting to set rules for floor debate. Location: Room H-313, Capitol. Other: SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER RANIL WICKREMESINGHE _ Highlights: 11:15 a.m. Meets with President Bush. White House. 3 p.m. Discusses the political situation in Sri Lanka, including peace negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), at an Afternoon Newsmaker news conference. National Press Club, First Amendment Lounge.

FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH ABDULLAH OF AFGHANISTAN _ Highlights: 1 p.m. Speaks at luncheon at the Afghanistan-America Summit. Georgetown University. 5:30 p.m. Speaks on the prospects for the future. American Enterprise Institute, 1150 17th St. NW.

AMERICAN LEGION-BOYS NATION _ The American Legion hosts the 57th session of its Boys Nation program to train young people in the ideals and objectives of American government, with 96 high school juniors coming from across the nation. Highlights: 9 a.m. Inauguration and tour of Courts. 2:30 p.m. State Department briefing. Location: Marymount University, 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Va.

YOUTH CONGRESS _ George Washington University hosts the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) World Leadership Congress to provide a forum for high school sophomores from every state and more than 20 countries to take part in a development seminar with decision-makers and corporate executives. Highlights: 9 a.m. Following speakers in Room 106, Dirksen Senate Office Building: David Anderson, Democracy Online Project, G.W. University; Orin Kerr, G.W. Law School; Peter Swire, formerly with OMB under President Clinton; Victoria Toensing, DiGenova & Toensing. Location: George Washington University, Marvin Center, Betts Theatre, 800 21st St. NW.

GIRLS NATION 2002 _ The American Legion Auxiliary's Girls Nation program convenes with 96 girls from 48 states to learn the mechanics of federal government through hands-on experience. Highlights: 12:45 p.m. Speaker Leslie Lenkowsky, CEO, Corporation for National & Community Service. Location: National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Md.

NUCLEAR WASTE _ Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste. Topics of discussion include Yucca Mountain Review Plan, Revision Two. Location: Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.

APPLIED LEARNING TECHNOLOGY _ The Society for Applied Learning Technology holds an Educational Meeting. Location: Ritz-Carlton-Pentagon City, 1250 S. Hayes St., Arlington, Va.

U.S.-JAPAN _ 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. CSIS hosts two sessions on "Sustaining the Alliance" and "The U.S. and Japan in the Global Economic System," with John Hamre, CSIS president; Ryozo Kato, Japanese ambassador to the U.S.; Tom Foley, former U.S. ambassador to Japan; Shoichiro Toyoda, honorary chairman, Toyota Motor Corp.; David Abshire, president, Center for the Study of the Presidency; Sen. John Rockefeller IV; Laurence Meyer, former member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors; and others. Location: CSIS, B-1 Conference Level, 1800 K St. NW.

PAKISTAN CONFERENCE _ 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Wilson Center's Asia Program and the Pakistan America Institute hold an all-day conference, "Taking Pakistan Into the 21st Century: The Economic and Political Challenges." Highlights: 9 a.m. Robert Hathaway, director, Asia Program; Rahman Khan, president, Pakistan America Institute. 9:15 a.m. Session on revitalizing Pakistan's economy, with Shahid Javed Burki, CEO, EMP Financial Advisors; Avais Hussain, CEO, Angora Textile; Michele Sison, State Department. 11 a.m. Session on energy and telecommunications, with Ishfaq Ahmad, special advisor, president of Pakistan; John Alvi, Nortel Networks; Zaka Malik, former chairman, Oil and Gas Development Organization. 2 p.m. Session on good governance, with Governor Shahid Hamid, Supreme Court of Pakistan; Husain Haqqani, Carnegie Endowment; Saeed Shafqat, Columbia University. 3:30 p.m. Rahman Khan, Pakistan America Institute; Robert Hathaway, Woodrow Wilson Center. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 5th Floor Conference Room, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Today's Events In Washington.

AFGHANISTAN-AMERICA SUMMIT _ 9 a.m. Georgetown University hosts an Afghanistan-America Summit on Recovery and Reconstruction, with senior U.S. government officials including Andrew Natsios, Administrator, USAID, and Afghan Cabinet Ministers, including Public Health Suhaila Siddiq, Foreign Affairs Abdullah Abdullah, Commerce Mustafa Kazimi, Reconstruction Mohammed Amin Farhang, Women's Affairs Habiba Sorabi, and Higher Education Sharief Fayez. On July 24th working groups convene to discuss issues to be addressed at the Summit the next day. Highlights: 9 a.m. Plenary session with Georgetown President John DeGioia, Afghan Ambassador Ishaq Shahryar, and USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios. 10 a.m. Simultaneous working sessions on reconstruction, commerce and trade, education, health, women, family and society, with Afghan cabinet ministers and U.S. officials. Meet in the Car Barn, M St. 1 p.m. Luncheon with DeGioia, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, others. Dahlgren Quadrangle, on campus. Location: as noted.

DISABILITIES _ 8 a.m. Congressman Steny Hoyer will attend the American Association of People with Disabilities Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Celebration. He will receive a Justice for All Award from the AAPD and will also discuss a new legislative initiative that Senator Ted Kennedy and he are putting forward to "fix" the ADA, which they say has been weakened recently by several Supreme Court rulings. Location: Congressional Gold Room, 2168 Rayburn House Office Building. Notes: Hoyer to speak at approximately 8:30 a.m.

ANGOLA _ 8:30 a.m. The Migration Policy Institute holds a briefing on Angola refugees and displaced people, and the role of the UNHCR, with Kamel Morjane, UN Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees. Location: 7th floor conference room, 1616 P St. NW.

WOOLSEY-TERRORISM _ 8:30 a.m. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty hosts a briefing by R. James Woolsey, partner, Shea & Gardner, and former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, on "The War on Terror: Why We Are In It and How We Should Fight It." Location: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Conference Room A, 4th Floor, 1201 Connecticut Ave. NW.

AIDS _ 9 a.m. Global Health Council holds a briefing, "Confronting AIDS in 2002: Moving Forward from the Barcelona XIV International AIDS Conference." Location: Room B-339, Rayburn.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS _ 9 a.m. House Republican Conference meets. Closed. Location: Room HC-5, Capitol. Notes: Stakeout in the center steps hallway.

SOCIAL SECURITY _ 9 a.m. For Our Grandchildren organization holds a discussion on Social Security reform, with Sen. Rick Santorum, Rep. Jim DeMint, and Charles Blahous, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy. Location: National Press Club.

STATE OF BLACK AMERICA _ 9:30 a.m. The National Urban League unveils "The State of Black America 2002," a collection of essays by prominent African American thinkers and leaders. Location: National Press Club, First Amendment Room.

NEW INVESTOR GROUP _ 10 a.m. A news conference is held to announce formation of a new investor group to promote investor trust through the use of investment research that is financially aligned with investor interests, with Scott Cleland, CEO, The Precursor Group; John Eade, president, Argus Research; John Meserve, president, Bank of New York Jaywalk, Inc.; and Jack Hidary, president, Vista Research. Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room.

WATER QUALITY-VACATION BEACHES _ 10 a.m. The Natural Resources Defense Council releases "Testing the Waters 2002: A Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches" at a press conference, discussing the health and safety problems at the nation's vacation beaches. Location: NRDC Washington Office, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Ave. NW. .400 (enter at corner of 12th and H Streets).

WETLANDS _ 10 a.m. Sen. Russ Feingold, Reps. James Oberstar and John Dingell, others, hold a news conference to introduce a bill to protect wetlands. Location: Room G-11, Dirksen.

Today's Events In Washington.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY _ 10:30 a.m. Rep. Robert LaFalce, others, hold a news conference on corporate accountability. Location: Cannon Terrace.

DEMOCRATS-CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY _ 11 a.m. House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt joins the Consumer Federation of America, U.S. PIRG, Public Citizen, Consumers Union and Common Cause tomorrow for a press conference where they will call for immediate passage of the Sarbanes Corporate Responsibility Bill. Location: Cannon Terrace, Cannon House Office Building. Notes: Gephardt will speak at 11:15 a.m.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS _ 11 a.m. The National Academies' Institute of Medicine releases a report on the proposed framework for evaluating the safety of dietary supplements. Location: 500 5th St. NW. Notes: NOTE CORRECTED LOCATION: Committee members will be available for telephone interviews from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. They will discuss the report in detail at a public meeting at 1 p.m., Room 100.

MEDICINAL MARIJUANA BILL _ 11 a.m. NORML Executive Director Keith Stroup joins former Reagan aide and medicinal marijuana advocate Lyn Nofziger, along with Reps. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Ron Paul, R-Texas, and others at a news conference to support Rep. Frank's medicinal marijuana bill. Location: Room HC-9, U.S. Capitol.

DEMOCRATS-RX _ 11:30 a.m. Senators Schumer, Dorgan, and Stabenow hold a press conference on prescription drugs legislation. Location: Senate Radio/TV Gallery, Capitol.

EPA-HOMELAND SECURITY _ 11:30 a.m. Greenpeace holds a protest to encourage EPA employees to voice their thoughts concerning chemical security legislation. Location: In front of EPA headquarters, Pennsylvania Ave. and 12th St. NW.

INFORMATION SECURITY _ 12 p.m. The Internet Security Alliance holds a news conference to release its "Common Sense Guide for Senior Managers: Top Ten Recommended Information Security Practices," with David McCurdy, executive director, ISAlliance; Rich Pethia, director, CERT/CC; Julia Allen, CERT/CC; William Hancock, Exodus Communications; others. Location: National Press Club.

LONG-TERM CARE _ 12 p.m. The American Council of Life Insurers, the Financial Planning Association, and the National Alliance for Caregiving unveil a new accredited online training program for financial planners, "Planning for Long-Term Care and Caregiving." Location: ACLI Capitol Conference Center, 9th Floor, 101 Constitution Ave. NW.

OMB DIRECTOR _ 12 p.m. PWC Consulting, a business of PricewaterhouseCoopers, hosts Mitchell Daniels, director of the Office of Management and Budget, who discusses events of the past year and the Bush administration's progress on the President's management agenda. Also participating are Robert O'Neill, president, National Academy of Public Administration, and Mark Abramson, executive director, The PricewaterhouseCoopers Endowment for The Business of Government. Location: St. Regis Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, First Floor, 16th and K Streets, NW.

TREASURY-DISCRIMINATION _ 12 p.m. National Treasury Employees Union President Colleen Kelly, others, hold an outdoor rally with remarks to protest what they say are changes in the handling of federal employee anti-discrimination complaints. Location: Outside EEOC headquarters, 1801 L St. NW.

U.S.-ISLAMIC NATIONS _ 12 p.m. Foreign Policy In Focus organization holds a discussion on U.S. policy toward Islamic nations, with Majed Jafari of the Arab-American Institute. Location: Suite 1020, 733 15th St. NW.

MUSLIM-MEDIA _ 12:30 p.m. the Islamic Society of North America holds a luncheon on "The American Muslim and the Media Day." Location: Room 340, Cannon. Notes: Media forum on "Islam and the American Media: Post 9-11" at 6:30 p.m. at the National Press Club.

ELLIOTT-KIDNEY DISEASE _ 12:45 p.m. Sean Elliott, former NBA all- star and kidney transplant survivor, launches CHECK-UP, a new national program of the National Association of Community Health Centers and Unity Health Care, to fight kidney disease aimed at high-risk, underserved populations. CHECK-UP introduces a new 60-second, in- office test to facilitate early kidney disease diagnosis. Location: Congress Heights Unity Health Care, 3720 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE.

Today's Events In Washington.

DEFENSE BRIEFING _ 1 p.m. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Victoria Clarke and Air Force Brig. Gen. John W. Rosa Jr., deputy director for current operations, Joint Staff, conduct the DOD news briefing. Location: DOD Briefing Room, Pentagon 2E781.

NURSING _ 2 p.m. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., joins Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, Senator Tim Hutchinson and other leading supporters of the Nurse Reinvestment Act (H.R. 3487) to hold a news conference on the legislation. Location: Room 2218, Rayburn Building.

SECURITY GUARDS _ 2:30 p.m. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, holds a press conference to call on Congress to adopt new standards for the nearly two million security officers responsible for America's buildings. Location: Cannon Terrace, Cannon House Office Bill.

CYBER-SECURITY REPORT _ 3 p.m. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin, R-La.; Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich.; and other members of the Committee brief the media on a new cyber-security report prepared by the Business Software Alliance. Location: Room 2218, Rayburn.

FOREIGN MEDIA _ 3 p.m. National Security Council spokesman Sean McCormack holds a briefing for foreign media only. Location: Foreign Press Center, National Press Building.

JOB CORPS-AWARDS _ 7 p.m. The National Job Corps Association holds the Seventh Annual Alpha Awards for students, staff, national and local employers, elected officials and community organizations to gather and honor individuals who help Job Corps students. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW.

Load-Date: July 24, 2002

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No Headline In Original

Associated Press Worldstream

November 13, 1995; Monday 02:21 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 413 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ *REPLACE*

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A Tamil rebel woman who allegedly helped plan the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India four years ago has been killed by Sri Lankan forces, the guerrillas said Monday.

Akila, who only used one name, died during the offensive that the military launched last month on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna city, the separatists said.

At least 1,600 people have been killed and 6,000 soldiers and rebels wounded in the largest offensive of the 12-year civil war in Sri Lanka, where the insurgents are fighting for a homeland.

Thousands of soldiers recommenced their advance Monday, heading southwards to try to encircle the city and move in when the monsoon rains end early January, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

In Colombo, Justice Minister Lakshman Peiris predicted a military victory soon. "There has been a significant change in the strategy with the military striking at the source of the problem in the north," he said.

The minister told a group of more than 100 foreign investors at a seminar promoting investment in Sri Lanka, that "there is a mood of desperation on the part of the LTTE (rebels)."

In a statement from their London office, the rebels said: "Lt. Col. Akila attained martyrdom on Oct. 30 during the defense of Jaffna." They did not explain what caused the delay in announcing her death in Jaffna Peninsula in northern Sri Lanka.

Akila, who joined the rebel movement in 1987, led the women's wing of the guerrilla forces.

In July, India requested the extradition of Akila, Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, and intelligence chief Pottu Amman, to be tried for the assassination of Gandhi. The former Indian prime minister was killed by a suicide bomber at an election rally in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on May 21, 1991.

Gandhi ordered Indian troops into Sri Lanka in 1987 to help crush the Tamil insurgency, and the rebels were blamed for killing him out of revenge.

Sri Lanka's police chief, Wickremasinghe Rajaguru, has offered a 5 million-rupee (dlns 96,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of Prabhakaran who faces charges of treason and murder, the state-owned Daily News reported Monday.

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But there was no immediate connection to the Indian government's extradition request for Prabhakaran, officials said.

Tamil rebels accuse Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority of widespread discrimination against the Tamil minority, and 38,000 people have been killed in the civil war since 1983.

(dc/ne/kg)

Load-Date: November 13, 1995

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No Headline In Original

Hobart Mercury

March 13, 1992 Friday

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Length: 783 words

Byline: QUINN ANDREW

Body

Media eyes in Asia are blinded by bureaucrats By ANDREW QUINN Beijing WHAT do Xanadu, ancient summer capital of Kublai Khan, and the Flying Pigeon Bicycle Factory have in common?

They're both off-limits to foreign journalists by order of the Chinese government.

In a world where information flows across borders faster than ever, Beijing and many other Asian governments have found a simple way to avoid public relations headaches: keep the media out.

Countries ranging from India, the world's largest democracy, to China, the largest remaining communist state, are united in their wariness of the foreign media and determination to limit journalists' activities.

The obstacles take many forms - from roadblocks and jittery gun-toting troops to blank-faced bureaucrats who politely refuse to grant travel permits.

The result: hundreds of millions of people with a possible story to tell are denied access to journalists and information is blocked at its source.

Asia is not alone in its restrictions on journalists. During the Gulf War, the United States imposed a strict regime on journalists that effectively prevented them from covering unapproved aspects of the fighting.

But for long-term limits, it is hard to beat Asia.

By far the most secretive of Asia's security-conscious leaders are the rulers of Burma and North Korea. Burma's military junta has made no secret of its contempt for the foreign media and has refused to permit Western journalists to enter the country since May 1990 elections were scuttled.

Hardline communist North Korea does sometimes let foreign reporters in to cover special events under the watchful eyes of official minders.

China has effectively banned the world's media from vast sections of the country, including the restive regions of Tibet and Xinjiang, which are periodically shaken by anti-Chinese unrest.

Beijing's elderly Marxist rulers, stung by the massive foreign media coverage of the army's brutal Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989, keep extremely close tabs on all resident foreign correspondents. Phones are tapped, cars followed and permission denied for most visits outside Beijing.

No Headline In Original

"Sorry, it's not convenient," has become China's answer to requests to visit virtually anywhere ranging from a simple bicycle factory in the port city of Tianjin to the ruins of Xanadu in Inner Mongolia.

In Asia's other main communist power, Vietnam, all foreigners are required to obtain written police permission to go from one province to another.

Hanoi has turned down requests to visit the central highlands, where ethnic minorities served as mercenaries for US forces in the Vietnam War, as well as mining areas and the disputed Spratly islands.

Cambodia, where the radical communist Khmer Rouge is thought to have executed foreign journalists during its three-and-a-half year reign of terror in the mid-1970s, remains sticky for journalists under its new coalition government.

Bans have been slapped on reporters who have offended sensibilities in Phnom Penh and permission is needed for all trips to the countryside.

Rebellion against central authority is one certain cue for many Asian governments to declare an area off-limits.

Indonesia, a land of relatively few open bans on foreign media, has closed troubled East Timor to journalists wanting to investigate an army massacre of civilians last November.

Sporadic separatist unrest by tribal insurgents coupled with security concerns have prompted both India and Pakistan to clamp down on the media's access to their border regions.

India's wild, northeastern states bordering China, Burma and Bangladesh require special permission, which is rarely given.

One Western journalist, recently able to reach India's north-eastern Arunchal Pradesh because his wife was from the state, was the first correspondent there since World War II.

"You have a situation with Indian troops eyeball to eyeball with Chinese troops, so obviously you don't want foreigners running around possibly tipping off strategic information to the other side," he said.

Pakistan's coast and the lawless states bordering Afghanistan are subject to special controls - forcing more adventurous foreign journalists to disguise themselves in the top-to-toe chador worn by local Moslem women.

In Sri Lanka, where Tamil rebels have fought Colombo for years to establish a separate Tamil state in the north, the rebels seek to hold journalists on a tight leash.

While the government issues foreign journalists with passes to visit guerrilla-controlled areas, the rebels provide them with an "escort" to monitor their progress.

"It is difficult to get an independent assessment of things up there if the [Tamil] Tigers arrange your schedule," said one journalist.

Reuter

Load-Date: September 27, 2003

No Headline In Original

Hobart Mercury

December 31, 1990 Monday

Copyright 1990 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 416 words

Body

IN BRIEF Hijack over TWO armed Algerians released all 52 hostages aboard a Boeing 737 at Annaba airport in eastern Algeria yesterday, 36 hours after hijacking the plane on a domestic flight. The hijackers, who seized the Air Algerie plane between the desert town of Ghardaia and the capital Algiers, were arrested.

Spacecraft falls A SOVIET spacecraft tumbling out of control will re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a g\$ew weeks but should burn up and pose little threat to anyone on the ground, an official of Glavkosmos space agency said yesterday. He said the Salyut 7 space station was likely to re-enter in late January or early February. Its trajectory was impossible to predict for the moment. "We are watching it every day very carefully, but we cannot determine the trajectory until two to three days before its re-entry," the official said.

Exile ends SOUTH KOREA'S disgraced former president Mr Chun Doo Hwan was welcomed by hundreds of supporters when he returned to Seoul under heavy police guard yesterday, ending two years of self-imposed exile at a mountain temple. Witnesses said more than 1500 monks and supporters, mostly women, applauded outside his house and a 50-member Buddhist chorus waited inside to sing him across the threshold. Mr Chun is accused of abusing power and allowing his wife and relatives to gain financially under his rule. Several of his relatives have been fined or put in jail for corruption.

Tamil ceasefire TAMIL guerillas battling government troops in Sri Lanka's north-east have declared a unilateral ceasefire with effect from midnight today.

The English-language Sunday Observer quoting unnamed sources said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had "unilaterally declared a ceasefire". The report said the cessation of hostilities would be effected by the LTTE "with an indefinite time frame." Poland's PM POLAND'S newly-elected President, Mr Lech Walesa, has signalled he will stick to the path of rapid free-market reform by naming radical young economist Mr Jan Krzysztof Bielecki as the country's new Prime Minister. In the first major decision of his presidency, Mr Walesa chose Mr Bielecki yesterday to replace Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Labour leads BRITAIN'S opposition Labour Party has a lead in the opinion polls for the first time since Mr John Major replaced Mrs Margaret Thatcher as Conservative Prime Minister a month ago. A poll in the Sunday Times gave Labour 45 per cent, four points ahead of the Conservatives.

Load-Date: September 24, 2003

40 years of people power and Amnesty International

The Sunday Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

September 30, 2001, Sunday

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Section: MAGAZINE-TYPE- FEATURE-BIOG- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, PETER BENENSON, KANDASAMY THAVARAJAH, HESENE TURKOGLU, JUSUF SHEIKH OMAR; Pg. 20

Length: 3132 words

Byline: Karen Murphy, Liz Van den Nieuwenhof

Body

Amnesty International is living, evolving proof that ordinary citizens can change the world. What began as one man's outrage four decades ago has become a global network of hope and help to the countless thousands who suffer for their beliefs. Four survivors tell KAREN MURPHY their stories

On August 3, 1961, as Australians sat in their living rooms listening to the wireless, broadcaster Wilfrid Thomas began his usual Sunday evening program.

That week the popular ABC reporter told listeners of a new organisation forming in London called "Appeal for Amnesty: 1961" which aimed to assist all those around the world who languished in prison, without trial, because of their political or religious beliefs.

He told how the organisation had been established by English barrister Peter Benenson, who decided to act after hearing of two Portuguese students arrested in a restaurant and sent to prison for seven years for the "heinous" crime of "raising their glasses to freedom".

MATP

Later, Benenson was to explain his simple idea: "All over a divided world, states were jailing people for their beliefs. Governments were subjecting their own citizens to torture and execution. The objective: Stop them."

That Sunday night Wilfrid Thomas ended his broadcast saying: "A hundred years ago, pressure of opinion brought about the emancipation of the slaves. It is now for man to insist upon the same freedom for his mind as he won for his body."

He urged listeners to write to the London office to offer Australian support to the movement, and people from Perth to Adelaide, from Warragul to Broome answered his call. The following year, in a Melbourne office, Australia formed one of the first sections outside Europe of the renamed Amnesty International.

Now the movement, which was originally intended by its founder to be just a one-year campaign, is 40 years old and has become one of the most highly respected human rights organisations in the world. With more than a million members, subscribers and regular donors in more than 140 countries, it remains self-funded and therefore independent of any government anywhere. Yet it still follows Benenson's original plan: to get the facts, mobilise public opinion and organise pressure to help victims and their families.

40 years of people power and Amnesty International

The organisation focused on three specific groups: prisoners of conscience (a term defined as "anyone who, while not advocating or practising violence, is imprisoned, restricted or otherwise persecuted because of his or her opinions, beliefs or religion"); political prisoners detained without trial or by trial which did not conform to international norms; and all prisoners being maltreated, tortured, suffering cruel or degrading punishment or facing the death penalty.

Over the years the organisation's modus operandi has involved sending observers into countries where human rights abuses were taking place, sending lawyers to attend trials in the hope of making them just, writing research reports on human rights violations and lobbying governments to put a stop to such abuses. Yet from the beginning, one of the main weapons in Amnesty's arsenal has been the simple but effective use of letter writing.

In the early years, each section "adopted" three prisoners of conscience, writing letters to the government or the jailers of their "adopted" prisoner, urging their release, prompt and fair trial or humane treatment. The aim? To show governments that were abusing human rights the world was watching.

While Amnesty International rarely crows about its successes - partly so as not to further alienate hard-line regimes and partly because it is often difficult to prove a direct link between prisoners' release and Amnesty's work - anecdotal evidence of positive change mounts.

Even within a few years of its formation, an Amnesty newsletter in 1964 listed a dozen countries which had released thousands of prisoners of conscience including Greece, Egypt, Bulgaria, East Germany and Syria. In 1977 Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its contribution to "securing the ground for freedom, for justice and therefore for peace in the world".

Australia now has the 10th largest section in the world, with 25,000 members and donors, a growth undreamed of by those who first responded to the Thomas broadcast.

Clare Wositzky, the convener of the first Melbourne meeting and author of a book about the first 30 years of Amnesty International in Australia, wrote of that time: "To most Australians the lack of freedom to express political or religious views had never been an issue and the idea of a political prisoner was a difficult concept to accept, even more so to feel some responsibility to act. Australian branches developed against a background of a society which was conservative in politics, materialistically caught up in the American dream and apathetic to causes with an overseas component."

Yet develop they did. In part, perhaps, because of the joy felt by members in receiving letters from those they had helped such as the following, sent to the Melbourne Amnesty group in 1963. The letter read: "Deeply moved by your assistance and sympathy to my family and me during my imprisonment - 18 years - and as a free man now I send you my warmest thanks. Nikolas Arvanitis, Greek Prisoner."

Since those days Amnesty International has broadened its mandate to include fighting for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and working on behalf of anyone, anywhere, discriminated against because of race, sex or religion. And in keeping with the times it now uses e-mail as a central campaign tool.

Kathy Kingston, an Adelaide accountant and president of the Australian section for the past four years, says she joined Amnesty International 20 years ago after hearing of security forces in Argentina arbitrarily removing children from their families. As the mother of two young daughters she was profoundly moved by such cruelty.

Recently returned from Amnesty's latest international council meeting, she says the organisation has once again expanded its mandate to keep up with changing political problems. "Now because there are so many conflicts around the world we face a refugee crisis and that has become a much more urgent priority. So while we still remain at heart an organisation which fights on behalf of individuals, now we must work for communities of individuals.

"Sometimes it feels like there is less compassion in the world now, but we have many success stories which attest to the work of Amnesty International over the past 40 years."

40 years of people power and Amnesty International

On the following pages are four of those success stories.

Contact Amnesty International in Australia on 1300 300 920 or www.amnesty.org.au

KANDASAMY THAVARAJAH

A spice merchant from Vavuniya on the Jaffna Peninsula in Sri Lanka, Kandasamy Thavarajah, 40, was arrested in July 1983 by security forces. Detained in the infamous Welikada prison, he was repeatedly tortured during the four years and five months he was imprisoned without charge. Sri Lanka has been racked by civil war since the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) began its struggle against the government and the dominant Sinhalese. The conflict has so far claimed 50,000 lives and hundreds of thousands of Tamils have fled the country.

"I was arrested outside Mannar for no other reason than being a Tamil. I had not committed an offence. There were 160 of us randomly rounded up on that particular day and I was taken to Welikada prison. This was 10 days after riots in the same prison claimed the lives of 53 political prisoners and detainees, including several Tamil leaders. I was repeatedly forced to admit to things I hadn't done and endured hours of beatings and torture. The most terrifying was the 'dry submarino' which involved me being suspended by my ankle and having my head submerged into a bucket of dried chillies that had been set alight. I can't begin to tell you the agony of that . the feeling of being suffocated by the burning smoke from the chillies. There were other forms of torture I don't even wish to recall. They're too painful to talk about.

"I remember being overwhelmed by feelings of terror and hopelessness and not long after my arrest I tried to commit suicide by grabbing hold of an electric wire.

"I am convinced I would never have survived prison had it not been for Anne (he does not know her full name), an Amnesty volunteer from Switzerland who met with myself and other Tamil prisoners after reports filtered out about the torture and murders being committed at Welikada. Shortly afterwards I was released and I suspect my freedom was secured because Amnesty had been alerted about what was happening to us.

"I married my wife, Rani, in '91, but leading a normal life seemed impossible. The harassment of Tamils continued and not a day went by without reports of atrocities being committed. When the army took over Jaffna province in '95 I became increasingly afraid of imprisonment. I am not a militant or an activist but just being a young Tamil man made me vulnerable. I knew I would always run the risk, as did most Tamil men, of being arrested. Only I was certain that following another arrest I would be killed because I knew too much about what had happened in prison. I had to find a way of getting out of the country.

"An agent helped me get on a flight to Australia in '97. Because I had no visa I was detained as an illegal immigrant in Sydney. I tried to apply for asylum, but officials told me I had no case for they insisted that at the time there were no problems in Sri Lanka. I contacted the Red Cross and told them about the torture I suffered in prison and mentioned Amnesty International had interviewed me. They got hold of Anne and my case was reviewed. I was released four months later and can only assume I got my residency visa because of her intervention.

"I got a job in a restaurant and in '98 Rani and our three daughters came to Australia. The first couple of years were difficult, but the people I worked for helped me establish my own restaurant. There has been so much heartache in our lives but Rani and I consider ourselves lucky to be in Australia. I can't bring myself to think what would have happened had I not met Anne. She was my saviour."

- Liz Van den Nieuwenhof

HESENE TURKOGLU

Hesene Turkoglu, 48, was imprisoned twice in Turkey as a political dissident and was given permanent refugee status in Australia in 1996. She now lives in Melbourne and is studying English at university.

"I was a political prisoner first in 1982 for four years and again in '93 for six months. I was a human-rights activist and a Marxist and was a member of a **women's** organisation. When the military junta came in, in '81, the

40 years of people power and Amnesty International

government closed down all civil associations and began to put in prison all members of Marxist groups, Leninist groups and Left groups. The government called us terrorists. Everyone was a terrorist to them, anyone who did not agree.

"(In that prison) we had no access to doctors. We had 15 minutes of cold water every day to wash ourselves and our clothes. Every day was a struggle, police hitting us with chains, people naked or going to court in their underwear. I did not despair. I always thought one day I will be released and we will win.

"When I was released the first time I immediately started working again for a human rights organisation. My husband, a politician opposed to the government, stayed in prison for more than nine years. At one time he escaped to Greece for two years. The government announced an amnesty and he came back to Turkey. But he wasn't home long before the police came and took us both. That was in '93.

"I was arrested in front of my daughter who was very young. We spent 37 days in the police station suffering torture. We were hung up under our arms and left, we had very cold, very strong water sprayed against our bodies. We had electric torture, we were blindfolded and made to sit in cells with ice water covering the floor. They would not let us sleep.

"We were arrested for breaking the curfew and putting up posters saying this is army dictatorship, this is not democracy.

"My husband and I were released together, but he was re-arrested and stayed in prison until '95. As soon as he came out they took him again in '96. I never saw him again. They killed him in that police station because they knew he would never stop so they stopped him.

"After this I began working with Amnesty's Disappeared section. Amnesty's co-ordinator for Turkey visited often and was sometimes able to put pressure on the government. I think it is because of their work we were released. (In '96) I came to Australia to attend a women's conference. While I was in here my lawyer called me and told me the government had sentenced me to three years and eight months in prison for my human-rights activities. I would be arrested at the airport.

I called my family. My mother cried. She said don't come home. You are not young any more and I am too old to keep visiting. My daughter also said don't come home. It was a very hard decision, for I thought even as a prisoner I could see my mother and daughter some time.

So I applied for refugee status. Australians and Amnesty International helped me because they knew what was going on in Turkey.

JUSUF SHEIKH OMAR

Jusuf Sheikh Omar, 35, is a Somali poet and writer who has just been released from detention in Australia after two years. He has been granted permanent refugee status.

"I left Somalia in 1990 to go to Sudan as a student. In 1991 fighting broke out in Somalia when clan leaders ousted the communist dictatorship. They had no alternative plan for government and the civil war began as each clan attempted to gain power.

"In 1992 I began writing about Somali politics. I could not go home because my poetry and articles had appeared in newspapers. I went to Malaysia to finish my studies but I could not work there. I was desperate to get to the West for freedom, to save my life because there were many problems facing me if I went home. The leaders of the clans, the leaders of the militia, knew about me. I lost a brother in the fighting and my parents fled to Kenya. Some family are still missing.

40 years of people power and Amnesty International

"In May '99 I came to Australia as a political asylum seeker. I came by airplane and surrendered myself at Melbourne airport seeking asylum. I was put into a detention centre, but I did not despair. I had no choice because otherwise I would have to go back to be murdered in Somalia.

"While I was in there I continued to write and send articles and poetry about the warlords to a Somali newspaper in London. Poetry is very important in Somali culture. So if a poet criticises anything he will pay a very high price. Many poets have been murdered and persecuted and silenced. Many well-educated people have been murdered because the warlords are afraid of them.

"In Somalia at least half a million people died in the fighting or as a result of the fighting and most of them were women and children. I feel very painful for this. It is a shame for all humanity not just Somalia. What happened in Somalia is happening all over Africa, groups of gangs robbing the ordinary people, stealing billions of dollars. They are not leaders, they are thieves and robbers.

"All of us have one language, all of us are Muslims, all have similar appearance and the same culture. And yet the clan system sets people against each other. The warlords set people against each other and many are ignorant and do not know right action. But you can not say this in Somalia for there is no freedom there, no freedom of expression. If I had gone home I would have been killed.

"One day I will go home when democracy comes back, when clanism is finished. It will be a long time away, but my ideas can go there in newspapers, in my poetry.

Amnesty wrote a letter in support of my claim for refugee status. I am a part of Amnesty psychologically because their work is very important for humanity, to protect people with different opinions, from a different culture or religion."

CARLA

Carla (not her real name) is a journalist from Colombia and the mother of four. A year ago, with her life in danger because she refused to stop writing about the violence ravaging her country, she was offered asylum in Australia. Her partner, jailed five years ago, remains a political prisoner. She and her children arrived six months ago.

"In Colombia we are at war with four groups fighting each other - government forces, paramilitaries, guerrillas and people involved in (the drug industry).

"Between January and June this year 2300 people died in the violence caused by this war. That is 68 people a day. Of the 100,000 lawyers in my country no more than 50 defend human rights violations because of persecution, it is too dangerous.

"Innocent people are caught up in this conflict but they have no arms, no protection. More than three million people have become dispossessed, particularly women with children because their husbands have been assassinated or killed in the fighting.

"Journalists and human rights activists try screaming to the international community that this must stop, that we need help. But dangerous people try to shut our mouths. By June this year more than 40 journalists were killed.

"I worked with many human rights organisations and so received many death threats and threats to hurt my children. One year ago, after paramilitaries came to my house, we went into hiding for three months.

"I asked Amnesty International if they could help me and my family to continue our life somewhere safe. The London office arranged asylum for us in Australia.

"I had to leave my sisters and mother and my partner who has been in prison for five years. I try to help him but Colombia doesn't recognise the status of political prisoners.

"I am lucky. Many people can't get out and many people die daily in my country.

40 years of people power and Amnesty International

"Now I try to help my children forget the nightmare they have lived through and continue my work to tell the world what is happening in Colombia.

"I am very grateful for the work of Amnesty International and very grateful to Australia for taking us in."

THE TOLL IN 2000

Confirmed or possible extrajudicial executions were carried out in 61 countries.

People "disappeared" or remained "disappeared" from previous years in 30 countries.

Confirmed or possible prisoners of conscience were held in 63 countries.

At least 1457 prisoners were executed in 28 countries and 3058 were sentenced to death in 65 countries. (These figures include only cases known to Amnesty International).

People were reportedly tortured or ill-treated by security forces, police or other state authorities in 125 countries.

Armed opposition groups committed serious human rights abuses, such as deliberate and arbitrary killing of civilians, torture and hostage-taking in 42 countries.

Load-Date: October 2, 2001

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Associated Press International

July 26, 1996; Friday 04:40 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 469 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Police Friday paraded dozens of Tamil rebel suspects before survivors of a commuter train bombing that killed 63 people, hoping to identify the terrorists, officials said.

At least 40 young Tamils from the war-torn north, including about a dozen women, have been picked up in police sweeps of Tamil neighborhoods near Dehiwala station, where the bombing occurred Wednesday, police officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The two bombs exploded within seconds of each other on two cars of the commuter train, wounding 350 people. A third bomb was discovered and defused.

Immediately after the blasts, police detained two Tamils at the train station who passengers claimed had acted suspiciously.

The government has blamed the bombing on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has fought since 1983 for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority. More than 43,000 people have been killed in the civil war in this predominantly Sinhalese country.

The Tigers have denied responsibility for the bombing.

Fears of an anti-Tamil backlash have failed to materialize, but more than 100 Buddhist monks in saffron robes demonstrated Friday outside Colombo's main railway terminal to protest the bombing.

"We condemn the terrorist massacres," read the white posters painted in blood-red lettering.

"We are also telling countries like America and Norway to stop helping the Tigers who are massacring innocent civilians," said Mahapokulukulane Nagitha, of the Inter Universities Buddhist Clergy Association.

In the north, more than 2,000 government troops continued to exchange mortar fire Friday with guerrillas in the jungles near Mullaitivu army base, which the rebels overran last week. It is 275 kilometers (170 miles) north of Colombo.

Casualties were not immediately known from Friday's fighting.

No Headline In Original

Reinforcements reached the base on Wednesday but found few survivors of the 1,200-man garrison, which the rebels claim to have wiped out. Only 30 soldiers have been found so far.

The guerrillas said they cremated 486 bodies and handed 55 more to the International Red Cross on Sunday. The rebels say they lost 241 fighters.

In Parliament, the Mullaitivu battle was the subject of a heated argument. The opposition leader accused the government of hiding details of the military's biggest defeat after the ruling Peoples Alliance rejected his demand for a debate on the rebel attack.

"The government is trying to hide the real facts from the people. This is misleading the country," said Ranil Wickremasinghe, of the United National Party. "The LTTE (rebels) have taken valuable artillery and other weapons, but the government says nothing happened."

The ruling party did not reply in parliament, but a senior government minister later accused the opposition of trying to gain

political mileage from the battle.

Load-Date: July 26, 1996

No Headline In Original

Associated Press Worldstream

November 13, 1995; Monday 03:41 Eastern Time

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Section: Advisory

Length: 484 words

Body

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BC-Sri Lanka-Civil War, 1st Ld-Writethru,0476

Tamil Rebel Blamed in Gandhi Killing Dies in Sri Lanka Offensive

Eds: UPDATES with government minister predicting military success

By DEXTER CRUEZ

Associated Press Writer

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

A Tamil rebel woman who allegedly helped plan the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi four years ago has been killed by Sri Lankan forces, the guerrillas said Monday.

Akila, who only used one name, died during the offensive that the military launched last month on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna city, the separatists said.

At least 1,600 people have been killed and 6,000 soldiers and rebels wounded in the largest offensive of the 12-year civil war in Sri Lanka, where the insurgents are fighting for a homeland.

Thousands of soldiers headed southward Monday to try to encircle the city. The military plans to move in when the monsoon rains end in early January, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

In Colombo, Justice Minister Lakshman Peiris predicted a military victory for the government soon. "There has been a significant change in the strategy with the military striking at the source of the problem in the north," he said.

The minister told a group of more than 100 foreign investors at a seminar promoting investment in Sri Lanka, that "there is a mood of desperation on the part of the LTTE (rebels)."

No Headline In Original

In a statement from their London office, the rebels said: "Lt. Col. Akila attained martyrdom on Oct. 30 during the defense of Jaffna." They did not explain what caused the delay in announcing her death in Jaffna Peninsula in northern Sri Lanka.

Akila, who joined the rebel movement in 1987, led the women's wing of the guerrilla forces.

In July, India requested the extradition of Akila, Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, and intelligence chief Pottu Amman, to be tried for the assassination of Gandhi. The former Indian prime minister was killed by a suicide bomber at an election rally in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on May 21, 1991.

Gandhi ordered Indian troops into Sri Lanka in 1987 to help crush the Tamil insurgency, and the rebels were blamed for killing him out of revenge.

Sri Lanka's police chief, Wickremasinghe Rajaguru, has offered a 5 million-rupee (dlrs 96,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of Prabhakaran who faces charges of treason and murder, the state-owned Daily News reported Monday.

But there was no immediate connection to the Indian government's extradition request for Prabhakaran, officials said.

Tamil rebels accuse Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority of widespread discrimination against the Tamil minority, and 38,000 people have been killed in the civil war since 1983.

Load-Date: November 13, 1995

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Associated Press International

April 23, 1996; Tuesday 07:29 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 586 words

Byline: NIRESH ELIATAMBY

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels were in retreat from the northern Jaffna Peninsula Tuesday, but stepped up their attacks on military outposts in the second battle front in the east.

The rebels overran a police station, killing five policemen and wounding 11, at Serunuwara village in the Trincomalee district Monday night, the military said, amending an earlier announcement that seven policemen had died.

Three soldiers also were killed and one wounded Tuesday when rebels attacked a military patrol at Meeyankulam near Batticaloa, the military said. Guerrilla casualties in the two attacks were not immediately known.

But in a separate incident, soldiers killed three rebels who apparently were reconnoitering an army base at Karapola in the Polonnaruwa district, the military said.

The incidents were 190 kilometers (120 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo. Earlier, the military reported that eight soldiers and five rebels were killed in fighting in the east on Sunday.

In the northern Jaffna Peninsula, the military's latest drive into rebel-held areas was slowed by hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians, a military official said Tuesday.

The military on Friday launched its largest offensive against the rebels since December, when troops captured the western portion of the Jaffna Peninsula and the rebel stronghold of Jaffna city.

In the capital, Colombo, five Tamil political parties Monday called for a ceasefire in the war.

"The younger generation of Tamils continues to die in vain and innocent civilians including women and children perish in a struggle that has lost its direction ... ," the five groups, which had fought for a homeland before taking to mainstream politics in 1987 said in a statement.

After advancing 14 kilometers (9 miles) and seizing control of three towns, the troops were screening the civilians to uncover guerrillas among them, and no ground had been gained since Saturday, said Major Tilak Dunuwille, a military spokesman.

"It's a painstaking process. We have to question each civilian, check their identification, and search them before allowing them to cross into areas we control," said Dunuwille.

No Headline In Original

The military claimed that the civilians remained behind, rather than fleeing with rebels as they did during the previous offensive. Many refugees wanted to return to homes in areas under military control, Dunuwille said.

Armored columns were camped outside of Kodikamam and Kachchai, threatening guerrilla supply lines. Both are about 15 kilometers (10 miles) east of Jaffna city.

Government troops also have surrounded Chavakachcheri, the largest city in the rebel-held part of the peninsula, but have not entered it yet, since they would have to deal with its 50,000 inhabitants.

"The **LTTE** (rebels) have abandoned the town. But we need to clear the civilians we already have, before taking on any more," said Dunuwille.

A military statement claimed hundreds of thousands of civilians had welcomed the troops, calling them liberators, but the claim could not be confirmed since independent observers are barred from the war zone.

The support of the civilian population is a key objective of both the rebels and the government.

The military says at least 80 rebels and two soldiers have been killed in the campaign. Rebel radio said Tuesday 30 Tamil civilians were killed.

The rebels want an independent homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils who claim discrimination by the Sinhalese majority. More than 41,000 people have been killed since the fighting began in 1983.

(ne/dc/kg)

Load-Date: April 23, 1996

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TELEVISION GUIDE - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 TO THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

November 7, 2002, Thursday

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Section: FEATURES-TYPE- REVIEW-COLUMN- 7 DAYS; Pg. T12

Length: 4320 words

Byline: JOHN SPENCE, HARRIET ALEXANDER, EVELYN YAMINE, JENNY DILLON, FREYA GRANT, JO ROGERS

Body

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8

MOVIES

Sphere * 1/2

Nine, 8.30pm

Michael Crichton's sci-fi novel just doesn't work as a movie. No doubt director Barry Levinson thought he was on a winner with a cast comprising Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone, Samuel L. Jackson and Peter Coyote on board but the script is a shocker. The navy has discovered a strange craft lying on the ocean floor in the middle of the Pacific and the boffins call in a diverse group of scientists to find out what it is. A psychologist (Hoffman), mathematician (Jackson), biochemist (Stone) and astrophysicist (Liev Schreiber) are taken down to the site in a submersible commanded by Coyote. Suspense gives way to absolute boredom as we discover this spaceship that has been on the ocean floor for 300 years contains a mysterious sphere. Where it came from and what it does now matters very little as the tease continues to lead nowhere. None of the awe of *The Abyss* here, just another yarn that doesn't live up to the hype.

MATP

Snake Eyes * * *

Seven, 8.30pm

Womanising, bribe-taking Atlanta City cop Rick Santoro (Nicolas Cage, pictured) is invited to a boxing match by best pal Kevin Dunne (Gary Sinise), a naval commander assigned to protect the Secretary of Defence, who has come to watch the bout in the giant casino complex. As the champ throws the fight in a dubious knockout, shots ring out and the politician is mortally wounded. Santoro orders the doors locked and then begins to search the security videos for a woman seen talking to the target just as he was shot ... but what the videos reveal is not what Santoro wants to believe. For once, a cop who thinks nothing of taking bribes has to choose between a million dollars for turning his back on murder to protect a multi-billion dollar defence contract or doing his job. Either path could be fatal. Cage again plays a guy with attitude walking the fine line between good and evil; Sinise is a little too eager to play the nice guy.

Heart and Souls * * *

TELEVISION GUIDE - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 TO THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14

Ten, 8.30pm

It's San Francisco 1959 and four bus passengers are about to die when it crashes into a car carrying a couple on their way to hospital to have a child. Charles Grodin is the wannabe opera singer lacking the confidence to go for it; Kyra Sedgwick plays the young woman trying to decide between marriage or independence; Alfre Woodard is a single mum who works nights to keep her kids; and Tom Sizemore plays a burglar who's having second thoughts about his occupation. The quartet become the boy's unseen guardian angels but neglect their duties when he goes to school. By the time they return, he has become a yuppie, hard-hearted banker (Robert Downey Jr), who must be rescued from himself.

BY JOHN SPENCE

PICK OF THE NIGHT

Steps for the Future: A Miner's Tale

(SBS, 8.30pm)

The opening of this documentary has a man looking at a photograph with tears streaming down his cheeks, and it sets the tone perfectly. It's a sad picture created here, the first of a seven-part series on the HIV crisis in Africa (pictured). Setting the disaster in the context of one man's life is a powerful way into the story. Joaquim is a miner in South Africa, where he lives with his girlfriend. His wife lives in Mozambique and he manages to visit her only every couple of years. Joaquim has been tested HIV-positive and he travels home to tell his wife and village, agonising over how to break the news. It's interesting to see how little is understood about AIDS in Africa. Joaquim tries to explain to the village head why he must use a condom with his wife and the conversation goes round in circles. The filmmakers are non-judgmental and the result is a raw and moving documentary.

HARRIET ALEXANDER

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9

MOVIES

All The Pretty Horses * * * *

Showtime, 8.30pm

Billy Bob Thornton's western is based on the novel by Cormac McCarthy. It's a tale of a young man with a love of horses and women; a combination that causes him no end of grief. In 1949 John Grady Cole (Matt Damon) decides to head for Mexico on horseback with his pal Lacey Rawlins (Henry Thomas) after his mother decides to sell his grandfather's Texas ranch. On the way south they encounter stripling Jimmy Blevins (Lucas Black), who rides a horse that may be stolen and shoots a mean Colt that may also not be his. Blevins will land them both in trouble, but not before John and Lacey land themselves jobs as horsebreakers for a prominent Mexican rancher. If only John had been able to steer clear of the boss's daughter Alejandra (Penelope Cruz, pictured), they might have escaped the nightmare of a Mexican prison and its murderous inmates.

Eraser * * *

Nine, 8.30pm

One of the better Arnold Schwarzenegger thrillers with the right mix of hard action, standout special effects, solid plot and pace. He's federal marshal John Kruger, an agent so expert in giving the people under his witness protection program new lives and covering their past he's become known as the Eraser. He's about to meet his stiffest challenge in protecting Lee Cullen (Vanessa Williams), a defence contractor employee who discovers a renegade cell inside the US government illegally exporting a top-secret rail gun. The gun is purely an invention of the scriptwriters to allow Kruger to blaze away with one in each hand, even shooting it out with a plane at one stage.

TELEVISION GUIDE - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 TO THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14

James Caan is the baddie with whom he'll face a sky-high fight to the death. Be prepared for the usual indestructible Arnie antics where he gets shot through an arm or shoulder and fights on regardless.

Cop Land * * 1/2

Seven, 9.30pm

A promising plot gets loused up in the telling. Some corrupt New York cops running their own rackets take part-time jobs as transit police so they can legitimately live over in the border in the New Jersey town of Garrison. The sheriff there is Freddy Hefflin (Sylvester Stallone), a cop with partial deafness destined to spend his life handing out traffic fines while hero-worshipping his colleagues who live in town but work on big crime in the Big Apple. Leader of this corrupt cop cult is "Uncle" Ray Donlan (Harvey Keitel) who is now busily covering up the killing of two black men by one of his rookie cop proteges. Soon Internal Affairs man Moe Tilden (Robert De Niro) and Gary Figgis (Ray Liotta), a cop who bears a grudge against Uncle Ray, are on the case and closing in on the renegades. For Hefflin it will all boil down to whether he can forget his misguided loyalty and finally become a local hero worthy of wearing a sheriff's badge.

BY JOHN SPENCE

* PICK OF THE NIGHT

Crossing Over with John Edward

(Ten, 7.30pm)

Verdicts on this show about reunions with the dead will vary with how it's approached: whether you're wide-eyed, expectant and won over; playing a game of spot the holes; or indulging in mindless entertainment in the same vein as any other reality TV show. The first approach will have you completely gripped, the second will leave you bored and frustrated and the third will be satisfying. John Edward (pictured) paints himself as altruistic, carrying out his sombre duty to the living and dead. In fact, he's a great entertainer, whether his craft is real or fake. He has a face that conveys smooth and genuine in a manner reminiscent of some US politicians. Certainly there are some eerie moments. Whatever else this show does, it satisfies that curiosity provoked by the constant previews pumped out on Ten.

HARRIET ALEXANDER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10

MOVIES

Me Myself I * * *

Seven, 8.30pm

Rachel Griffiths plays Pamela, a lonely 30-ish writer who put career before marriage and is now reduced to poring over photos of guys she once dated and wondering what if. Should she have married Robert (David Roberts)? Well, she's about to find out when she's hit by a car and wakes up in a parallel universe where she is married to Robert and has three children. No one but the youngest child knows that Pamela is not the real McCoy, though Robert is pleasantly surprised at the sudden improvement in his sex life. But there are complications. Ben, the married guy she was seeing in that other universe, is now single and she decides to have an affair with him. Even so, she's irate when she thinks Robert has been unfaithful. But to whom? His real wife, or Pamela? Griffiths' ability to work both sides of the equation saves this fantasy from being just another time traveller.

The Talented Mr Ripley * * *

Nine, 8.30pm

TELEVISION GUIDE - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 TO THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14

Patricia Highsmith's novel, the first in the Mr Ripley series, was filmed by Rene Clement under the title Purple Noon, with a dashing Alain Delon as Mr Ripley. Somehow, Matt Damon (pictured) doesn't have that same charisma or venal streak in this adaptation. His Tom Ripley is too naive, a nerd pianist who borrows a friend's Princeton blazer and as a result is offered \$1000 to go to the Italian Riviera to persuade a rich man's wayward son Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law) to give up la dolce vita and come home. Having ingratiated himself with Dickie and his girl Marge (Gwyneth Paltrow), Ripley confesses his mission and thereby lulls his victim into a false sense of security. His taste of the good life soon has him as hooked and he not only wants to live like Dickie, he is determined to be Dickie by assuming his identity when given the chance to conceal one death with another.

American Pie * * 1/2

Ten, 8.30pm

There have been so many movies about teens hellbent on losing their virginity that the makers of this one felt they needed a gross sight gag to be noticed. In There's Something About Mary it was hair gel; in American Pie it's the pastry that cops it. Jim, Kevin, Finch, and Oz (Jason Biggs, Thomas Ian Nicholson, Eddie Kaye Thomas and Chris Klein) make a pact to "lose it" by prom night but find that for all their macho bragging, "scoring" isn't easy. An attempt by nerdy Jim (Jason Biggs) to bed a French student is broadcast live by webcam to the student body. Lacrosse jock Oz makes a play for Heather by joining her choir and risking jibes from his team-mates. Kevin has found the book of love and is itching to put it into practice and Finch finds an unconventional use for a billiard table. American Pie has its share of crass humour but at least each guy discovers there's more to sex than just being physical at prom night.

BY JOHN SPENCE

PICK OF THE NIGHT

FBooze

(Lifestyle Channel, 8.30pm)

Society is said to be marinated in alcohol but the world's most popular legal drug can do more harm than good. Episode one of this three-part series on booze talks about the effects of alcohol on everyday life and the reasons behind drinking. It's the traditional way to relax, celebrate or to drown our sorrows. The program says booze is a social lubricant, a rite of passage, sexual fuel and breaks down social inhibitions but the effects of booze are devastating. This program offers candid interviews with celebrities such as Sharon Osbourne (pictured) who discusses her husband Ozzy's drinking problem. Actor Larry Hagman, best known for his roles in I Dream of Jeannie and Dallas, also admits to drinking every day while filming these hit shows. This episode discusses the vast influence of alcohol on people of all ages and its short and long-term effects, ranging from blinding hangovers to serious health problems or even death.

EVELYN YAMINE

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11

MOVIES

Cannibal! The Musical * * *

SBS, 10.55pm

Before they dreamed up the school from hell, Trey Parker (pictured) and Matthew Stone, the creators of South Park, put together this crazy western musical with lashings of gory horror they described as Oklahoma meets Bloodsucking Freaks. It's based loosely, very loosely, on the exploits of Alfred Packer, the only American ever convicted of cannibalism. Six gold prospectors, including a religious nut, a randy teenage virgin and a lonesome cowboy over-attached to his horse, head off to find their fortune but instead become stranded in the Rockies. When

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the food runs out these desperates turn on each other in comedic cannibalism, with only Packer surviving to narrate the tale. In saner moments the boys entertain us with campfire song and dance. No wonder the horses took off with all their supplies.

Young Sherlock Holmes * * 1/2

Ten, midnight

Financed by Steven Spielberg and directed by Barry Levinson, this revisionist tale of Conan Doyle's famous sleuth poses the interesting scenario of Holmes and Watson chumming up as lads at an English boarding school instead of as middle-aged flatmates. Nicholas Rowe makes an enthusiastic Holmes, fascinated with chemistry experiments and always ready to solve instantly every petty mystery that arises on campus, much to the amazement of pal Watson (Brian Cox). But it's when they discover a plot by an Egyptian secret society to murder a number of British businessmen that Holmes gets his first real case that will set him on a life-long career to become the world's most famous detective. It's one of those mysteries where you have to keep glued right to the end, otherwise you will miss the point.

Saroja * * *

SBS, 12.30pm

This appealing story from Sri Lanka about childhood innocence in the midst of war has won a number of awards. Forced to join the rebel ***Tamil Tigers***, Sundaram manages to escape into the jungle with his seven-year-old daughter Saroja during a skirmish but is injured and cannot walk. Unable to look after her, Sundaram tells Saroja to leave him to die and go to a Sinhalese village nearby to seek shelter. But Saroja is found by Varuni, a Sinhalese girl about the same age, who secretly brings her and her father food. Varuni persuades her own father, the tolerant village school teacher, to take them in, much to her mother's annoyance. The family has to hide them from the rest of the villagers but, inevitably, the deception will be discovered and racial prejudice will surface. Much of the film is seen from the girls' point of view as they become firm friends and cannot understand why the grown-ups are so hateful.

BY JOHN SPENCE

* PICK OF THE NIGHT

24

(Seven, 8.30pm)

There are just three hours to go in what has to be the hottest drama on television all year. And since it's against the rules to give away details of the plot (despite some shocking and insensitive near-things from US stories or shows), it's worth perhaps looking at the fans who've stuck it out for 21 hours so far. Miss one episode and you're doomed. And since videos have shown a cruel tendency during this series not to function, then hundreds of thousands of regular watchers can put themselves in the same category as viewers in the '60s, the days before video, when dramas were regularly trotted out 26 episodes at a time. It seems hard to believe now but in those days, millions around the world stayed in on Sunday nights so they'd never miss an episode of the BBC's 26-part production of *The Forsyte Saga*. Forget about this being the longest day in the life of Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland, pictured), it's been the longest couple of months for addicted viewers.

JENNY DILLON

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12

MOVIES

Mullet * * * *

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Showtime, 8.30pm

Eddie, whose nickname is Mullet because he likes to catch them, is on the outer in his small hometown of Coollawarra. Three years ago, wannabe journo Eddie (Ben Mendelsohn, pictured) up and left his girlfriend, Tully, and disappeared from town without a word. Now he's returned unannounced, broke and disillusioned to live in his caravan and catch mullet. It irks him that his brother, Peter, the town cop, moved in and married Tully (Susie Porter) after he left. Even Eddie's parents aren't thrilled to see him back. So, you wonder, how will this simmering conflict resolve itself -- in brotherly violence or with Eddie just walking away from Coollawarra again? Well, maybe there are fish other than mullet or Tully to fry. David Caesar, who also directed *Idiot Box* and *Greenkeeping*, has crafted another stylish Aussie comedy-drama well worth dangling a line for.

Girls' Night Out * * 1/2

SBS, 10pm

What do three Korean single women talk about on their night out? Just like women everywhere the conversation inevitably turns to their sex lives, or lack thereof. Hojung, Yeony and Sunny, all nudging 30, meet in Hojung's flat one night to bare their souls. Hojung is the most independent, the head of a design company who loves to party and annoys her boyfriend with her constant flirting. Yeony works as a waitress and would love to get married but her boyfriend thinks she's lousy in bed. Student Sunny is still a virgin, saying she is waiting for Mr Right, but not looking all that diligently. Having traded experiences, the film dissolves into a series of vignettes on how the girls' lives turn out both professionally and in their search for sexual and emotional fulfilment. In the end, it's Sunny who emerges as the surprise quite achiever in every respect.

I Know Where I'm Going! * *

ABC, 10.55pm

This Scottish romance from writer-directors Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger was hailed as a new beginning for British cinema emerging from the terrible war years. Wendy Hiller plays a headstrong girl who starts out very sure of where she is going but gets sidetracked for a more fortuitous outcome. She is headed for the Hebrides to marry a much older wealthy man, willing to trade love for security. But due to bad weather she is forced to break her journey and is stranded on Mull for several days. There she encounters the aloof Roger Livesey who finally reveals himself to be the local laird and a former naval officer. Once the initial frostiness between them thaws, love has a chance to blossom and Hiller's marriage plans undergo a radical change. Erwin Hillier's photography captures the wild beauty of the bleak landscape to provide a stunning backdrop to many of the scenes.

BY JOHN SPENCE

PICK OF THE NIGHT

Stingers

(Nine, 9.30pm)

They were enemies not too long ago but a debilitating disease and the need to bring down a drug lord has brought Luke Harris (Gary Sweet) and Peter Church (Peter Phelps, pictured) on to the same side. Harris and Church have teamed up to break a drug racket and cover each other's backs after a past drug sting cost them \$50,000. But everything that can go wrong does go wrong and the "partners in crime" are left to pick up the pieces. Something that is quite clear is that undercover detectives have to be good actors as well as good police officers. They have to convince criminals they are one of them and be able to obtain enough information to bring them down. But in this episode, Harris and Church cross over to the other side of the law and there is no turning back. *Stingers* is Australian drama at its best and this season will only get better.

EVELYN YAMINE

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13

MOVIES

Suzhou River * *

SBS, 10pm

Director Lou Ye teases his audience with this romantic tragedy that involves two love stories superimposed on each other. There is a narrator whom we never see telling us about the time he met beautiful Mei Mei, an entertainer, in a sleazy bar and fell in love with her. He then tells us about another couple, courier and petty crim Ma Da and Peony, the daughter of a well-off family. When Ma Da's boss orders him to kidnap Peony to extort a ransom from her father, Peony finds out about the plan and promptly leaps into the Suzhou River. After serving a jail term, Ma Da searches for Peony and then sees Mei Mei, who is uncannily like her. When he follows Mei Mei to the narrator's house, he's suspected of trying to steal her away from him. It's all heading for one of those classic Chinese lovers' tragedies, though the narrator has one final card up his sleeve to tease us with.

Analyze This * * *

Nine, 8.30pm

"When I got into family therapy I didn't mean that sort of family," laments Billy Crystal, as the shrink whose life is taken over by mobster Robert De Niro in Harold Ramis's witty black comedy. De Niro (pictured with Crystal) is goodfella Paul Vitti, a ruthless Mafia boss who suddenly develops emotional feelings he can't control, blubbering over sentimental TV ads, puppies and babies. It seems the *female* side of his personality has welled to the surface and he wants help. So he turns to shrink Ben Sobel (Crystal) with an offer he can't refuse -- treat him or else. Vitti doesn't believe in office hours, disrupting Sobel's wedding and honeymoon to pour out his troubles. Meanwhile, news that Vitti has gone soft has leaked out to rival mobsters, who now want to rub him out, and the FBI suspects Sobel has joined the Mafia. Can this odd couple survive hitmen and federal agents or, for that matter, themselves? It is recommended you lie down on a couch and analyse this.

True Moments * * 1/2

SBS, 12.30pm

What are the odds of a man and a woman from different countries who fall in love turning out to be siblings? That's the question that sustains this slender Swedish drama. At his father's funeral, Erik and his mother Karin are approached by Viivi, an Estonian violinist who says she brings condolences from her father. Karin brusquely dismisses her but later Erik and Viivi meet again and begin a passionate affair. When Karin learns of it, she tells Erik that before she married his father, she lived in Estonia and had an affair. In effect, Erik's real father was Estonian and Karin is convinced Viivi is his sister. Erik follows Viivi back to Estonia to learn the truth.

BY JOHN SPENCE

PICK OF THE NIGHT

Blue Heelers

(Seven, 8.30pm)

What is Caroline Craig (pictured) doing with her hair? Looks as if she is trying out looks for the Logies. There's no storyline for her, just really boofy hair. Wouldn't have happened in Lisa McCune's day -- it was pulled back with bangs for viewer-favourite Maggie Doyle, thanks very much. Meanwhile, there is some definite chemistry happening between Maggie's old lover PJ (Martin Sacks) and Constable Jo Parrish (Jane Allsop) -- although it would be slightly blasphemous for some viewers to imagine PJ with anyone but Maggie, but they do seem really sweet together. In this episode, the pair are investigating missing bodies from graves at the local cemetery, which leads

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them to encounter the very sleazy nephew of the funeral-parlour director. There's a certain style about Blue Heelers -- a style that sees the characters at the pub with a beer in the hand in every second scene -- which makes the show thoroughly enjoyable.

FREYA GRANT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14

MOVIES

Up At The Villa * * *

Optus Movie One, 6.35pm

Like Tea With Mussolini, this story of romance and intrigue, adapted from Somerset Maugham's novel, is set in Florence just before the outbreak of World War II. Kristin Scott Thomas (pictured) is pretty but penniless English widow Mary Panton, fortunate enough to have a friend who allows her to live rent-free in a magnificent villa. Like many of her British and American friends who have made this city of fine art their second home, Mary is more occupied with the social whirl than the rise of Fascism. More out of security than love, Mary considers marriage to older Sir Edgar Swift (James Fox), away in India preparing for his appointment as governor of Bengal. She must give an answer to his proposal on his return but in the meantime she falls victim to the matchmaking matriarch of the British expatriates, known as the Princess (Anne Bancroft). She contrives to sit Mary next to raffish Rowley Flint (Sean Penn) at a dinner party and lets nature take its course. But Mary's subsequent passionate romance with Rowley will lead to violence and tragedy as the real world overtakes what had been their Florentine fairytale.

Beavis and Butthead Do America * * *

Ten, 12.30am

Those two whacky heroes of the animated MTV series finally got their own movies courtesy of the vocals talents of director Mike Judge, Robert Stack, Chloris Leachman and unbilled stars Bruce Willis and Demi Moore. What sets B&B off on their odyssey across America is the fact that someone has stolen their TV set, which for them is like not having the basics of life. On their journey they will become involved with a few familiar and not-so-familiar characters. There's the husband and wife trying to smuggle a deadly virus, those Motley Crue roadies, Mr Anderson and his well-known trailer and a whacky FBI agent (Robert Stack) who has mistaken them for the country's most wanted crims.

Vanished Without A Trace * * 1/2

Seven, midday

This telemovie chronicles one of America's most dramatic kidnappings when in 1976 three young men hijacked the school bus near Chowchilla in California, taking 26 children and the driver, Ed Ray, captive. They loaded them into two vans which they then drove 200km and buried in a quarry with the occupants still inside, demanding a \$5-million ransom. In the meantime, Ray and two boys dug their way out and brought help. The kidnappers were caught and are still serving out their life sentences. One of them, Frederick Woods, even tried to sue the producers of this docudrama for the way they portrayed him. Karl Malden plays the feisty Ed Ray, who became the hero of Chowchilla for rescuing the children from certain death.

BY JOHN SPENCE

PICK OF THE NIGHT

Survivor

(Nine, 9.30pm)

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Now is about the last chance for viewers who haven't been following this fifth US Survivor series to climb on board. It's the time when the number of contestants has been sufficiently reduced that they all start taking on distinct personalities, and the plotting and alliances begin in earnest. It's when things really start to get interesting. For those who need a quick catch-up, Thailand Survivor is the most beautiful in the series yet (pictured), and possibly the best. It's dumped a whole bunch of Texans and other land-locked US citizens in a tropical paradise to see them make the most basic mistakes. The personality mix is broad and there's lots of love-to-hate-them characters. Did I say the scenery was stunning? The creators have also built beautiful, mystical sets and thrown in rule changes which mess with contestants' best-laid plans. This is slick and tasty reality TV at its most enjoyable. Or a fascinating study of human nature. Or both.

JO ROGERS

Load-Date: November 6, 2002

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UN
Children in Armed Conflicts - translating commitments into action most pressing challenge

M2 PRESSWIRE

April 23, 1998

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Length: 5121 words

Body

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children in armed conflicts told the Commission on Human Rights this morning that the most important and pressing challenge today was how to translate the standards and commitments of international instruments into action that made a tangible difference to the fate of children exposed to danger on the ground.

Speaking as the Commission continued a general discussion on children's rights, Special Representative Olara Otunnu said the time had come to make the protection and welfare of all children a common cause that could unite the world across the boundaries of political orientation, religious affiliation and cultural tradition.

Mr. Otunnu's remarks came amid a series of statements in which country delegations detailed measures their governments have taken to protect young people. Speaking this morning were the representatives of Brazil, Czech Republic, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sudan, Morocco, Senegal, Indonesia, Poland, Argentina, Cuba, Russian Federation, Philippines, Guatemala, Republic of Korea and the United States.

The following non-governmental organizations also made statements: International Peace Bureau, International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, Federation of Associations for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights, Family Planning Association of Pakistan, World Muslim Congress and Human Rights Advocate.

Statements in Debate

M. SHOAB, of the International Peace Bureau, said States were requested to criminalize commercial and other forms of sexual exploitation of children and to ensure that child victims were not penalized for such practices. Offenders, whether local or foreign, should be prosecuted in line with the Vienna Declaration. A number of countries had taken effective measures and developed a strategic policy to aid the prevention and detection of sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution. Nevertheless, the group believed that even now a lot had to be done in that direction. Such action should be seen in the broad terms of an international legal framework that regulated the protection of children from commercial and sexual exploitation yet guaranteed rights of children to education and information. That kind of legal framework would help countries like the Philippines, Thailand and many more in combating the sexual exploitation of children.

ALICE MEYER, of the International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, said thousands of children around the world were forced into prostitution each year, and many were the victims of trafficking for the purposes of sexual slavery. Thousands of children had been pushed into prostitution in Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India. Many children were "trafficked" from Nepal to India where they were forced to prostitute themselves.

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Despite reports of police collusion with the trafficking in both Nepal and India, there had been little effort on the part of either Government to punish those responsible.

She said many children were also being trafficked from Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Burma and southern China to Thailand for commercial sexual purposes. The Thai Government's failure to end the flourishing child sex industry within its borders had adversely affected children in the region. In countries where children were trafficked elsewhere for the purposes of prostitution, national information campaigns should be conducted. There also needed to be a thorough and impartial investigation into official involvement in child trafficking and prostitution. As for street children, there were an estimated 100 million worldwide. In countries such as Brazil and Guatemala, street children were murdered because they were regarded as no more than vermin. That barbaric practice remained largely unchallenged by law enforcement. The Commission was urged to acknowledge the terrible plight of street children worldwide by appointing a special rapporteur on the issue.

ANTONIA MACIAS, of the Federation of Associations for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, said an optional protocol was needed for the Convention on the Rights of the Child to help combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The protocol should establish the broadest protections and be as specific as possible. Measures for monitoring of compliance should also be established. The protocol should encompass trafficking and sale of children, for whatever purpose; illegal adoption and transplanting of organs; child prostitution; use of children in pornography; and sexual tourism affecting children. Crime should be assumed whether or not such activities had the supposed acquiescence of children. States should draw up legislation prohibiting materials, including computer materials, that promoted or drummed up interest or business in such activities. The terms of reference of the relevant working group should be extended to include monitoring mechanisms for such a protocol, with the idea of empowering the Committee on the Rights of the Child to receive complaints of violations of the protocol.

ATTIYA INAYATULLAH, of the Family Planning Association of Pakistan, said with 191 nations having signed and ratified it, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was the most extensively accepted convention in the history of human rights. However, children of Kashmir were still voiceless, faceless and bypassed, because they had been closed to the outside world by alien Indian rulers. The year 1997 had been another of death, rape and abuse of children in Kashmir, which had possibly the most concentrated violations of the Convention by a State party. It was intolerable to see the wave of violence and savagery that had struck the children and young of Kashmir over the last decade. The subject was compelling, one which called upon one's moral conscience to act and act now.

TAODEES GILLANI, of the World Muslim Congress, said child abuse was not peculiar to the developing world; it also afflicted the developed countries. Its equally serious cross-boundary dimension was particularly felt in the case of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. In the developed world, there was a market for paedophilia thriving under the pretext of the right to privacy and freedom of expression; developing countries suffered from that social illness. Child abuse should be seen as an evil; combating that abuse should be given priority, and should not be seen as country-specific or approached from any political perspective. Children were also the most vulnerable segment of society in situations of armed conflict, suffering both as victims and as survivors.

KAUR RANDHAWA, of Human Rights Advocates, said thousands of Ecuadorean children were smuggled through Colombia to Venezuela to work as prostitutes, while a growing number of "sex tourists" was arriving in Central America. Thailand was a major destination for traffickers in human beings. Victims for the sex trade were procured from China, Burma, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Cambodia. Cambodia had an estimated 35,000 sex workers, nearly 35 per cent of whom were under age 17. In Kenya, children as young as eight were trafficked as sex workers; thousands of girls from the former Soviet Union were trafficked each year to Macao, Dubai, Germany, Israel, and the United States as striptease dancers and prostitutes. In the United States between 100,000 and 300,000 children were sexually exploited through prostitution or pornography. Federal and State laws criminalized those acts, but treated child prostitutes as perpetrators rather than as victims. Long-term economic development plans must be implemented around the world to provide remedies for such problems.

OLARA OTUNNU, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children in armed conflict on children, introducing his report (document E/CN.4/1998/119) said the abuses committed against children and women during

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armed conflicts were among the worst phenomena of the century. It was abominable that there was systematic targeting of civilian populations, and particularly women and children, for humiliation and displacement in many parts of the world. In spite of the elaboration of a range of international instruments over the last 50 years, there was no relationship between those standards and the realities on the ground; it was as if the Universal Declaration of Human Rights did not exist.

In the 30 or so countries undergoing armed conflict, the Special Representative continued, the social system had collapsed: the societies in question had been set adrift morally. It was therefore not enough to draft international instruments. The most important and pressing challenge today was how to translate the standards and commitments of such instruments and local norms into action that made a tangible difference to the fate of children exposed to danger on the ground. A concerted political effort, at the international and national levels, should be made. Clearly, the time had come to make the protection and welfare of all children a common cause that could unite the world across the boundaries of political orientation, religious affiliation and cultural tradition.

As for the involvement of children in armed conflicts, he said the minimum age for direct or indirect participation should be set at 18. Work on the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflicts should be speeded up.

HELIO BICUDO (Brazil) said in a democratic society, the protection of human rights was the responsibility of not only the executive but also the legislature and judiciary. That also required the active participation of the civil community and non-governmental organizations. Institutions in Brazil were seeking to continue the debate begun on violence, murder, prostitution and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. One of the issues being studied was the establishment of legal guarantees for food for children up to the age of seven. The institutions were also looking at child and adolescent labour. Although the Constitution banned labour for children under 14, poverty compelled 3 million children in Brazil to work, mostly in the agricultural and mining fields. In developing countries, child labour was a consequence of poverty and could not be done away with simply through repression because that could create even more serious social problems. Brazil had guaranteed a minimum income to families who committed themselves to stop their children from working and to send them back to school.

VERA JERABOKOVA (Czech Republic) said that paradoxically the Convention on the Rights of the Child protected children below age 18 except for situations of armed conflict. The fact that the international community had been unable to set a higher standard was a reflection of the current state of affairs, where more than 250,000 children below that age took part in more than 30 armed conflicts around the world, and where children represented 40 per cent of all victims of such conflicts. The working group attempting a draft optional protocol to the Convention on this subject had so far, after four sessions, failed to reach a consensus on the text, and more importantly, on crucial issues such as the age limit for participation in armed conflict.

The Czech Republic was convinced that any decision to set the age limit below 18 would discredit the Commission and the United Nations. It urged those few governments which had difficulties with the draft protocol to review their positions and change their attitudes. The Czech Republic could not accept tendencies around the world to adjust international standards to domestic laws; rather, international standards must be taken as a model for adjustment of both domestic law and practice.

FAROOQ HASSAN (Pakistan) said children made up more than half of the population of Pakistan. Naturally enough, Pakistan had been a prime sponsor of the 1990 World Summit on Children. Despite enormous resource constraints, Pakistan had attempted to create the necessary infrastructure to promote and protect the rights of its children; among other measures, the Government had established a National Commission for Children Welfare and Development dedicated to implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In that important task, that Commission was assisted by a number of Committees, covering a number of specific fields such as health, education, juvenile justice, registration at birth, child labour and protection of children from abuse and neglect. Those committees reviewed existing legislation and policies, proposed legislation and work to ensure adequate follow up to legislation and policies. A district-based monitoring system had been evolved to ensure effective coordination of the Government's policy initiatives and to base those on timely and relevant data. The system involved collection of information at the district and community levels from the 136 districts of Pakistan.

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S.S. GANEGAMA ARACHCHI (Sri Lanka) said children received the highest priority in his country's social development policies and programmes. Provision of free and compulsory education and free preventive health care had been the basis for children in Sri Lanka to better appreciate and realize their rights. However, vagaries of modern society had made many children extremely vulnerable to many forces that militated against their rights and welfare. For example, lack of resources, conflict and terrorism were major obstacles against the realization of children's rights, and international cooperation was needed to overcome these constraints. The incidence of child prostitution in Sri Lanka related to tourism in the recent past had been causing grave concern to both the Government and public and non-governmental organizations. Public information and awareness programmes to combat child prostitution were implemented and a Task Force on Prevention of Child Abuse was appointed in 1997. Terrorist attacks perpetrated by the terrorist group Tamil Tigers had also taken a heavy toll on children. That ruthless and intransigent group forcibly recruited children as young as 10 to serve as combatants for terrorist attacks and as suicide cadres. Sri Lanka rejected the complacent assumption made by some that involvement of children in armed conflicts was inevitable and unavoidable. The early adoption of the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts would be a significant step towards eliminating the grave injustice of plundering children, the world's most precious resource.

IFTEKHAR CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said a national policy was under way to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A Council had been formed to monitor such activities, and a National Action Plan established. An umbrella non-governmental body with 70 member organizations had been added to strengthen efforts on behalf of children. Primary education had been made compulsory, and was free through grade 5. To encourage the presence of girls in primary school, it was free for girls through grade 8. Enrollment had reached 92 per cent in 1995, and in rural areas, some 28,500 schools now operated and were attended by some 900,000 children. Efforts were also being made to improve basic child health. Child labour and child sexual exploitation were being explored by a programme of research and information gathering. Bangladesh attached great importance to the draft optional protocol concerning the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It would continue to work towards that end with a view to finalizing the draft at an early date.

INTISAR ABUNAGMA (Sudan) said since its assumption of power in June 1989, the Government of Sudan had been attaching paramount importance to the rights of the child in that country. In that respect, a number of initiatives had been taken to maintain and protect those rights. The Government believed that children were the solid basis for a prosperous future; Sudan had been one of the early signatories of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and it was totally committed to its obligations. Sudan had also regularly submitted its periodic reports, which were prepared in consultation with all entities of the civil society. In addition, national legislation had been amended to reflect the conclusions of the relevant treaty bodies. Children under 18 years could not be conscripted into military service; and pregnant women or nursing mothers were not subjected to the death penalty.

MOHAMED MAJDI (Morocco) said King Hassan II, who had decreed 25 May as National Day of the Child, had continuously expressed his personal interest in children, stressing the ideals of the family as well as the personality of the child. A body had been established in Morocco to, among other duties, develop initiatives to enhance the effectiveness of actions to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Government had also put into practice a national plan of action to combat malnutrition, improve education and offer added protection to children under difficult situations, including handicapped youth and orphans. It should be pointed out that the use of children in armed conflicts and their sexual exploitation demanded the strengthening of international and national instruments. It was imperative that efforts in the working group on the draft optional protocol on children in armed conflicts be continued in order to reach a compromise acceptable to all. Efforts were also needed within the working group on the draft optional protocol on sale of children, child prostitution and pornography.

International cooperation was required to salvage children from exploitation in the labour market.

PAUL BADTI (Senegal) said child rights issues were of constant concern, as this most vulnerable sector of humanity continued to be subjected to multi-dimensional human rights violations. The present was a very bleak time for children, because of sale of children, child prostitution, trafficking in children, and because of the toll on children exacted by landmines. It was absolutely vital to ensure the health, rights, and safety of children. International conventions and legal and political instruments and plans of action must be implemented; commitment and will

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were needed; such matters had to be given absolute priority. States must discharge in due time their reporting obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Greater efforts must be made to protect girls. Girl infanticide, use of children in dangerous work, and sale of children's organs must be ended. The conclusion of draft optional protocols of the Convention on involvement of children in armed conflict and on sale of children and child prostitution was vital. Senegal had taken numerous steps to protect children and had increased penalties for those who committed offenses against minors.

SAODAH SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) said when implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, special attention should be given to general policies for health, nutrition, education, the improvement of family income and the creation of employment. Among the root causes which hampered the fulfilment of the rights of the child were poverty, economic constraints and underdevelopment. Indonesia's commitment to the realization of children's rights had deep-seated cultural and religious roots. It had been a driving force influencing priorities and formulation of national development efforts for many years. With the view to ensuring that the welfare of children was incorporated into government policies in all the relevant fields, Indonesia formulated and adopted a law on child welfare in 1974, 15 years prior to the adoption of the Convention. Issues related to children, their protection and their rights were also explicitly addressed in a range of other laws, statutes and regulations such as the Marriage Law of 1974, the Law on Family Welfare of 1992 and some other laws related to labour.

KAZIMIERZ KAPERA (Poland) said the primary and basic guarantor of children's rights was the family. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Poland had ratified, bound States to respect the rights and duties of parents, guardians or family members to ensure a child's proper development and upbringing. The State and other entities, be they public or non-governmental, had the task of creating the best possible general conditions for the establishment, development and proper functioning of families. The difficult financial situation of the family, the economic necessity for both parents to hold jobs, inadequate housing, unemployment, the lack of proper children's care and absence of conditions fostering their development, might lead to pathological phenomena. They might also be among the causes of such social pathologies as alcoholism, drug addiction and juvenile prostitution which occurred more frequently among individuals from dysfunctional families. The problem of trafficking in children and child prostitution were other pathological phenomena. The law constituted an important instrument of the State's family policy. Legal protection of the family constituted one of the basic principles of the Constitution in Poland. The Commission should take up the problem of promoting and protecting family rights under the international system of human rights.

TERESA GONZALEZ FERNANDEZ DE SOLA (Argentina) said the draft optional protocol on involvement of children in armed conflict should be completed soon; the minor divergence of views hampering the finalization of the protocol should be overcome. The minimum age for participation in armed conflicts should not be set below 18. Similarly, the draft optional protocol on sale of children should be expedited. Some delegations sought to have a very narrow definition of sale of children, limiting it to obvious sexual exploitation. Argentina believed that a much more comprehensive definition was called for. Completion of those protocols would send a strong message that could do much good for children around the world. Legal norms to protect children should be established rapidly and clearly; then they should be thoroughly implemented, an admittedly arduous task. States who had not done so should ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Argentina had taken numerous steps to prevent trafficking in children, and to establish and maintain identities of children. The process for locating missing children from the era of the authoritarian regime had been strengthened.

AYMEE HERNANDEZ QUESADA (Cuba) urged States that had not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child to do so. Cuba had been actively participating in the United Nations system on behalf of children. It had also been participating in the work of both working groups drafting optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. She hoped that work would be finalized as a homage to the tenth anniversary of the Convention. Cuba was satisfied that the issue of the drafting of the optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts had received the attention it deserved. With regard to the drafting of the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Cuba did not support the positions of some States advocating that the definition on the "sale of children" apply only when it was for purposes of sexual exploitation. The sale of children for any purpose should be targeted. The well-being of Cuban children was the constant concern of the Government, which spared no effort in promoting their rights in all fields, including education and health care. Almost all Cuban

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children had access to health care. However, the United States economic embargo had adverse effects on the situation of children in Cuba.

VALERIA RIYKOVA (Russian Federation) said the Russian Federation had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. It welcomed international efforts to secure the rights in the treaty. Russia advocated the conclusion of the optional protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, and supported 18 as the minimum age for involvement in fighting. Another important development was work on the optional draft protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography. The Russian Federation appealed to the Special Rapporteur on that issue to continue her close cooperation with governments and non-governmental organizations. It had been possible to make substantial progress on the optional protocol, but a great deal of work was still needed. Russia suggested that the name of the protocol should be changed: "optional" should be replaced by "additional", thus making the draft more consistent with international legal practice.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action advocated the right of the child to life, development and protection, and the Russian Federation had taken many steps to ensure this for Russian children, she continued. However, legislation contained loopholes regarding child migrants. In addition, it was necessary to increase liability for child adoptions. Lack of resources was hampering efforts to eliminate loopholes in relevant legislation.

EDWIN BAEL (Philippines) said all States should ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Philippines was taking steps to implement the Convention's provisions. It also had ratified the International Labour Organisation Minimum Age Convention and strongly supported the initiative for a new Convention to eliminate the most intolerable forms of child labour. It had established mechanisms for children's rights and well-being. It reiterated its concern for the large number of children with disabilities and emphasized their right to enjoyment of human rights. It supported early adoption of the draft optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and believed that no one under age 18 should be involved in such conflicts. It also urged quick agreement on a draft optional protocol on the sale of children. The Philippines considered the transnational dimension in the trafficking and exploitation of children to be very serious, and had sought to include it in the coverage or scope of the draft convention against transnational crimes and in the Manila Declaration on Transnational Crimes adopted in March. Much remained to be done on behalf of the world's children.

MARTA ALTOLAGUIRRE (Guatemala) said since its accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, Guatemala had taken numerous administrative and legislative measures. Most recently, on 27 March, a new code on children had been adopted to better promote and protect the young people of the country. Although the large majority of children were in poor families, the Government was making all efforts to alleviate poverty affecting the young. The Government also believed it had the obligation to protect children from any sexual protection or violence within the society. The draft optional protocols to the Convention, once adopted, would establish a common frontier in the defence of children; both working groups should intensify their work. In Guatemala, the plight of street children had been closely related to poverty. For that reason, the wife of the President had undertaken a national plan to help street children. In addition, a follow-up to cases of complaints related to violations of the rights of street children in 1997 had been carried out by the Government.

YOO DAE JONG (Republic of Korea) said all members of the international community should give particular attention to the promotion and protection of the rights of children, who were the only hope for a future of peace and prosperity. Since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was almost universal, Member States should fully implement its provisions. The Republic of Korea condemned all manifestations of sexual violence, in particular those affecting children. The Government had revised its law on punishment of sex crimes and had made the penalty more severe. The revised law also allowed the Government to begin proceedings against violators without victims having to lodge complaints first. On the issue of domestic abuse, two acts to punish domestic abuse and to prevent and protect victims of domestic abuse would become effective in July. The Government had also addressed another urgent issue - child labour. In March 1997, the Government had increased the minimum employment age. At the international level, the Government proposed that the Commission must bear in mind the value of the family unit for the promotion and protection of human rights of children. There was also a need for a long-term plan for the well-being of children, and for increased cooperation among international organizations active in the protection of the rights of children.

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ARNOLD HIATT (United States) said not all child labour was exploitative, that on family farms or in family run businesses, for example; but much child labour was. His company had been the first major corporation in the United States to offer on-site day care for children and senior citizens. Early intervention had been stressed, along with community service and establishing role models for vulnerable children. The corporation had discovered that such programmes were effective and also were good business, and the programmes were being adopted by some 1,200 companies which had formed an organization called Business for Social Responsibility. RUGMARK, established in India in 1994, meanwhile, provided incentives for carpet manufactures not to use child labour, and was extensively monitored for compliance. The Oriental Rug Importers Association in the United States had adopted a voluntary policy encouraging manufacturers to abolish abusive child-labour practices, and the system had begun to work, as more than 630,000 carpets with the RUGMARK label had been exported as of last summer - consumers clearly did care about the issue. Similarly, Reebok soccer balls made in Pakistan were guaranteed not to have been made by children, and a Brazilian non-profit recently had begun a programme for footwear companies to use a label authenticating that no child labour had been used in manufacturing their products.

Load-Date: April 24, 1998

End of Document

No Headline In Original

The Guardian (London)

May 21, 2001

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Section: Guardian Features Pages, Pg. 10

Length: 3069 words

Body

Sri Lanka

Were it not for the young men in green army fatigues sheltering behind sandbags, most visitors to Sri Lanka would scarcely notice that there is a war going on. The streets of Colombo, Sri Lanka's mellow capital, appear deceptively normal. At Galle Face green, ice-cream sellers propel their musical carts along the seafront. And on the beach below giggling families lark in the foam. At dusk, the sun dips into the Indian Ocean and young couples hold hands.

But Sri Lanka, despite its outward serenity, is a country in deep turmoil. For the past 18 years, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) have been fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east of the island. Successive Sri Lankan governments elected by the country's majority Sinhalese population - have fiercely resisted this separatist movement.

The seeds of the conflict lie deep in history. The Hindu Tamils, who make up almost a fifth of the island's 18m population, arrived here from southern India more than 1,000 years ago, settling in the north. The Sinhalese, who are Buddhist, came from the east of India some time in the 6th century BC.

The two communities got along well enough in British Ceylon, but things fell apart after independence. Nationalist Sinhalese leaders passed a number of chauvinist laws that discriminated against Tamils in the fields of education, employment, and language. Decades of resentment finally exploded into communal rioting in 1983 and the war or liberation struggle" for an independent Tamil Eelam began. Since then, 55,000 people have died.

Over the years, this brutish conflict has ebbed and flowed. Last May, it appeared to be reaching a denouement when ***LTTE*** fighters nearly recaptured the northern, Tamil-dominated town of Jaffna following a series of stunning offensives. But Sri Lankan government troops propelled them back into the jungle. Fighting in the north of the island continues. Three weeks ago at least 400 Sri Lankan soldiers died in a disastrous attempt to recapture Elephant Pass, a strategic military base.

Most analysts believe neither side can win. But so far Norwegian mediators have failed to broker peace. Meanwhile the military stalemate continues. The Tigers control around one-fifth of the country: most of the north and a large enclave around the town of Batticaloa in the east. The Sinhalese have the rest.

It is against this backdrop of perpetual conflict that Tamil asylum seekers turn up every year in the UK. Last year some 6,000 Sri Lankans applied for asylum, a record. Many Tamils, of course, also seek refuge in countries other than Britain in Norway, Canada, and Australia, for example, where there are large Tamil communities.

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In Sri Lanka itself, despite some reforms, Tamils continue to suffer discrimination. The government's security forces have carried out numerous extrajudicial killings. At least 12,000 people have disappeared". Suspected LTTE members can be locked up without trial for 18 months under draconian anti-terrorist laws. Torture in custody is commonplace.

But it is not just the Sri Lankan government, with its mixed human rights record, that has been responsible for atrocities. The LTTE has systematically wiped out moderate Tamil politicians who seek a negotiated settlement to the conflict. The Tigers also, most controversially, continue to conscript children many of whom perish on the battlefield.

The Tigers are fighting for our people and our country. I would not mind if my children joined them," one woman refugee, living in a refugee camp in the government-held border town of Vavuniya, told me last year. But others, more reticently, would rather get out while they can, and seek a new life abroad. Luke Harding Somalia

It is a decade since Somalia began the descent into its particular kind of hell. And while the worst of the vicious clan war has passed, and with it the famine born of conflict, Somalis have only the slenderest of reasons to grasp at hope for their country. Or two countries, as some would have it, which is another cause to fear for the future.

The exodus of Somalis began with the fall of the dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991 and extended through the years of clan war, starvation and US intervention. The poor fled across the border to Kenya in their hundreds of thousands. Those with the means either the dwindling middle class or young men with guns with which to steal money looked further afield, many to the UK.

There are strong historical reasons for an attachment to the UK. The north of the country was the British protectorate of Somaliland from 1886. The Italians got the south but lost it to the UK during the second world war. Rome briefly regained administration under United Nations auspices until Somalia's two parts were united shortly after independence in 1960.

Over the years, a strong Somali community built up in Cardiff partly as a result of Somali seamen serving on British merchant ships. But it is west London that has proved the most popular destination in recent years, with an estimated 12,000 Somalis living in Ealing.

Somalia has been without central government for 10 years. After Siad Barre fled, warlords and militias fought for control of the cities. The fighting led to famine, and eventually the American-led UN military mission, which probably killed more people than it saved. All told, about one million people died from war, famine or disease one in seven of the population.

There were many ways of getting to the UK, but cash was key and the young men with guns were frequently the most able to find the money. Hence the disproportionately low numbers of women and children among Somali asylum seekers.

Others tried a different method. After the British embassy was hurriedly evacuated in 1991, the looters moved in. They blasted their way through a concrete wall of the embassy safe in search of money. There was none, but there were hundreds of British passports which could be had for about Dollars 100 a time in the market stalls within a few days.

A sort of peace has come. A year ago, a transitional government was set up in Mogadishu. But its control does not extend much beyond the capital and the killing goes on, albeit less frequently. Earlier this month, dozens of people were killed in fighting between pro-government militia and forces loyal to Hussein Aidid, the former US marine and son of Somalia's notorious warlord, Mohamed Farah Aidid.

The old British protectorate in the north has seceded from the rest of Somalia. While the rest of the world refuses to recognise its autonomy, the region has been largely spared the brutal clan fighting afflicting the south. But those days may be numbered. At the end of this month, the breakaway state of Somaliland will hold a referendum on whether to declare full independence from Mogadishu.

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The Somali government, such as it is, accuses Ethiopia of backing the breakaway north in an attempt to divide the country into smaller powerless states", and to gain access

to a sea port it so badly needs. Chris McGreal

The Kurds

In the first three months of this year, more than 2,900 people from Iraq and Turkey sought political asylum in the UK, according to Home Office statistics. The majority of them probably described themselves as Kurds.

With no nation state to call their own, they come from one of the world's largest ethnic groups with unfulfilled aspirations for independence. Estimates of the size of the Kurdish population range up to 40m people. Their homelands spread across the most mountainous borders of the Middle East, incorporating most of northern and eastern Iraq, south-eastern Turkey, large tracts of western Iran, segments of Armenia and a slice of northern Syria.

Denied self-rule after the collapse of the Ottoman empire at the end of the first world war, Kurds repeatedly rose in revolt against the successor states of Turkey and Iraq during the 20th century. Their rebellions were suppressed with excessive brutality and bloodshed. In 1919, the RAF in charge of maintaining order in Iraq at the time foiled a Kurdish uprising by aerial bombardment. Since then Middle Eastern states, particularly Iraq and Iran, have exploited rival Kurdish tribes and political factions in wars with one another, betraying their junior allies when circumstances shifted.

The uprising by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Turkey, the genocidal Anfal campaign initiated by Saddam Hussein in the 1980s against rebellious Kurds in northern Iraq and the tumult of the 1991 Gulf war led to millions of Kurdish refugees streaming out of their traditional heartlands.

The pattern of persecution, revolt and displacement has, if anything, grown more complex in the past decade. Within Turkey, thousands of Kurdish villages were destroyed by the army in an attempt to remove the PKK's support networks. Although the PKK is formally on ceasefire, there is still fighting in the mountains and as many as 10,000 Turkish troops are inside northern Iraq hunting down the remnants of the organisation. Broadcasts in Kurdish are still banned in Turkey.

The London-based Kurdish Human Rights Project continues to win dozens of cases involving allegations of extrajudicial killings, torture and freedom of expression against Turkey in the European court of human rights.

Within the UN-established no fly zone in Northern Iraq, Saddam Hussein's forces are forbidden to enter. American and British jets patrol the skies, striking at anti-aircraft batteries and radar stations deemed to be a threat. On the ground, in the Kurdish safe haven established at the end of the Gulf war, most of the territory is held by two rival, semi-autonomous groups: the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union for Kurdistan (PUK).

The Home Office recently changed its immigration practice, insisting that Kurds seeking asylum were not in immediate danger and could be sent back to northern Iraq. The UN provides food and aid to the Kurdish zones, but Turkey blocks international aid workers and journalists from crossing into the Kurdish territories.

Although the KDP and PUK areas have been relatively peaceful for the past three years, Saddam's agents regularly travel in and out. Most of the population live in a state of suppressed anxiety about what will happen when Saddam, or his successor in Baghdad, tries to reassert control over the Kurdish regions of Iraq.

Last autumn a battalion of Iraqi troops seized a village in the south of the KDP's land, testing the allies' military response. US and British fighters buzzed the area and the Iraqi contingent eventually surrendered to the KDP.

The situation is far worse for those Kurds around the oil-producing cities of Mosul and Kirkuk, which were left in the hands of troops loyal to Saddam in 1991. The Iraqi government has been pursuing a policy of forced Arabisation, expelling Kurdish families northwards and replacing them with Arab-speaking families from southern Iraq. Many of those now fleeing Iraq and travelling across Europe are thought to be victims of this policy.

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If the political will to sustain the no fly zone seeps away and Saddam's forces re-enter northern Iraq it could release a flood of refugees that would make the current influx of asylum seekers look like a tiny trickle. Owen Bowcott

Former Yugoslavia

Before the catastrophe, Yugoslavia offered the chance of a good life. The economy creaked and stagnated but there were jobs, shops were full, school-leavers went to university and in summer everyone headed to the beach or the mountains. Sarajevo hosted the 1984 winter olympics, tourists dallied in Zagreb en route to the Dalmatian coast and intellectuals gathered in Belgrade cafes. It was a free society, relative at least to the Balkans and the eastern bloc. The cold war passed without invasion, the Berlin wall fell and a new era dawned. Yugoslavia would show it was central European, not Balkan.

No one expected that dream to dissolve into a bloodsoaked nightmare, probably not even the man most responsible for creating it, Slobodan Milosevic.

Tension bubbled between the federation's republics, and ethnic groups within them, but they had done so intermittently for decades. When fighting broke out between Slovenian and federal forces in the summer of 1991 it scarcely seemed believable. Then fighting flared in Croatia. Then Bosnia. It was civil war.

People tend to remember it in slow motion: hell creeping through villages, towns and cities. Societies crumbling under mortar fire. Atrocities multiplying as Muslims, Serbs and Croats turned on each other. In 1999 it was Kosovo's turn when ethnic Albanians escaped Milosevic's terror and returned, after Nato intervention, to terrorise Serbs. Now trouble is stirring in Macedonia.

These horrors are why the former Yugoslavia has been one of the biggest sources of asylum seekers to western Europe in the past 10 years. It is a simple correlation: fighting intensifies, refugees multiply. Judging when to run was not always easy: was police harassment reason enough to pack up and abandon everything? Or being sacked and cold-shouldered by neighbours? Or receiving a bullet in the post?

Sometimes the decision was easy: soldiers pointed a gun and said go. That was the case with many traumatised Bosnian Muslim refugees. The lucky ones made it to Sarajevo and on to a plane. Others trekked north overland towards the EU. Croats with money and connections made it to expatriate communities in Australia and north America.

The Kosovo exodus was the most dramatic: in less than a month hundreds of thousands of terrified ethnic Albanians fled on foot or tractor-trailer. Albania was overwhelmed and the influx was unwelcome in Macedonia, which distrusted its own Albanian minority, so some refugees were flown to Britain and other western countries.

Most returned home after Nato took over but the failure to establish a rule of law has decanted a trickle back to the west because Serbs and moderate Albanians are targeted by Albanian ultranationalists. Seeking shelter in countries no longer at war is no guarantee of security. Croat nationalists rampaged in Bosnia-Herzegovina last month and the state may yet collapse. Montenegro's secessionist yearning continues to threaten to explode into violence.

Unlike the 1999 exodus, the current flow into the UK includes more well-educated professionals. You meet them in Montenegro, Serbia's sister republic in what is left of the Yugoslav federation, waiting to join the ant-trail to Albanian ports for a night-time ride across the Adriatic to Italy.

Those with the cash, contacts and luck get to take the plane from Tirana or Sarajevo. The trafficking network includes ex-officers from the Yugoslav army, Muslim middlemen and Croatian gangsters. Had the old Yugoslav federation worked so harmoniously, there would never have been any asylum seekers. Rory Carroll China

The road to the airport at Fuzhou is lined with villages that bear witness to the profits made by migrants legal or otherwise over recent decades. There are mansions with tiled verandas, carports and high walls to keep out prying eyes. Most visibly, there are churches several the size of a small cathedral built with remittances from abroad.

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Fuzhou, capital of China's southern province of Fujian, was already sending labourers to work on Asian plantations and American mines 150 years ago. Migration declined after the 1949 Chinese communist victory, but it has started afresh in the 1980s. Britain has become the destination of choice, replacing the US, where controls are seen to be tougher and in spite of the disaster in Dover last year.

It's the best place for earning money," say villagers just a few miles from the airport, where the journey starts with tickets and papers supplied by local snakehead" gangs. But the documents are a big problem."

Some claimants for asylum may have genuine cause. There are cases in Fujian, as elsewhere in China, of families who exceed the limits for planned births" being heavily fined or forced to have abortions. In spite of the flourishing new churches, others (mostly Catholic) have been demolished by authorities claiming that they harbour heretical sects. However, most migrants are driven not by despair or oppression, but by the success stories of earlier emigrants.

The snakeheads are an easy target for demonisation, especially since Dover. The Chinese government blames the illegal traffic on a handful of bad elements"; the bereaved families denounce them for heartless" treatment of their sons and daughters. Yet the snakeheads are local people too, running a business for which in normal times there is a healthy demand. The deal is calculated carefully on both sides. The migrants' families pay 10% to 20% up front, and the rest on delivery. Often they use the funds sent back by previous migrants. Cases of exploitation making the migrants work in virtual bondage are said to be rare. The snakeheads do not want to earn a bad reputation at home.

The recent wave of Fujianese migrants has come predominantly from the counties of Changle and Fuqing, south of Fuzhou. Fuqing has a population of 1.28 million; another 628,000 people with local ties are living abroad. More than 80,000 of them emigrated legally in the 1990s. The number of illegals is unknown.

One long country road in Fuqing, from the county town out to the coast, has become known as "snakehead highway". Entire villages in Changle have been rebuilt, with four-storey brick houses replacing peasant homes made of packed mud. Chinese journalists say that going abroad became a new fever" by the end of the 1980s as the region became rich with remittances from earlier emigration. Conspicuous spending, rare in the Maoist era, was now encouraged in the new age of economic reform. As well as mansions and churches, the overseas migrants spent vast sums on refurbishing ancestors' graves.

Emigration controls until then extremely tight in the coastal area opposite Taiwan were relaxed. Young people earned more money and dreamt of seeing the world'. Some local officials and police seized the opportunity of profiting from the trade.

There are 13 banks in the small town of Longtian in Fuqing county: large amounts of US and Canadian dollars, Japanese yen, Dutch guilders and British pounds flow in daily. Fujian's gold rush is likely to continue as long as there is good money to be made abroad. John Gittings

Load-Date: May 21, 2001

UN
High Commissioner for Refugees - Appeals for international help to Eastern
Zaire

M2 PRESSWIRE

April 3, 1997

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Length: 4109 words

Highlight: United States representative says Commission should scrutinize records of number of countries

Body

Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), this morning appealed to the international community to help with the ordeal of Zairian civilians and Rwandan refugees caught in the war in eastern Zaire.

In an address to the Commission on Human Rights, Mrs. Ogata said that "insecurity, politics and enormous logistical constraints" continued to make work there more difficult than it had been in any other refugee situation since she became High Commissioner.

"I would like to use this opportunity to appeal for action by the international community on the most pressing asylum issue currently facing my Office", Mrs. Ogata said, lamenting the lack of international attention to the problem. She requested support for investigation of allegations of serious human rights violations in eastern Zaire.

Mrs. Ogata stressed that human rights field activities were important in solving refugee problems. She warned that any weakening of the institution of asylum was a weakening of the world's evolving system of human rights protection.

Another guest speaker at the morning session was Bill Richardson, the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, who urged the Commission to scrutinize the records of countries he said were guilty of human rights violations. Mr. Richardson, who holds a Cabinet-level post in his Government, mentioned Cuba, saying human rights were "the last thing" on Havana's mind. In Burma, he said the "despotic rulers of that poor, beleaguered land" insisted that their own need for power had to take precedence over the rights and choices of the Burmese people.

Regarding Sudan, the American representative accused both the Government and insurgent forces of serious abuses. He said Government forces were responsible for a "massive and unacceptable" list of human rights violations. He added that there were ongoing human rights abuses in Iran and Iraq, Central Africa, the former Yugoslavia and China.

Also this morning the Commission continued discussions on torture and related questions, listening to statements from Sri Lanka, the Russian Federation, Uganda, India, the Republic of Korea, Uruguay, Mexico, Pakistan and Indonesia. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, the World Muslim Congress, the Asian Cultural Forum on Development and the Society for Threatened Peoples also took the floor.

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The Commission will continue to debate questions related to the rights of detainees and torture this afternoon at 3 p.m. It is also scheduled to begin a discussion on the rights of indigenous people.

Statement by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

SADAKO OGATA, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said human rights field activities such as those established under the outgoing High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala-Lasso, in Rwanda were important for finding comprehensive solutions to refugee problems. There had to be cooperation to uphold respect for human rights and tackle the root causes of displacement. Indeed, the system of refugee protection was an indispensable part of the global human rights regime.

Ms. OGATA said that while she was grateful to governments around the world for offering sanctuary to millions of victims of persecution and conflict, there was a growing threat to asylum. Access to territory was becoming more and more difficult, and safety during asylum was also seriously threatened through deadly attacks on refugee camps. Moreover, the voluntary nature of repatriation was increasingly being undermined by a mounting number of forcible returns in situations which were far from safe.

Addressing the causes for these threats to asylum, Mrs. OGATA said the first problem was the staggering rise in the number of refugees: from 1.5 million in 1951 to 13.2 million in 1996. The problem was compounded by an equally large increase in the number of internally displaced persons. There were also problems posed by mixed movements of genuine asylum-seekers and of people escaping from economic hardship. In Zaire, refugees were mixed with armed elements and people who had committed crimes against humanity who were exploiting the asylum system for political purposes. The exodus from Albania showed yet another combination: people seeking protection from violence, people fleeing from poverty and even a small number of people escaping from prisons. These mixed patterns posed enormous challenges for receiving States, which were under increasing pressure from domestic public opinion.

Faced with those problems, Ms. OGATA said, her Office had tried to help develop innovative and new opportunities for solutions to refugee problems and their prevention. Attempts to tackle the root causes of refugee flows were indispensable for solving refugee crises. But as long as people could not have their basic human rights protected in their own country, and as long as their "right to remain" could not be guaranteed, asylum remained the most effective means for protection and its door had to remain open. The refugee protection regime provided crucial roles to be played by all actors in the process and the international community was required to support those efforts and share the burden, both financial and moral, of caring for refugees.

New ways must be found to effectively implement this in the face of political obstruction, she continued. For example, the Dayton Peace Agreement was not being adequately implemented in regards to the right to return. Only very few refugees and internally displaced persons had been able to return to their homes, where they were now a minority. They were blocked by unacceptable political obstruction, by distrust and by the destruction and occupation of their houses. The High Commissioner's Office needed "the concerted political and economic backing of the international community" to achieve with its partners tangible progress on the right to return of these refugees.

Mrs. OGATA appealed for action by the international community on "the most pressing asylum issue" currently facing her Office: the ordeal of Zairian civilians and of the large number of Rwandan refugees caught in the war in eastern Zaire. Insecurity, politics and enormous logistical constraints continued to make work there more difficult than it had been in any other refugee situation she had seen since becoming High Commissioner, yet that drama had not received the international attention it deserved. She urged the Commission to support the requests for the investigation of allegations of serious human rights violations in eastern Zaire.

Statements by United States Permanent Representative

BILL RICHARDSON, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, said human rights and respect for the fundamental dignity of people everywhere lay at the heart of the American idea, even as they underpinned the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the United Nations across the planet. The United States

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had always believed that those rights and freedoms were universal in their application and a fundamental reflection of the hopes of people everywhere. The United States had seen the veracity of those propositions, and the costs imposed and the damage caused when they were scorned.

If there was a defining trend in our progress towards the millennium, it was the increasing empowerment of ordinary people through democracy to shape their destiny, Mr. RICHARDSON. Democracy had moved from aspiration to reality in Europe, Southern Africa and Northeast Asia. However, there were unfortunately, a number of regimes that had not changed at all and appeared archaic in a world that was steadily more free. The Commission should draw attention to countries like Cuba, since human rights were the last thing on Havana's mind. Another "perpetual disappointment" was Burma, where the despotic rulers of that poor, beleaguered land insisted that their own need for power must take precedence over the rights and choices of the Burmese people. In Sudan, both the regime and insurgent forces had committed serious abuses, and the Government was responsible for "a massive and unacceptable list of human rights violations". Meanwhile, human rights abuses in Iran and Iraq were "all too clear".

The United States also had concerns about human rights in other areas, particularly central Africa and the former Yugoslavia, he continued. The human rights situation in China was also an appropriate subject for the Commission to address. The Chinese Government continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses and to severely restrict fundamental freedoms. The United States did not seek confrontation over this issue, but it firmly believed that the People's Republic should be held accountable, and certainly at the Commission, to the international standards China itself had endorsed.

Mr. RICHARDSON said the Commission had to operate as efficiently and as cost-effectively as possible. It needed to find better ways to provide more services directly to the people who needed them and waste less time on outdated and meaningless resolutions. The promotion and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms was the Commission's *raison d'être*.

Statements in Debate SHAMIM SHAWL, of the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, said she wanted to draw the attention of the Commission to the human rights situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir, where her people had suffered killings, torture, rape, abduction and other indignities. The defenders of human rights also had been silenced; it was very hazardous for a Kashmiri to expose the atrocities committed by Indian occupation forces. The Commission could not ignore the appalling conditions of the inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir. The dispute in Kashmir remained a tinderbox in South Asia - this great human tragedy for 13 million Kashmiris could lead to renewed warfare between India and Pakistan, both which possessed nuclear-weapons capability.

IBRAHIM ZIA, of the World Muslim Congress, said the Commission must bring an end to the undeclared war of 700,000 Indian troops against Kashmiris - a war where prisoners of conscience were tortured and killed in custody, in staged encounters, and in their homes and workplaces. Torture was part of a systematic pattern of human-rights abuses used to intimidate and subjugate Kashmiris: figures released by the Kashmir Bar Association for 1996 alone showed 113 civilians, 98 political activists, and 7 Government officials killed by Indian forces while in custody. And while courts had ordered the release of 3,000 detainees, only 697 were let go. Among specific victims were 18-year-old Fida Hussain of Srinagar - nephew of Tahir Masood, a delegate to the Commission - who was tortured to death; and Kashmiri jurist and human-rights activist Jaleel Andrabi, who paid with his life for coming to the Commission to expose Indian barbarism in Kashmir. The Commission must take effective steps to protect Kashmiris from among the worst of the human-rights violations taking place anywhere in the world.

SUHAS GHAKMA, of the Asian Cultural Forum on Development, said his organization was disturbed by the systematic pattern of torture practised with impunity in Pakistan. That the Special Rapporteur on torture had received no information to demonstrate the Pakistani Government's efforts to reform the police and judicial systems or prosecute those responsible for torture was equally of concern. But the problem was not exclusive to Pakistan: torture had been used as an administrative tool across South Asia to suppress democratic dissent and to extract confessions from suspects. The Forum was also seriously concerned about the systematic pattern of disappearances in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The problem also existed in Bangladesh, where Kalpana Chakma, General Secretary of the Hill Women's Federation of Bangladesh had disappeared. The response of

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some governments to the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations human-rights bodies had been disdainful to say the least. At the same time, these governments felt over-burdened by reporting procedures. Without the allocation of substantial financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations for human rights, the attempt at micro-management could only mean political control over mechanisms of the Organization's human-rights programme.

NGAWANG CHOEPHEL, of the Society for Threatened Peoples, said the denial of rights for detainees was one of the most serious violations because it caused unimaginable physical and mental suffering, and ultimately suppressed the dignity of a person. According to Nigel Rodley, Special Rapporteur on torture, the practice of torture was endemic in police stations and in detention centres in Tibet. Furthermore, the report of the working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances had listed cases in Tibet. He was optimistic that a future visit by this working group would focus on the situation of arbitrary detentions in Tibet, Eastern Turkistan (Xinjiang) and Inner Mongolia, where thousands of prisoners were languishing in jails.

JANAKA NAKKAWITA (Sri Lanka) said the Government was committed to freedom of expression, but due to the severity of the insurgency and terrorism prevailing in the north and east, it had not been possible for journalists to travel freely to those areas. Authorities made every effort to provide facilities for journalists and independent observers to go there when possible. In a number of cases, victims of torture had obtained redress through the courts; but while the Government had taken steps to observe internationally recognized norms on preventing torture, it was regrettable that irregular groups did not - that particularly was true of the terrorist LTE group. Three commissions had been established to inquire into reports of involuntary disappearances, a major step to ensure accountability of law-enforcement officers and members of the armed forces; the outcomes of the investigations would be communicated to the relevant Commission Working Group. It was unfortunate that allegations had been made recently that returning Sri Lankan asylum-seekers had been subjected to arbitrary detention and maltreatment

- the delegation referred the Commission to a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees report which noted that such returnees were "treated in a fair and humane manner".

V. A. KARTASHKIN (Russian Federation) said that without an independent and impartial judicial system, democracy, the rule of law and human rights would have no meaning. Every person had to be firmly convinced that if his or her human rights were violated, they would be able to defend them by means of a court order. This was the key to the ongoing judicial reform in Russia. Unfortunately, all the aims of that reform had not been achieved. This reform was directly linked to the problem of changing the conditions of executing sentences, particularly those that implied the deprivation of liberty. The overcrowding in pre-trial detention centres mentioned in the report of the Special Rapporteur on torture should be viewed as more of a problem than as a fault of Russia. A more realistic approach towards the situation should be adopted: it had to be understood that it was impossible to solve all the problems of the reform of the criminal-executive system within one hour. It was impossible to solve all the problems related to the violation of the rights of detainees without sufficient financing. Russia intended to continue its dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on reforming Russia's penitentiary system and was actively contributing to the drafting of an Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture to allow international inspection visits to places of detention.

JOSEPH ETIMA (Uganda) said article 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights called for all persons deprived of their liberty to be treated with dignity and humanity and that the places where these persons were detained should aim at their reformation and social rehabilitation. Yet, the perception that these persons were no longer fit to live with society was still all too pervasive. In this era of democracy and the rule of law, the perception should be that these persons, while not exactly in the same position as others, should not be regarded as unworthy merely for having been accused or convicted of an offence. This guarantee of human dignity was necessary for three reasons: it facilitated the task of reforming prisoners and smooth their return to society; it provided a ready measure with which to judge actions inconsistent with article 10 or even the Standard Minimum Rules on the treatment of detainees, and lastly it provided a platform from which to question concerns

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- notably those related to reformation and re-socialization - not specifically enumerated in article 10 or the Standard Minimum Rules. In an attempt to fulfil the requirements of this minimum standard of human dignity, the Government of Uganda had established a training programme in human rights within its system of administration of justice.

ARUNDHATI GHOSE (India) said several Special Rapporteurs had complained of a lack of resources to fulfil their mandates effectively. The Commission had to either ensure adequate funding for its some 32 mechanisms or consider rationalizing their number. As for the agenda item in question, there was a tendency for delegations to utilize the discussion on rights of detainees to promote foreign policy agendas of individual countries. This did not reflect well on how members of the Commission fulfilled their responsibility to examine the reports of the mechanisms set up and to evaluate their work. Notwithstanding, India welcomed the fact that the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of opinion and expression had said there was increased cooperation from governments. On the other hand, India regretted the controversy over the interpretation of the mandate of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Commission had to clarify that the Working Group had no jurisdiction of any nature, supranational or national. India was also disappointed that the Special Rapporteurs on the independence of the judiciary and on arbitrary executions had not found it convenient to go on mission to Nigeria: Special Rapporteurs should not lay down conditions for their visits. With regard to the Special Rapporteur on human rights and states of emergency, he should restrict his reports to current situations. India, for its part, was considering acceding to the Convention against Torture.

YONG-SHIK HWANG (Republic of Korea) said his Government had welcomed the report of Abid Hussain, Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom and opinion, who had visited the Republic of Korea in 1995 and had provided in his report some useful guidance on the country's continued efforts to protect and promote human rights and the right to freedom and expression. Following certain allegations against his country contained in the report of Nigel Rodley, Special Rapporteur on torture, and discussed by the Committee against Torture, the Republic of Korea intended to ensure that the Committee's recommendations would be reflected in his Government's policies and legislative measures. He did not agree with the findings of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention that the detention of persons referred to in their report were arbitrary in nature. Those people had been convicted of crimes such as espionage, formation of anti-State organizations and illegal strikes.

SILVIA IZQUIERDO (Uruguay) said the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention had contributed decisively to the information and knowledge of the international community; if detention was arbitrary, even after a sentence had been passed, it was arbitrary, and represented a violation of human rights; the concept of "arbitrariness" had been extensively developed in international law; what was important was safeguarding the right not to be detained or exiled arbitrarily, whenever that might occur. Arbitrary deprivation of freedom masked in a majority of cases violations of other human rights, such as of expression or the right to a fair trial; the end of a trial did not provide an automatic justification for abuses committed during a trial. Uruguay looked forward to a decision by the Commission extending and strengthening the working group's mandate.

ALICIA PEREZ DUARTE Y NORONA (Mexico) said detention of juvenile offenders was being given special consideration by the Mexico, as it was recognized that such children were highly vulnerable; efforts were being made to avoid situations that led children to commit criminal offenses in the first place, and to extend protections such as guidance and treatment to those who had come into conflict with the law. As for involuntary disappearances, the cooperation of Governments was integral to effectiveness of the relevant Working Group; Mexico was ready to continue to cooperate, as it had always done, in investigating cases referred to it by that and other monitoring bodies; the disappearance of a person in Mexico was tackled from several angles, and such an approach had produced positive results and shed light in a number of cases. Independence of the judiciary was a major item on the Government's agenda; one focus was on a real separation of powers; another was on reforms to strengthen the federal judiciary, including establishment of a clear system of selection of judges and a uniform system of education for legal officials. Mexico's political will was strong to combat problems compromising in any way a just state of law; some 2,567 public civil servants had been punished in recent years for offenses linked to torture, for example

- the country was dedicated to establishing a culture of human rights.

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MUNIR AKRAM (Pakistan) said the country's President, shortly after assuming office, had announced a series of measures to eliminate torture and ill-treatment, including increased monitoring of police departments and punishment of police officials found to be committing violations; reform of State institutions with monitoring responsibilities; more severe sanctions against those committing violence against women; and redress at the grass-roots level. The Special Rapporteur on torture had visited Pakistan; Pakistan would like to maintain an interactive dialogue with him on a number of cases he had cited, and would consider his recommendations with an open mind. The Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers had welcomed the Pakistan Supreme Court's landmark decision on the constitutionality of appointment of ad hoc judges, and the higher judiciary of the country had been encouraged to move suo moto on complaints received concerning detainees. Special Rapporteurs continued to furnish fresh evidence of torture and other offenses in Indian-held Kashmir, and the Commission must act to stop such violations; meanwhile some had sought to exploit Pakistan's problems by attempting to destabilize the country through urban terrorism in various cities in Pakistan; the country was determined to combat this phenomenon.

SAODOH SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) said her country had faithfully responded to the communications by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. However, the Working Group had nevertheless taken the arbitrary decision to classify the cases concerned as cases of arbitrary detention. At the same time, Indonesia was astounded that not a single case of arbitrary detention was attributed to developed countries. Indonesia viewed this kind of development with a high degree of concern

- abuse of discretion by the Working Group could not be condoned. If nothing was done to rectify the situation, the Working Group was in danger of falling prey to a type of behaviour that could only be called tyrannical. Another report, that of the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, was far from reliable and credible in its portrayal of the situation in East Timor. Indonesia questioned the reliability of the information given in the report; this seriously jeopardized the credibility of the Working Group. The situation in East Timor had improved and hence Indonesia urged that fabricated statements not be used to justify declaring that the situation had become worse.

Load-Date: May 23, 1997

THE WEEK AHEAD MONDAY

Financial Times (London, England)

December 2, 2002 Monday

London Edition 1

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Section: FT PREVIEW ; Pg. 38

Length: 1105 words

Body

Fogh's EU tour Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Danish prime minister, begins a quick tour of European Union capitals ahead of the crucial EU enlargement summit in Copenhagen on December 12-13. He will brief his 14 counterparts on membership terms being offered to 10 applicant countries and try to establish the support that would be required to secure a deal in Copenhagen. Denmark has already adopted a tough stance. Mr Fogh Rasmussen said last week that applicants who demanded unreasonable concessions might have to wait until 2007 to join. Lisbon is the first stop in the 14-nation tour.

Arroyo builds Japan rapport

Gloria Arroyo, the Philippines president, begins a four-day trip to Tokyo. She holds talks with Junichiro Koizumi, Japan's prime minister, and Yoriko Kawaguchi, the foreign minister, to work toward regional peace and prosperity. Ms Arroyo will also address members of the upper house of the Diet.

Tamil negotiations

Oslo hosts the third round of peace negotiations between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers to try to secure a permanent settlement after nearly 20 years of separatist conflict. The four-day talks take place amid optimism after pledges by the international community of Dollars 70m in aid and signals from the Tamil side of a willingness to accept regional autonomy instead of independence. Trade talks Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Brazilian president-elect, visits Argentina and Chile for trade talks. Lula, as he is called, is keen to strengthen Mercosur, the South American trade bloc. War remnants Government experts meet in Geneva to decide whether to recommend the drawing up of an international treaty on vehicle mines and explosive remnants of war such as fragments from cluster bombs.

TUESDAY 3 Ankara gathering Paul Wolfowitz, US deputy defence secretary, and Marc Grossman, US undersecretary for political affairs, arrive in Ankara. Their wide-ranging consultations with the new government will include Turkey's European Union bid as well as efforts to solve the Cyprus problem. Mr Wolfowitz will also be discussing Iraq with the Turkish authorities. Jack Straw, the British foreign secretary, also makes a two-day visit to Ankara. Athens visit Paavo Lipponen, Finnish prime minister, visits Athens to discuss European Union enlargement, Cyprus and the EU presidency which Greece hosts from January. World population The United Nations population fund in New York publishes its annual report on the state of the world population. It says that to meet the UN's millennium development goals countries must tackle poor reproductive health, fertility, illiteracy and discrimination against women. Putin in India Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, makes a state visit to India (to Dec 5) to discuss trade and international relations, following his China tour. India and China are among the largest customers of

THE WEEK AHEAD MONDAY

Russian armaments. Moscow has been keen to maintain its economic and political interests in the region against the background of tighter co-operation with the US in the wake of the September 11 2001 terrorist attacks. Online patents The European Patent Office annual conference takes place in Nice (to Dec 5). At the meeting a European patent online service that will allow patent filing and inspection and promote transparency in intellectual property rights will be launched.

WEDNESDAY 4 Auditors' report The European Parliament session in Brussels discusses the Court of Auditors' report. MEPs will question the president of the Court of Auditors about his review of how the EU budget was spent in 2001. The report focuses on agricultural spending, structural funds, trans-European transport networks, research spending, humanitarian and food aid and payments to countries applying to join the EU. Speeding up trade talks The trade negotiations committee of the World Trade Organisation meets in Geneva over the next three days to discuss progress in the Doha round of global trade talks scheduled to end in December 2004. Supachai Panitchpakdi, WTO director-general, has called for faster progress in the negotiations, which are being held up by stalemate in the agriculture talks. Toledo in Italy Alejandro Toledo, Peruvian president, visits Italy to promote trade between Peru, Italy and the European Union. He will meet Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Italian president, and Silvio Berlusconi, the country's prime minister. Toledo is expected to speak at the European Parliament tomorrow. FT Reports FT-IT & Asian Information Technology Switzerland: Banking, Finance & Investment

THURSDAY 5 Eurozone interest rates The European Central Bank will announce the outcome of its monthly policy meeting. Investors have priced in a quarter-point interest rate cut to 3 per cent but many are hoping for a half-point easing given the weakness of recent eurozone data. International investment China hosts the annual conference of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on international investment. The two-day forum in Shanghai will consider how to maximise development benefits from foreign direct investment. European finance The European Finance Convention starts in London. The two-day conference foresees an enlarged, more highly regulated industry and the need for clear strategic planning. Healthy teeth in healthy bodies Medical and dental experts hold a two-day meeting in Geneva to discuss the links between dental and bodily health. The meeting, organised by the Sunstar Foundation for oral health promotion, will consider research showing links between oral health and diabetes, adverse pregnancy outcomes, osteoporosis and heart disease. FT Report Business in the Community (magazine, UK editions only)

FRIDAY 6 Italian strike Italy's teachers, transport and other public sector workers strike over pay and government spending cuts. There was industrial action last month after Fiat, the automotive group, announced its latest job cuts. Turkey and the EU Costas Simitis and Silvio Berlusconi, Greek and Italian prime ministers, discuss in Rome the timetable for Turkey's EU accession talks and increasing co-operation in the Adriatic to prevent trafficking in drugs and illegal immigrants. Holidays Finland, Norway, Spain FT Reports Thailand Business Travel

SATURDAY 7 Miss World The rescheduled Miss World contest, relocated to London's Alexandra Palace after riots in Abuja and Kaduna, Nigeria, takes place. More than 200 people died in Kaduna, the northern Nigerian city, after four days of rioting over a newspaper article on the pageant and tensions ahead of elections next year. Compiled by Ruth Sullivan and Martin Mulligan ruth.sullivan@ft.com

Load-Date: December 1, 2002

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

September 19, 2001, Wednesday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 14

Length: 1155 words

Body

Corporate

collapse

MEGA executive salary packages have not reduced mega corporate collapses -- Ansett, HIH, One.Tel. They have brought an air of unreality into corporate life. Not only have these executives deluded shareholders as to their extraordinary and outstanding competence but also they have deluded themselves.-- John Woodlock, Noosaville.

September 17

* NEW Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark was vitriolic in her comments about the behaviour of workers withholding labour from Air New Zealand aircraft at Australian airports, claiming these actions were counter-productive.

A simple statement from Clark or Air New Zealand that the entitlements owed to Ansett's cast-off workers will be paid would resolve the impasse.

Australians are not impressed by the antics from over the Tasman. Let there be no mistake: urgent bridge-mending is required or Air NZ can forget about doing business in this country.

Restoration of goodwill relates to more than workers' entitlements. What about the people who have paid for flight tickets which now are not being honoured? Surely they are entitled to their money back. We should have laws in place to ensure such money is held in trust accounts until the flight takes place.-- Alan Cohn, Camp Hill.

September 17

* IT looks like 16,000 Australian jobs and countless more are down the gurgler, thanks to the generosity of Premier Peter Beattie. He was warned that the domestic airline market could not sustain another carrier and yet, in his arrogance, he went ahead with a multimillion-dollar, taxpayer-funded enticement to Virgin Blue.

How could the other carriers hope to compete?-- G. Freer, Woodridge.

September 17

Despots propagate hatred of US

No Headline In Original

CORRESPONDENT M. Furlong (Letters, Sept 18) says "Americans should be looking at their foreign policy to see why they are so hated". Hopefully, the excellent Perspectives columns by Daniel Mandel and Michael Duffy on the facing page may have provided further insight to Furlong.

We keep hearing what is hated about the United States. Much of this hatred is propagated to deflect attention from the real problem: despotic regimes. These are the regimes which take foreign aid and use it to buy arms or syphon it into private accounts while their people starve. They ban freedom of thought, speech, dress and even beliefs, using religion as a weapon. They have one rule for themselves and another for their people. They practice extreme prejudice against the female half of their population, they will never be happy while Israel exists.

Freedom is the enemy of these people. With real freedom of choice, many of these dictators would be strung up by their countrymen. They keep rule by fear or by creating a fear that they are the lesser of two evils.

America has many flaws but can anyone seriously suggest an American foreign policy that would meet universal acceptance and would not turn some disgruntled party into an enemy? Are suicide bombers just an American problem not used against anyone else?

Would the world be a better place if America withdrew behind fortified national borders and told the world to find a new policeman?-- David Ripley, Marcus Beach.

September 18

* I THANK The Courier-Mail for the editorial "Waking the noble sleeping giant" (C-M, Sept 14). As an American expatriate for nearly 10 years, I often am embarrassed by the very characteristics -- blind patriotism, crassness, loudness and general arrogance -- of my fellow citizens that this piece cites. I am often disgusted and ashamed of American foreign policies, particularly as they pertain to non-Western, non-European-based cultures. I have condemned US military action and US-sponsored "freedom-fighters" (a euphemism for terrorists?) over the past 30 years and predicted a backlash. That it would be such a horrifying event was beyond my imagination. Like The Courier-Mail, however, I was deeply touched by the American spirit of compassion and compatriotism that emerged from last week's catastrophe.

Prime Minister John Howard's obviously sincere expressions to our leaders, the outpouring of grief and sympathy from Australian citizens everywhere and the kind words of your media have helped to ease my sadness. In a time when I have never felt more American, I am grateful to feel welcome so far away from home.-- Kit Kimberly, kitkim16@hotmail.com

September 18

Refugees come with conflict

THE Howard Government's invocation of the ANZUS treaty will likely commit Australian troops to Afghanistan or Arab countries.

Once Australia interferes in the domestic affairs of another country, we must be prepared to accept the consequences of our actions, even it that means accepting refugees from those countries.

It seems absurd that Howard can turn back the Tampa refugees, some of whom are escaping the tyranny of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and yet he may end up committing Australian forces to war with this same country.

Unless we are prepared to accept responsibility for our actions and take refugees, we should not interfere in the domestic affairs of these countries. Morally, it's a package deal.-- Brian Lynch, Moorooka.

September 17

* I AM sick of ignorant and alarmist people trying to link the tragic events in the US and our own refugee crisis.

No Headline In Original

If a terrorist could be bothered targeting Australia, he or she is more likely to enter the country without detection through conventional means rather than go to the trouble of travelling on a refugee boat.

It must be remembered that illegal refugees are scrutinised and checked far more closely than those entering the country legally through our airports. We also detain illegal refugees. It's pretty hard to launch a terrorist offensive from a detention centre.

There is no link between the two issues. Those who try to make such a link are attempting to spread intolerance and hatred, something this country does not need at the moment.-- Tony FitzGerald, Morningside.

September 18

Other terrors

THE next time misguided patriots in New York make a donation to extremist groups operating in Northern Ireland, they might think twice about the consequences of their generosity. Now they have witnessed the results of mindless terrorism, they might realise what sort of inane violence the money, which has been coming largely from that part of the world for 33 years, has been used for.-- Sid Stevens, Noosa.

September 18

* HAVING suffered under Tamil Tiger terrorists, whose suicide attacks have killed many innocent people, those of us who have migrated from Sri Lanka are pleased about the hard stand on terrorism taken by the US Government.

It is well known that **Tamil Tigers** collect most of their funds from Australia, Britain, Canada and South Africa. It is time the Australian Government stopped them collecting funds under the guise of front organisations.--J. Amaratunga, Kenmore.

September 18

LETTERSThe CourierMail GPO Box 130 Brisbane 4001. Fax 07 3666 6690. Email cmletters@gnp.newsltd.com.au

Load-Date: November 12, 2001

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

June 8, 2000; Thursday

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Section: International news

Length: 5497 words

Body

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

CONGO-FIGHTING. Congolese hospital struggles amid bombardment.

NATO. Allies await details on Russian missile defense plans.

CLINTON-ASIA. Clinton discusses Korean summit with South Korean leader.

MED-ORIGIN OF AIDS. HIV originated in Africa in 1930s, study suggests.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

KISANGANI, Congo Hundreds of wounded, sick and dying Congolese patients lay on bloodstained, filthy mattresses in the smelly, crumbling hospital wards. But outside, Rwandan and Ugandans shelled each other Thursday for a fourth day despite a U.N. cease-fire. CONGO-FIGHTING. Recap moving by 0100 GMT. By Hrvoje Hranjski. AP Photo KIS102.

ALSO MOVED:

US-CONGO DEATHS: More than 1.7 million deaths in eastern Congo attributed to war.

UN-CONGO. U.N. chief demands Rwanda, Uganda cease fire in northern Congo town.

SIERRA LEONE. Britain pledges a long-term commitment to Sierra Leone even as it plans to withdraw most of its troops from the former colony. By Tim Sullivan. AP Photos LON111, 118-119, 121-122.

ATHENS, Greece Gunmen ambush and kill Britain's defense attache Thursday in a barrage of bullets before disappearing into Athens' urban labyrinth a slaying authorities believe is the work of Europe's most elusive urban guerrilla group, November 17. GREECE-TERRORISM. Lead has moved. By Brian Murphy. AP Photos ATH102-109, 112; LON109.

Also moved: BRITAIN-TERRORISM VICTIM; GREECE-TERRORISM-CHRONOLOGY.

BRUSSELS, Belgium The Russians don't like Washington's plan to deploy a missile defense system in the United States. The NATO allies hope Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev is going to tell them Friday what Moscow would do

AP News Digest

instead. NATO. Recap moving by 0100 GMT; meeting starts at 0700GMT. By Jeffrey Ulbrich. AP Photos BRU105-106.

TOKYO On a quick trip to Asia, U.S. President Bill Clinton met with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in a show of solidarity before next week's first summit between the long divided Korean nations. CLINTON-ASIA. Moving by 0100 GMT. By Sonya Ross. AP Photo TOK135.

WITH:

SEOUL, South Korea When reunification comes, a South Korean author once wrote, somebody could make a fortune tearing down statues of Kim Il Sung, North Korea's revered late leader. It's the sort of irreverent moneymaking scheme that would horrify communist cadres in North Korea, who virtually deify Kim. KOREAS-DIVIDED VIEWS. Moving by 0100 GMT. By Christopher Torchia. AP Photos available.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand Australia is evacuating hundreds of people Friday from the Solomon Islands crisis, but some foreign nationals say they don't believe the situation has gotten bad enough to force them out. SOLOMON ISLANDS. New story expected by 0300 GMT. By Ray Lilley. AP Photos LON112, 114.

SUVA, Fiji Tribal chiefs from Fiji's wealthy western provinces plan to meet Friday with rebel leader George Speight in the latest effort to resolve a 3-week-old government hostage crisis. FIJI-UNREST. New story expected by 0500 GMT. By Mike Corder. AP Photos SUV101-103.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina President Fernando De la Rúa defended his contentious economic plan of higher taxes and spending cuts as workers pressed ahead with plans for a national work stoppage on Friday. Argentina-Economy. Moving by 0230 GMT. By Kevin Gray.

UNITED NATIONS With top U.N. and U.S. officials and women's rights activists demanding an accelerated roadmap to achieve equality for women, delegates from over 180 nations intensify negotiations to resolve the remaining key issues sexual rights, abortion, adolescent sex education and sexual health services. UN-WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. New story moving by 0300 GMT. By Edith M. Lederer. AP Photo NYR104.

WASHINGTON AIDS evolved from a benign monkey infection into a human-killer in the early 1930s, far earlier than once believed, but it stayed in remote Africa until jet travel, big cities and the sexual revolution spread it worldwide, a new study suggests. MED-Origin of AIDS. Has moved. By Paul Recer.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Friday, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo travels to Washington to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

FEATURES: Arts and Entertainment

LOS ANGELES Shakespeare's in cinemas again. A gutsy "Hamlet" hit theaters last month starring Ethan Hawke as a sullen cyber-prince in contemporary Manhattan, On Friday, Kenneth Branagh's latest go at the Bard opens, a musical version of "Love's Labour's Lost" set at the start of World War II. ARTS-BIG-SCREEN SHAKESPEARE. To move as wire time permits. By David Germain. AP Photo NY347.

REAL DE CATORCE, Mexico This mountain town was once a center of silver mining. But when the mines closed, the people left. Now townspeople see a new savior for Real de Catorce. And it's called Hollywood. Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts have caused a sensation here during the filming of "The Mexican." ARTS-MEXICAN MOVIE TOWN. To move as wire time permits. By Niko Price. AP Photos NY306-311.

With THE MEXICAN-MOVIES.

NASSAU, Bahamas When television and movie scripts call for sharks, producers call Stuart and Michelle Cove. Japanese producers wanted to scrub a shark's teeth with a giant pink brush for a toothpaste commercial; the Coves made it happen. How do they wrangle sharks into performing on cue? ARTS-BAHAMAS-SHARK WRANGLERS. To move as wire time permits. By Chris Tomlinson. AP Photos NY327.

AP News Digest

Also moving:

ARTS-Brazil-Bolshoi Ballet AP Photos RIOX201-208

ARTS-Switzerland-Cezanne AP Photos NY192-195

ARTS-US-Shelby Lynne, AP Photo NY329

ARTS-US-Simon Estes, AP Photos NY330-331

ARTS-US-Mister Mission Control AP Photo NY317

ARTS-US-Museum Technology

ARTS-US-Industrial Gallery AP Photo NY378-379

ARTS-US-Russian Treasures AP Photo NY409-411

ARTS-US-Gable and Darin AP Photo NY373

ARTS-US-Deep Purple

ARTS-P.D. James AP Photo NY381

ARTS-US-Country Fan Fair AP Photo NY380

ARTS-Entertainment Flashbacks

ARTS-Celebrity Birthdays

ARTS-Audio Reviews

ARTS-Film Reviews

ARTS-U.S. Top Ten

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Peter James Spielmann and Malcolm J. Foster. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE. Second earthquake in five days hits Sumatra.

GREECE-TERRORISM. British diplomat shot, seriously wounded, by gunmen.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

TOKYO Thousands of mourners gather in Tokyo on Thursday to honor former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, praising him for his dedication to his country and his efforts to pull Japan out of its lengthy economic slump. The service for Obuchi, who died on May 14, also provides a venue for a barrage of diplomatic meetings between visiting dignitaries, including U.S. President Bill Clinton. JAPAN-OBUCHI FUNERAL. By Mari Yamaguchi. Lead has moved. AP Photos. With Photos.

BENGKULU, Indonesia A big undersea earthquake, with a magnitude of 6.2, rocks southern Sumatra on Thursday, five days after a major temblor killed about 100 people, seismologists said. INDONESIA-EARTHQUAKE. By Daniel Cooney. Lead has moved. BEN101.

WITH:

MYANMAR-EARTHQUAKE Earthquake of magnitude 6.3 hits Myanmar, but no major damage or injuries were reported. Lead has moved.

JAPAN-EARTHQUAKE Magnitude 4.9 quake shakes southwestern Japan.

ATHENS, Greece A British diplomat is shot and seriously wounded by unknown gunmen as he drove to work on Thursday in what police believed was a terrorist attack. GREECE-TERRORISM. Has moved; developments will be expedited.

WASHINGTON A federal judge has ordered the breakup of Microsoft Corp., declaring the software giant that spurred an explosion in home computing should be split into two because it "proved untrustworthy in the past." US-MICROSOFT. Recap has moved. By Larry Margasak. XSE103,106-109. PAL105. SEM101-102. WSX120-122.

WITH:

US-MICROSOFT-WHAT'S NEXT.

US-MICROSOFT-CHRONOLOGY.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand The prime minister of the Solomon Islands was under house arrest Thursday, according to New Zealand Foreign Minister Phil Goff, who says he fears the rebel fighting there could soon worsen. SOLOMON ISLANDS. Lead has moved. By Ray Lilley.

SUVA, Fiji Rebel leader George Speight is warning the military to expect serious reprisals if soldiers shoot at his gunmen, who have been holding government officials hostage for three weeks. FIJI-UNREST. Recap has moved. By Mike Corder. SUV102-103.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Police search for more suspects in the suicide bombing that killed a Cabinet minister and 21 others in the capital amid reports that mobs have attacked minority Tamils in revenge. SRI LANKA-EXPLOSION. Update expected by 0900 GMT. By Dilshika Jayamaha. COL102-103, 105-108.

WITH:

SRI LANKA-**TAMIL TIGERS**. Separatist rebels say a corp of suicide bombers, known as the Black Tigers, are playing a vital role in their 17-year war of independence in Sri Lanka. Has moved.

WASHINGTON It has taken thousands of years for the population of India to swell to 1 billion. It may take just 100 years for India to add another billion. WORLD POPULATION. Has moved. By Genaro C. Armas.

WITH:

WORLD POPULATION-GLANCE

VATICAN CITY Now that celebrations for Pope John Paul II's landmark 80th birthday are over, Vatican watchers have turned to that perennial guessing game: Who will succeed him? TALK OF THE VATICAN. Has moved. By Victor L. Simpson. ROM101-102,114, AP Graphic POPE SUCCESSORS.

WITH:

VATICAN-POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS. Has moved.

JERUSALEM Israel is equipping its Lebanon border with an electronic fence, beefed-up army outposts and hi-tech detection devices to stop infiltrations, to replace its abandoned presence inside Lebanon. ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER. Has moved. AP Photos.

AP News Digest

UNITED NATIONS Women's rights activists accused the Vatican and a few Islamic and Catholic countries of blocking consensus on a U.N. document to accelerate the drive for equality of the sexes and called for an end to "tyranny of this miniscule minority." UN-WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Has moved; will move recap by 0700 GMT. By Edith M. Lederer.

BRUSSELS, Belgium NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson is not happy. The European allies have promised to upgrade their military capabilities and increase defense spending. But they're not doing it fast enough. He'll bring that up at a two-day session opening Thursday. NATO. Has moved. By Jeffrey Ulbrich.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia Complaining that NATO is failing to protect Serbs, President Slobodan Milosevic's government is calling for sweeping changes in the U.N. mandate one year after Western-led peacekeepers entered the province. YUGOSLAVIA-KOSOVO. Recap has moved.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Friday, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo travels to Washington to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton. On Saturday, President Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia speaks at College of the Ozarks in Springfield, Missouri.

FEATURES:

HONG KONG The Chi Lin Nunnery has long been an oasis of tranquility in bustling Hong Kong. But now that the rebuilt nunnery has been listed as a heritage site by the Hong Kong Tourist Association, sightseers are showing up by the thousands. The complex is designed to last for 500 years, but its 60 residents worry that crowds of tourists could threaten their monastic existence. FEA-HONG KONG-OVERRUN NUNS. Will move by 0700 GMT. AP Photos NY108-109.

MED-US-HEART RADIATION. AP Photos NY304-305.

MED-HEART RADIATION-STRATEGIES.

SCI-US-RESTRUCTURED SEAFOOD. AP Photos NY350-353.

SCI-US-BEAR HAVEN. AP Photos NY383-385

BEAR HAVEN-PRESERVATION.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Malcolm Foster and Dafna Linzer. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

CLINTON-JAPAN. Clinton attends Obuchi's funeral, meets with new Prime Minister Mori.

SIERRA LEONE. Cook discusses Britain's role in Sierra Leone.

MICROSOFT-WORLD REACTION. Microsoft breakup to have little impact on Asia.

CONGO-FIGHTING. Fourth day of shelling in Kisangani despite truce.

LEBANON-ISRAEL. Israeli position inside Lebanon holding up verification of pullout.

SYRIA-DEMANDING CONSUMERS. Syrians hope for economic benefits with peace.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

AP News Digest

TOKYO Thousands of mourners gather in Tokyo on Thursday to honor former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, praising him for his dedication to his country and his efforts to pull Japan out of its lengthy economic slump. JAPAN-OBUCHI FUNERAL. By Mari Yamaguchi. Lead has moved. AP Photos. AP Photos TOK136-137.

WITH:

CLINTON-JAPAN. Joining an array of world leaders, U.S. President Bill Clinton Thursday pays respects to the late Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi a man who "touched hearts around the world" and talked diplomacy with Obuchi's successor. Lead has moved. By Sonya Ross. AP Photos TOK110, 128.

ATHENS, Greece Suspected terrorist gunmen kill Britain's defense attache Thursday in a roadway ambush that police believe could be the work of Europe's most elusive urban guerrilla group November 17. GREECE-TERRORISM. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Brian Murphy. ATH101-102.

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon The United Nations is unable to certify that Israel has completely pulled out of Lebanon because of a disagreement over an Israeli border outpost, which the United Nations feels encroaches into Lebanese territory, a U.N. spokesman says Thursday. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Has moved. By Zeina Karam.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook is in Sierra Leone to discuss Britain's role in the wartorn West African country after it withdraws most of its troops next week. Sierra Leoneans, fearful of a possible rebel assault, have pleaded for the British troops to remain. SIERRA LEONE. Expected by 1300 GMT. By Tim Sullivan.

KISANGANI, Congo Residents woke up Thursday to a fourth straight day of heavy bombardment as shells rain down regardless of promises by Rwandan and Ugandan forces to stop firing. CONGO-FIGHTING. Lead has moved. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

WASHINGTON A federal judge has ordered the breakup of Microsoft Corp., declaring the software giant that spurred an explosion in home computing should be split into two because it "proved untrustworthy in the past." US-MICROSOFT. Recap has moved. By Larry Margasak. XSE103,106-109. PAL105. SEM101-102. WSX120-122.

WITH:

MICROSOFT-WORLD REACTION. The ruling by a U.S. federal judge to break up Microsoft Corp. generates big interest but little concern in Asia, where the main stock markets traded mostly higher Thursday and analysts played down the impact on the region's companies. Has moved; will be updated. By Scott Stoddard.

US-MICROSOFT-WHAT'S NEXT.

US-MICROSOFT-CHRONOLOGY.

BRUSSELS, Belgium NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson is not happy. The European allies have promised to upgrade their military capabilities and increase defense spending. But they're not doing it. At least not fast enough. NATO. Lead has moved; will be updated. By Jeffrey Ulbrich.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand Fearful that rebel combat in the Solomon Islands could intensify, the Australian navy sends a ship to Guadalcanal on Thursday and began evacuating hundreds of nervous foreigners, officials say. SOLOMON ISLANDS. Lead has moved. By Ray Lilley.

BENGKULU, Indonesia A big undersea earthquake, with a magnitude of 6.2, rocks southern Sumatra on Thursday, five days after a major temblor killed about 100 people, seismologists said. INDONESIA-EARTHQUAKE. By Daniel Cooney. Lead has moved. BEN101.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Police detain 15 men Thursday as suspects in a suicide bombing that killed a Cabinet minister and 20 others in a suburb of the capital. Sri Lanka's president urged people to refrain from retaliatory

AP News Digest

attacks on the Tamil minority. SRI LANKA-BOMBING. Stands for item on 0600 GMT digest listed as Sri Lanka-Explosion. Has moved. By Dilshika Jayamaha. COL102-103, 105-108.

DAMASCUS, Syria Brightly lit billboards, mobile phones and an American hamburger chain that is about to open are the latest manifestations of Syrians' eagerness to move into the modern world of international commerce. Many hope that a peace treaty with Israel will bring commercial opportunities and accelerate slow-moving economic reforms. SYRIA-DEMANDING CONSUMERS. Has moved. By Donna Abu-Nasr. DAM101.

VATICAN CITY Now that celebrations for Pope John Paul II's landmark 80th birthday are over, Vatican watchers have turned to that perennial guessing game: Who will succeed him? TALK OF THE VATICAN. Has moved. By Victor L. Simpson. ROM101-102,114, AP Graphic POPE SUCCESSORS.

WITH:

VATICAN-POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS. Has moved.

UNITED NATIONS Halfway through a U.N. conference on women's rights, the debate is echoing the dissension that marked its landmark predecessor five years ago over reproductive and sexual issues. UN-WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Has moved; will update after 1530 GMT speech by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. By Edith M. Lederer.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Friday, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo travels to Washington to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

FEATURES:

FEA-HONG KONG-OVERRUN NUNS. AP Photos NY108-109.

MED-US-HEART RADIATION. AP Photos NY304-305.

MED-HEART RADIATION-STRATEGIES.

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SCI-US-BEAR HAVEN. AP Photos NY383-385

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Thousands of mourners gathered in Tokyo on Thursday to honor the late former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, praising him for dedication to his country and efforts to pull Japan out of its lengthy economic slump. The service for Obuchi, who died at age 62 on May 14 after suffering a stroke, also provided a venue for a barrage of diplomatic meetings between visiting dignitaries, including U.S. President Bill Clinton. Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, a friend of Obuchi since they both attended the prestigious Waseda University, said the late premier spared no efforts to rejuvenate Japan's weakened economy. "No one was more concerned with the current condition and the future of our nation as we approached the tumultuous turn of the century," Mori told mourners. "Midway on the path to his goal, he departed without witnessing the fruits of his own labor." (JAPAN-OBUCHI FUNERAL)

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

Suspected terrorist gunmen killed Britain's defense attache Thursday in a roadway ambush that police believe could be the work of Europe's most elusive urban guerrilla group November 17. Brig. Stephen Saunders, 53, was shot in the head and chest by motorcycle-riding assailants as he drove to work. He died about 3 1/2 hours later, hospital officials said. If a terrorist link is established, Greece could come under severe international pressure for a

AP News Digest

massive crackdown. U.S. officials have repeatedly accused Greece of ineffective counter-terrorism measures against incidents ranging from frequent bombings and arson strikes to killings blamed on November 17 dating back to 1975. Foreign Minister George Papandreou said it was not clear whether the attack had any link to the recent U.S. pressure, which included a proposal to impose sanctions. But he promised a "most merciless" response against suspected terrorists. The spotlight is also on Greece to develop a security plan for the 2004 Olympics. Saunders was shot near the main stadium for the games. (GREECE-TERRORISM)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)

Fearful that rebel combat in the Solomon Islands could intensify, the Australian navy sent a ship to Guadalcanal on Thursday and began evacuating hundreds of nervous foreigners, officials said. Some 200 people had boarded the Australian landing ship by early evening, with another 200 ready to go, said New Zealand High Commissioner Nick Hurley in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands. Australian Defense Minister John Moore said there were 700 Australians in the Solomons Islands but the HMAS Tobruk could take up to 800 people if that many wanted to flee "the further deterioration of the security situation in and around Honiara." Honiara has been calm, despite the turmoil that has gripped the Solomon Islands since armed rebels seized the prime minister on Monday and rival groups from two islands then escalated a conflict that has gone on for 18 months. (SOLOMON ISLANDS)

TOKYO (AP)

The ruling by a U.S. federal judge to break up Microsoft Corp. generated big interest but little concern in Asia. Main stock markets were mixed Thursday and analysts played down the impact on the region's companies. The ruling was the top story in Japanese evening newspapers, and photographs of Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates also appeared on the front pages of major papers in Taiwan. Microsoft's Windows operating system is as widely used in some Asian countries as it is in the United States. Yet analysts said Asians will probably just be interested observers of the U.S. court case because most companies in the region from Japan's NEC Corp. to Taiwan's Acer Inc. make hardware such as semiconductors. They don't compete directly with Microsoft. "I really don't see any impact on any of the tech companies out here," said Voon-san Lai, a technology analyst at Nomura International Ltd. in Hong Kong. (MICROSOFT-WORLD REACTION)

KISANGANI, Congo (AP)

Frustrated by the continuing, random shelling of Congo's third-largest city, the senior U.N. military observer on Thursday blamed both the Rwandan and Ugandan army commanders for "genocide" against the civilians trapped in ferocious artillery duels. "The commanders on the ground are the ones responsible for blocking the cease-fire," said Lt. Col. Danilo Paiva, head of the 21-man U.N. military observer mission in Kisangani. "They are committing genocide against the civilians. They must be held responsible for their actions." Red Cross and other aid officials say at least 50 civilians, 19 of them children, had been killed in the shelling by late Wednesday. A rain of shells poured down on this Congo River port for the fourth straight day Thursday. The day before, shelling set ablaze the Roman-Catholic cathedral on the river's northern bank and shut off water and electricity to some 200,000 trapped Congolese civilians. (CONGO-FIGHTING)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1315 GMT:

TENNIS:

PARIS Spaniards Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario face off while top seed Martina Hingis faces Frenchwoman and No. 6 seed Mary Pierce on Thursday in the women's semifinals at the French Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-French Open. Martinez-Sanchez match began at 1200 GMT.

By Steven Wine.

ALSO:

PARIS Sports-Tennis-French Open-Squillari. Has moved.

SOCCER:

MEXICO CITY Argentine forward Jose Luis Calderon scores twice to give America a 3-1 victory Wednesday night, but it is Walter Samuel's 84th-minute tally for Boca Juniors that sends the South American club to the Copa Libertadores finals for the first time since 1979.

Slug Sports-Soccer-America-Boca. Has moved.

LONDON The head of the South African bid for the 2006 World Cup has defended a proposed vote-trading plan with Brazil.

Slug Sports-Soccer-WCup 2006-South Africa. Has moved.

ALSO:

DALLAS Sports-Soccer-US Cup-SAfrica-Mexico. By John Marshall. Has moved.

EURO 2000:

BRUSSELS, Belgium Help! The game of soccer is lying on the ground, writhing in pain. The fans fight, and, sometimes, the players do too. Even the game's administrators are arguing with each other. Battered and bruised, soccer is badly in need of makeover as it goes into the European Championship on Saturday.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Preview. Expected by 1700 GMT.

By Robert Millward

HOENDERLOO, Netherlands Orange, orange everywhere. And not a player in sight. While this bucolic city is literally painting the town orange, the players of the Dutch team are kept out of sight in a nearby training camp, with barbed wire put in for safe measure.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Orange Everywhere. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Paul Ames.

GEEL, Belgium Dino Zoff will never be "Mr. Personality." But as pressure grows around his struggling team, Italy's tight-lipped coach is learning how to dance.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Italy-Zoff. Expected at 1300 GMT.

By Jeff Israely.

SPA, Belgium With England preparations still overshadowed by fears of hooliganism, Kevin Keegan takes his team to Belgium to prepare for its Euro 2000 opener against Portugal next Monday.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-England. Expected by 1700 GMT.

TIENEN, Belgium Two days ahead of the Euro 2000 opener against Sweden, Belgian coach Robert Waseige is still weighing who should be on the starting lineup of the tournament's co-hosts.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Belgium. Expected by 1900 GMT.

By Constant Brand.

EDEGEM, Belgium Reeling from a string of poor results, more injuries and a political controversy, the struggling Yugoslav team arrive at its training for Euro 2000.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Yugoslavia. Expected by 1600 GMT.

AP News Digest

By Dusan Stojanovic

KNOKKE-HEIST, Belgium Following a perfect qualifying record and a smooth preparation campaign, Czech Republic's coach Jozef Chovanec keeps his tactics simple: don't overwork the players and make them feel as relaxed as can be ahead of Sunday's opening match against the Netherlands.

Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Czech. Expected by 1700 GMT.

By Jan Sliva

WITH:

BRUSSELS, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Referees. By Andreas Evagora. Expected by 1900 GMT.

VAALS, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Germany. By Nesha Starcevic. Expected by 1500 GMT.

BRUNSSUMMERSHEIDE, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Denmark. Expected by 1700 GMT.

OISTERWIJK, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Sweden. Expected by 1700 GMT.

HOENDERLOO, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Netherlands. By Erica Bulman. Expected by 1800 GMT.

WAVER, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-France. Expected by 2000 GMT.

BRUSSELS, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Notebook. By Constant Brand. Has moved.

CRICKET:

CAPE TOWN, South Africa The name of South Africa's national cricket coach is drawn into the country's worst-ever sporting scandal Thursday in testimony before a commission investigating matchfixing allegations.

Slug Sports-South Africa-Match Fix. Has moved.

By Mike Green.

BASKETBALL:

LOS ANGELES Shaquille O'Neal put up numbers worthy of a champion, scoring 43 points and grabbing 19 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers opened a big lead early, stayed comfortably ahead most of the way and defeated the Indiana Pacers 104-87 in Game 1 of the NBA Finals Wednesday night.

Slug Sports-Basketball-NBA Finals. Has moved.

By Chris Sheridan.

GOLF:

HARRISON, New York David Duval is looking to end his 14-month victory drought in the Buick Classic which begins Thursday at the Westchester Country Club course with a field that features four of the top six players in the world rankings.

Slug Sports-Golf-Buick Classic. Expected by 2400 GMT.

By John Nicholson.

ALSO:

NEWPORT, Wales Sports-Golf-Wales Open. Expected by 1800 GMT.

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NEWPORT, Wales Sports-Golf-Ballesteros Withdraws. Has moved.

ROCHESTER, New York Sports-Golf-LPGA Rochester. By Ben Dobbin. Expected by 2400 GMT.

ALSO:

CARDIFF, Wales Sports-Cricket-Windies. Expected by 1800 GMT

ULURU, Australia Sports-Olympics-Sydney-Torch. By John Pye. Has moved.

TOKYO Sports-Baseball-Japan Roundup. Expected by 1400 GMT.

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey Sports-Ice Hockey-Stanley Cup. By Ira Podell. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-Interleague Roundup. Has moved.

LONDON Sports-Swimming-Dutch Dynamo. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

TENNIS:

PARIS Mary Pierce, buoyed by her newfound popularity in Paris, survives second-set jitters and cramping late in the match to beat top-seeded Martina Hingis in the semifinals at the French Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-French Open. Has moved. Recap expected by 0015 GMT.

By Steven Wine.

PARIS No one has had an easier ride to the semifinals of the French Open than Magnus Norman.

Slug Sports-Tennis-French Open-Men. Has moved.

PARIS When French Open finalist Conchita Martinez says her dreams are coming true, she means it literally. The fifth-seeded Spaniard says she has had a recurring dream in which she plays the French Open final. And wins.

Sports-Tennis-French Open-Martinez. Expected by 0015 GMT.

By Clar Ni Chonghaile.

ALSO:

PARIS Sports-Tennis-French Open Notebook. By Marilyn August. Has moved.

SOCCER:

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa CONCACAF president and FIFA Executive Committee member Jack Warner hints South Africa would win its bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

Slug Sports-Soccer-WCup 2006-South Africa. Has moved.

By Susanna Loof.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina After four months of grueling play involving the top teams in 10 countries, the battle for club supremacy in South America is narrowed to Brazil's Palmeiras and Argentina's Boca Juniors.

Sports-Soccer-Boca-America. has moved.

By Kevin Gray.

ALSO:

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-Soccer-Australia-Paraguay. Has moved.

EURO 2000:

BRUSSELS, Belgium Battered and bruised, soccer is badly in need of makeover as it goes into the European Championship on Saturday.

Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Preview. Has moved.

By Robert Millward

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By Jeff Israely.

SPA, Belgium With preparations still overshadowed by fears of hooliganism, England's Kevin Keegan takes his team to Belgium to prepare for its Euro 2000 opener against Portugal next Monday.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-England. Has moved.

TIENEN, Belgium Two days ahead of the Euro 2000 opener against Sweden, Belgian coach Robert Waseige is still weighing who should be on the starting lineup of the tournament's co-hosts.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Belgium. Has moved.

By Constant Brand.

EDEGEM, Belgium Reeling from a string of poor results, more injuries and a political controversy, the struggling Yugoslav team arrive at its training for Euro 2000.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Yugoslavia. Has moved.

By Dusan Stojanovic

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Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Czech. Has moved.

By Jan Sliva

WITH:

AP News Digest

BRUSSELS, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Referees. By Andreas Evagora. Has moved.

VAALS, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Germany. By Nesha Starcevic. Has moved.

BRUNSSUMMERSHEIDE, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Denmark. Has moved,

OISTERWIJK, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Sweden. Has moved.

HOENDERLOO, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Netherlands. By Erica Bulman. Has moved. Recap expected by 0015 GMT.

WAVER, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-France. Has moved.

CRICKET:

CAPE TOWN, South Africa Herschelle Gibbs says he and bowler Henry Williams agree to accept dlsr 15,000 each to play badly during a one-day match in India, an admission that further deepened the match-fixing scandal sweeping the sport.

Sports-Cricket-South Africa-Match Fix. Has moved.

By Mike Cohen.

ICE HOCKEY:

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey The New Jersey Devils can wrap up their second Stanley Cup in six seasons with a victory over the Dallas Stars.

Sports-Ice Hockey-Stanley Cup. Game starts at 0000 GMT.

By Alan Robinson.

ALSO:

VOORHEES, New Jersey Sports-Ice Hockey-Flyers-Ramsay. Has moved. By Rob Maaddi.

GOLF:

HARRISON, New York Dennis Paulson ends his first-round problems in a big way in the Buick Classic.

Sports-Golf-Buick Classic. Has moved.

By John Nicholson.

ALSO:

ROCHESTER, New York Sports-Golf-LPGA Rochester. By Ben Dobbin. Expected by 0100 GMT.

NEWPORT, Wales Sports-Golf-Ballesteros Withdraws. Has moved.

FOOTBALL:

SANTA CLARA, California Steve Young is calling it quits, reluctantly.

Sports-Football-Young-Retirement. Expected by 0015 GMT.

By Dennis Georgatos.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

ATLANTA Sports-Football-Lewis Trial. Has moved.

ALSO:

BOSTON Sports Baseball-AL Roundup. Expected by 0400 GMT.

LOS ANGELES Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

NEW YORK Sports-Baseball-Interleague Roundup. Expected by 0400 GMT.

TOKYO Sports-Baseball-Japan Roundup. Has moved.

IRVING, Texas Sports-Football-Cowboys-Cunningham. Has moved.

NEW YORK Sports-Track-MiniMarathon. Has moved.

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Load-Date: June 8, 2000

End of Document

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

June 7, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: International news

Length: 5291 words

Body

WORLD AT 1700 GMT:

NEW:

US-MICROSOFT. Judge expected to order Microsoft breakup.

ZIMBABWE-CUBA. Two Cuban doctors seeking asylum are kidnapped.

EGYPT-ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY. Pilot makes latest archaeological find.

GERMANY-GAS PRICE ANGST. Auto-obsessed German incensed over gasoline tax.

CHILE-PINOCHET. Mariachi, military salutes for Pinochet.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka A suicide bomber kills a Cabinet minister and 20 other people in a capital suburb Wednesday, setting off revenge attacks by rioters on homes belonging to the Tamil minority. SRI LANKA-EXPLOSION. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Laurinda Keys. AP Photos COL103-108, AP Graphic SRI LANKA.

WASHINGTON A federal judge is expected Wednesday to order the breakup of Microsoft Corp. in a harsh rebuke of the software giant for stifling computer age competition. US-MICROSOFT. Developing; ruling expected 2030 GMT. By Larry Margasak. AP Photo NY129, AP Graphics MICROSOFT RULING, MICROSOFT STOCK, OS MARKET SHARE.. With sidebars.

CAIRO U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright appears to make little headway Wednesday in persuading Syria to restart peace talks with Israel. Still, Syrian's foreign minister calls their meeting positive and says "past misunderstandings" were cleared up. US-MIDEAST. Lead expected by 1900 GMT. By Barry Schweid. AP Photos CAI101-103.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-POLITICS. The prospect of early elections looms over Israel after rebellious coalition parties join forces with the opposition in a preliminary vote Wednesday to disperse parliament. JRL101-104.

AP News Digest

ISRAEL-LEBANON. Hundreds of Muslims burn tires, block roads Wednesday to protest village's division between Israel and Lebanon. Lead has moved. JRL109-110.

AIN SOKHNA ROAD, Egypt Archeologists aren't exaggerating when they say ancient treasures abound in the sands of Egypt. So many treasures, in fact, that even an American pilot from Algona, Iowa, out to enjoy a desert outing with family and friends can make what may be an important discovery. EGYPT-ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY. Expected by 1900 GMT. By Mae Ghalwash. AP Photos CAI105-106.

HARARE, Zimbabwe Two young Cuban doctors seeking political asylum are plucked from a house in the middle of the night, forced to fly to South Africa and nearly pushed onto a flight back to Cuba before slipping a note to airline officials saying they had been kidnapped. The airline refused to let them fly and they returned to Zimbabwe, where they have not been seen for nearly four days. ZIMBABWE-CUBA. Lead expected by 2000 GMT. By Angus Shaw.

KISANGANI, Congo Rwandan and Ugandan forces battle for the third straight day Wednesday, trading heavy artillery fire as U.N. military observers try desperately to get both sides to respect a cease-fire. CONGO-FIGHTING. Lead has moved. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

BERLIN It's not just hitting Germans at the gas pump: Rising gas prices are pushing pizza delivery prices up, taxi companies are raising rates and even locksmiths are charging more to drive to the rescue. Auto-obsessed Germans are laying the blame on an ecology tax pushed through by junior government partner, the Greens party. GERMANY-GAS PRICE ANGST. Has moved. By Burt Herman. AP Photos.

UNITED NATIONS Women's rights activists on Wednesday demand stronger action by delegates from 180 nations to produce a forward-looking plan and not roll back on key gains made in Beijing five years ago, including women's sexual rights. UN-WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Expected by 2100 GMT. By Edith M. Lederer.

SANTIAGO, Chile Mariachi musicians and retired officers loyal to Gen. Augusto Pinochet salute Chile's former dictator in a show of support on Infantry Day, a holiday Wednesday for the army he commanded after the bloody 1973 coup that ushered in his 17-year dictatorship. CHILE-PINOCHET. Expected by 1800 GMT. By Eva Vergara. AP Photos.

TOKYO The summit between North and South Korea. U.S.-Japan telecommunications trade. Troubled relations between Indonesia and Australia. Government figures from around the world head to Tokyo for the funeral Thursday of former Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. But behind the scenes, there is a buzz of diplomatic talk. JAPAN-OBUCHI FUNERAL. Lead has moved; funeral begins 0500 GMT Thursday. AP Photos TOK115-116.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand Fighting between rebels on the Solomon Islands intensifies Wednesday, with one group using a stolen police gunboat to attack rivals, officials say. SOLOMON ISLANDS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Ray Lilley. AP Photos SOL101-103.

ALSO MOVED:

SOLOMON ISLANDS-POLITICIANS ESCAPE. Two British politicians escape the rebels Wednesday.

SUVA, Fiji Rebels holding more than 30 hostages in Fiji's parliament on Wednesday condemn as "blackmail" a decision by Commonwealth ministers to suspend the Pacific island nation from the organization's councils. FIJI-UNREST. Lead has moved. By Mike Corder. AP Photos SUV102-103.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Friday, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo travels to Washington to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton. On Saturday, London's Millennium Bridge linking St. Paul's Cathedral and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre across the Thames River opens to the public.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-KOREA AT WAR. NY334-343, AP Graphic KOREA WAR.

AP News Digest

FEA-KOREA-HIDDEN CHAPTERS. NY348-351.

FEA-KOREA-WORLDS APART. NY353-354; AP Graphic KOREA COMPARE.

FEA-KOREA-SHINN'S ESCAPE. NY320-322.

FEA-GREECE-MYSTERIOUS MASTIHA. NY314-315; Graphic GREECE CHIOS.

FEA-PERU-GUINEA PIG DINING. NY317-318.

FEA-EMIRATES-**FEMALE** TAXI DRIVERS. NY117,120.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Ian Mader. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

TALK OF THE VATICAN. Vatican watchers speculate on succession.

WORLD POPULATION. Report details acceleration of population growth.

PERU-PRESIDENT. Fujimori says its time for his security chief to step into the light.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

TOKYO Government figures from around the world head to Tokyo for the funeral Thursday of former Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. Behind the scenes, there is a buzz of diplomatic talk. JAPAN-OBUCHI FUNERAL. Lead has moved; funeral begins 0500 GMT Thursday. AP Photos TOK105-106,108, 115-116.

WASHINGTON A federal judge has ordered the breakup of Microsoft Corp., declaring the software giant that spurred an explosion in home computing should be split into two because it "proved untrustworthy in the past." US-MICROSOFT. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Larry Margasak. AP Photos.

WITH:

US-MICROSOFT-WHAT'S NEXT.

US-MICROSOFT-CHRONOLOGY.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Police search for more suspects in the suicide bombing that killed a Cabinet minister and 21 others in the capital amid reports that mobs have attacked minority Tamils in revenge. SRI LANKA-EXPLOSION. Update expected by 0900 GMT. By Dilshika Jayamaha. COL102-103, 105-108.

WITH:

SRI LANKA-**TAMIL TIGERS**. Separatist rebels say a corp of suicide bombers, known as the Black Tigers, are playing a vital role in their 17-year war of independence in Sri Lanka. Expected by 0300 GMT.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand The New Zealand foreign minister says the government crisis in the Solomon Islands has worsened, with the prime minister apparently back under house arrest. But there are no new reports of violence between rival rebel groups. SOLOMON ISLANDS. Update expected by 0300 GMT. By Ray Lilley.

SUVA, Fiji Rebel leader George Speight is warning the military to expect serious reprisals if soldiers shoot at his gunmen, who have been holding government officials hostage for three weeks. FIJI-UNREST. Recap expected by 0100 GMT. By Mike Corder. SUV102-103.

AP News Digest

VATICAN CITY Now that celebrations for Pope John Paul II's landmark 80th birthday are over, Vatican watchers have turned to that perennial guessing game: Who will succeed him? TALK OF THE VATICAN. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Victor L. Simpson. ROM101-102,114, AP Graphic POPE SUCCESSORS.

With: VATICAN-POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS.

SHANNON, Ireland Syria shows some interest in reopening peace talks with Israel, but Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa does not signal any shift in Syria's territorial demands. US-MIDEAST. Lead has moved. By Barry Schweid. CAI101-103.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER. Israel is equipping its Lebanon border with an electronic fence, beefed-up army outposts and hi-tech detection devices to stop infiltrations, to replace its abandoned presence inside Lebanon. Expected by 0300 GMT. AP Photos.

HARARE, Zimbabwe Two Cuban doctors seeking political asylum say armed Zimbabwean security agents and Cuban diplomats abducted them in the middle of the night in an attempt to force them back to Cuba. ZIMBABWE-CUBA. Has moved. By Angus Shaw. HAV103-104.

LIMA, Peru President Alberto Fujimori says the time has arrived for Vladimiro Montesinos, his shadowy security chief, to step into the light. PERU-PRESIDENT. Has moved. By Monte Hayes. LIM101-102.

UNITED NATIONS Women's rights activists demand stronger action by delegates from 180 nations to produce a forward-looking plan and not roll back on key gains made in Beijing five years ago, including women's sexual rights. UN-WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Expected by 0030 GMT. By Edith M. Lederer.

WASHINGTON It has taken thousands of years for the population of India to swell to 1 billion. It may take just 100 years for India to add another billion. WORLD POPULATION. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Genaro C. Armas.

With: WORLD POPULATION-GLANCE

BRUSSELS, Belgium NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson is not happy. The European allies have promised to upgrade their military capabilities and increase defense spending. But they're not doing it fast enough. He'll bring that up at a two-day session opening Thursday. NATO. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Jeffrey Ulbrich.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia Complaining that NATO is failing to protect Serbs, President Slobodan Milosevic's government is calling for sweeping changes in the U.N. mandate one year after Western-led peacekeepers entered the province. YUGOSLAVIA-KOSOVO. Recap expected by 0300 GMT.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Friday, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo travels to Washington to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

FEATURES: Science and Technology:

BOSTON Around the world, perhaps 6,000 heart patients have been treated with radiation in formal research studies. However, radiation could be routinely available within a year. MED-US-HEART RADIATION. To move as wire time permits. By Daniel Q. Haney. AP Photos NY304-305.

With: MED-HEART RADIATION-STRATEGIES.

RALEIGH, North Carolina That big, juicy scallop on your plate may not be what it seems. Using proteins extracted from beef plasma and other sources that bind with the proteins in seafood, processors already are selling "scallop medallions," which resemble sea scallops but are made from tiny scallops. SCI-US-RESTRUCTURED SEAFOOD. To move as wire time permits. By Randall Chase. AP Photos NY350-353.

AP News Digest

HEBER CITY, Utah With Bart the Bear, star of more than a dozen feature films, gone, it's a little different these days around Doug Seus's Wasatch Rocky Mountain Wildlife Ranch. But between Tank, his current star, and other bear cubs, the bear trainer and his wife expect to have their hands full for a long time. SCI-US-BEAR HAVEN. To move as wire time permits. By Matthew Ott. AP Photos NY383-385

With: BEAR HAVEN-PRESERVATION.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Ian Mader and Charles Gans. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

SRI LANKA-EXPLOSION. Suicide bomber kills Cabinet minister, 20 others.

INDONESIA-SUHARTO'S BIRTHDAY. Ex-president turns 79.

ISRAEL-LEBANON. Hundreds of Muslims protest village's division between Israel and Lebanon.

ANALYSIS-CLINTON'S EUROPEAN FAREWELL. Clinton's European tour had 'last hurrah' mood.

CONGO-FIGHTING. Rwandan and Ugandan troops continue fighting in Kisangani.

CHINA-INTERNET ARREST. Report: Chinese web site operator arrested on subversion charges.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka A suicide bomber detonates an explosion in the industrial suburbs of the capital on Wednesday, killing a Cabinet minister and 20 others, a hospital director says. SRI LANKA-EXPLOSION. Developing. By Dilshika Jayamaha. AP Photo COL101.

BENGKULU, Indonesia International relief pours into the earthquake-hit town of Bengkulu on Sumatra Wednesday as injured refugees fled a devastated island nearby. Aftershocks continue to rattle southern Sumatra after a magnitude 7.9 earthquake hit Sunday night, killing around 100 people, injuring as many as 1,900 and ruining roads and thousands of homes, officials say. INDONESIA-EARTHQUAKE. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photos BEN101-114; XMAN101-104.

ALSO MOVED:

INDONESIA-SUHARTO'S BIRTHDAY. Ex-President Suharto turns 79 under house arrest with little to celebrate.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand Fighting between rebels on the Solomon Islands intensifies Wednesday, with one group using a stolen police gunboat to attack rivals gathered on a beach, officials say. SOLOMON ISLANDS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Ray Lilley. AP Photos SOL101-103.

ALSO MOVED:

SOLOMON ISLANDS-POLITICIANS ESCAPE. Two British politicians escape from Solomon Islands under fire by rebel gunmen.

SUVA, Fiji Rebels holding more than 30 hostages in Fiji's parliament on Wednesday condemn as "blackmail" a decision by Commonwealth ministers to suspend the Pacific island nation from the organization's councils. FIJI-UNREST. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Mike Corder. AP Photos SUV102-103.

WITH:

AP News Digest

SUVA, Fiji Fiji may seem like paradise on Earth, but it's just now learning a painful financial lesson: Its white sand, coral reefs and great surf can't outweigh the tourist turn-off of men with guns. FIJI-SHATTERED ECONOMY. Has moved. By Rohan Sullivan. AP Photo SUV101.

AUSTRALIA-FIJI COUP BOSS. Australian official says Fiji rebel leader played role in pyramid scheme that bilked investors out of millions.

CAIRO, Egypt U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, already bogged down in tough negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, invites Syria Wednesday to jump back into the peace process. US-MIDEAST. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Barry Schweid.

JERUSALEM Israel's parliament on Wednesday gives preliminary approval to a bill to hold early elections a move that could freeze Middle East peacekeeping for months. Three of the six parties in Prime Minister Ehud Barak's government supported the bill, giving it a clear majority of 61-48 in the 120-member parliament. However, the legislation faces three more votes before elections actually are called. ISRAEL-POLITICS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Mark Lavie.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-LEBANON. Hundreds of Muslims protest village's division between Israel and Lebanon.

SEOUL, South Korea Reunions of separated families are likely to be a prominent topic in a summit next month between the leaders of South Korea and North Korea. But Chang In Sook, 59, doubts she'll get a chance to see one of her sons again because she is a North Korea defector living in the South. KOREAS-DEFECTORS. Has moved. By Kyong-Hwa-Seok. AP Photo NY191.

ALSO MOVED:

MALAYSIA-US-NORTH KOREA. U.S.-North Korea talks begin in Kuala Lumpur on tracing the remains of thousands of U.S. soldiers missing from the Korean War.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina Argentina's president makes his first official visit to the United States this weekend in search of American investments and lower trade barriers, and with reduced expectations for his country's economic growth. ARGENTINA-PRESIDENT. Has moved. By Claude E. Erbsen. AP Photo NY109.

LIMA, Peru Basking in the glow of victory, President Alberto Fujimori boasts he rang up a "triumph for Peru" by persuading the Organization of American States not to impose sanctions over his tainted re-election. PERU-PRESIDENT. Has moved. By Monte Hayes. AP Photos LIM102-103.

KISANGANI, Congo Rwandan and Ugandan forces trade mortar fire for the third straight day Wednesday in the strategic Congo River port city of Kisangani despite a shaky U.N.-brokered cease-fire. CONGO-FIGHTING. Expected by 1100 GMT. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

BEIJING Authorities in southwestern China have arrested and charged with subversion the operator of a local website that posted news about dissidents and about the military's June 4, 1989, crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square, a human rights group reports Wednesday. CHINA-INTERNET ARREST. Has moved.

UNITED NATIONS Trafficking of women and the devastating impact of AIDS on women and girls have become the hottest new challenges for 180 nations trying to accelerate an international agenda to achieve women's equality. UN-WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Has moved. By Edith M. Lederer.

ALSO MOVED:

AP News Digest

UN-**WOMEN**-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT. The U.N.-sponsored **Women** 2000 Economic Empowerment Forum is highlighting economic struggles that **women** around the world must overcome, from unequal pay to a lack of political representation.

UN-**WOMEN**'S CONFERENCE-MEN. Conference on **women** tackles issue of men.

UN-**WOMEN**-LAWS. Countries urged to repeal laws discriminating against **women**

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia Serbs are threatening to block roads in northern Kosovo to draw attention to what they say is the failure of NATO-led peacekeepers to protect them against ethnic Albanian attacks. KOSOVO. Has moved. By Danica Kirka.

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina The surprise announcement by Bosnia's Muslim leader that he will step down as a member of the country's collective presidency may pave the way for a new leadership lineup among Bosnia's three ethnic groups. BOSNIA-IZETBEGOVIC. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Aida Cerkez-Robinson.

ALSO MOVED:

YUGOSLAVIA-MONTENEGRO. Serb aide accuses CIA of killing Montenegro's security adviser.

BERLIN Germany's military is set to undergo the most dramatic changes in its postwar history, trimming troops to create a more flexible force to respond to crises abroad instead of defend against possible Soviet attack. Parliament is debating Wednesday just how far those reforms will go. GERMANY-MILITARY. Parliament debate timing uncertain, expected after 1100 GMT.

KIEV, Ukraine It was a rally to stir the political soul of any candidate. But none was there. Only Bill Clinton, the American president, at the finale of his farewell tour of Europe, in the twilight of his term. ANALYSIS-Clinton's European Farewell. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Walter R. Mears.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Thursday, U.S. President Bill Clinton, other world leaders attend funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-EMIRATES-**FEMALE** TAXI DRIVERS. Gulf region's first **female** cab drivers take the wheel. AP Photos NY117,120.

FEA-KOREA AT WAR. Fifty years after Korean War, battle lines still firmly drawn. AP Photos NY334-343, AP Graphic KOREA WAR.

With:

FEA-KOREA-HIDDEN CHAPTERS. Civilians speaking out about summary executions, other dark episodes. AP Photos NY348-351.

FEA-KOREA-WORLDS APART. Fifty years on, one Korea is an economic power, the other barely survives. AP Photos NY353-354; AP Graphic KOREA COMPARE.

FEA-KOREA-SHINN'S ESCAPE. AP reporter survives run in with North Koreans early in the war. AP Photos NY320-322.

FEA-GREECE-MYSTERIOUS MASTIHA. Unique Greek sap flowing into global markets. AP Photos NY314-315; Graphic GREECE CHIOS.

FEA-PERU-GUINEA PIG DINING. Americans' beloved pet is an Andean food staple. AP Photos AP Photos NY317-318.

AP News Digest

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A suicide bomber detonated an explosion in the industrial suburbs of the capital on Wednesday, killing a Cabinet minister and 20 others, a hospital director said. The remains of the bomber a severed head and limbs were scattered around a traffic island in the Ratmalana suburb as police officers gathered pieces of flesh and debris from the roadway. Twenty-one people were killed, including Minister for Industrial Development C.V. Gooneratne, said the director of Kalubowila Hospital, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena. He said the minister's wife was one of seven people in serious condition and 60 injured had been brought to the hospital for treatment. (SRI LANKA-EXPLOSION)

SUVA, Fiji (AP)

Rebels holding more than 30 hostages in Fiji's parliament on Wednesday condemned as "blackmail" a decision by Commonwealth ministers to suspend the Pacific island nation from the organization's councils. "It is the worst kind of blackmail. What is the Commonwealth trying to do?" rebel spokesman Ratu Timoci Silatolu said Wednesday on Radio Fiji. The action against Fiji could lead to a suspension of its membership in and freezing of aid from the organization of Britain and its former colonies, but that decision can be taken only by Commonwealth heads of government. (FIJI-UNREST)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)

Fighting between rebels on the Solomon Islands intensified Wednesday, with one group using a stolen police gunboat to attack rivals gathered on a beach, officials said. A rebel spokesman, Andrew Nori, said his forces on the gunboat reported firing a machine gun into a crowd of armed foes on a beach, killing 100 of them. Nori said his comrades on the ground watched the scene from about 100 meters (60 feet) away. A Solomon Islands government spokesman and New Zealand officials said there had been a gunboat attack in the morning, but they had no information about deaths. (SOLOMON ISLANDS)

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, already bogged down in tough negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, invited Syria Wednesday to jump back into the peace process. Albright said President Bill Clinton had "a passion for peace" and would use the few months he has remaining in the White House to promote Middle East accords. "There is no higher foreign policy priority for Mr. Clinton," she said at a news conference after an hour's meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. (US-MIDEAST)

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Trafficking of women and the devastating impact of AIDS on women and girls have become the hottest new challenges for 180 nations trying to accelerate an international agenda to achieve women's equality. Women's rights activists at this week's U.N. session to review progress since the 1995 Beijing women's conference said Tuesday that a key problem in negotiating the final document is linking these two global scourges. (UN-Women's Conference).

WORLD SPORTS AT 1330 GMT:

TENNIS:

PARIS Unseeded Franco Squillari becomes the first Argentine since 1982 to reach a Grand Slam men's semifinal when he beats Albert Costa at the French Open. Magnus Norman plays Marat Safin in the other men's semifinal.

Slug BC-Sports-Tennis-French Open. Has moved.

By Steven Wine.

AP News Digest

PARIS Martina Hingis and Mary Pierce, who will meet Thursday in the women's semifinals at the French Open, prepare for their showdown by playing doubles together.

Slug BC-Sports-Tennis-French Open-Women. Expected by 1700 GMT.

By Clar Ni Chonghaile.

EURO 2000:

BRUSSELS, Belgium Organizers promise full stadiums throughout Euro 2000, with 97 percent of all tickets sold for the 31 games. After a lackluster buildup, the tournament and host cities are finally starting to hop. But, security officials hope prisons won't fill with hooligans.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000. Expected by 1700 GMT.

By Constant Brand.

ALSO MOVED:

LONDON Sports-Soccer-England Hooligans.

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands Sex, drugs and soccer. That's the wide range of entertainment that'll be available in the Netherlands for those who come to watch the Euro 2000 championships. With just a few days to go, escort services and coffee shops here are gearing up for a busy month.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Amsterdam Anticipation. Expected by 1700 GMT.

By Anthony Deutsch

ERMELO, Netherlands Paulo Sousa cuts short a second consecutive training session fueling concern that Portugal's key playmaker could miss Monday's opening Euro 2000 match against England.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Portugal. Has moved

By Paul Ames

BURNHAM BEECHES, England England coach Kevin Keegan discusses his team's prospects for the Euro 2000 championship, including whether captain Alan Shearer still is the best man to lead the attack.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro2000-England. Expected by 1800 GMT.

By Ian Phillips

ALSO MOVED:

LUXEMBOURG Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Spain.

LONDON Sports-Soccer-WCup 2006-Brazil.

OLYMPICS:

ULURU, Australia Uluru was once considered the "Never, Never." The bulk of Aussies have never ventured so far inland. Come Thursday, however, the national and international focus will center on the world's largest monolith. The flaming-red heart of the interior will become a dramatic backdrop for the arrival in Australia of the Olympic flame.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Torch-Australia. Has moved.

AP News Digest

By John Pye

CRICKET:

CAPE TOWN, South Africa South Africa's sports minister says that an official inquiry into cricket matchfixing that begins Wednesday should restore faith in the tarnished reputation of the sport.

Slug Sports-South Africa-Match Fix. Lead has moved.

By Mike Cohen.

ALSO:

CARDIFF, Wales Sports-Cricket-Windies. Expected by 1800 GMT.

DHAKA, Bangladesh Sports-Cricket-Asia Cup. Has moved.

GOLF:

UNDATED Still seething over the garish conduct by the U.S. team and the boorish behavior by the throng at The Country Club, Mark James has written a book called "Into the Bear Pit: The Hard Hitting Inside Story of the Brookline Ryder Cup."

Slug Sports-Golf-Book Flap. Has moved.

By Doug Ferguson

ALSO MOVED:

UNDATED Sports-Golf-US Open Qualifying Rdp.

BASEBALL:

CHICAGO Sammy Sosa takes some verbal swings at his manager, saying Cubs skipper Don Baylor has no class. "He hasn't really treated me the way I'm supposed to be treated," Sosa says.

Slug Sports-Baseball-Sosa-Baylor. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-Interleague Roundup.

BASKETBALL:

LOS ANGELES Known more for Hollywood glitz than athletic grace, Los Angeles is the antithesis of a sports town. But fervor over basketball has finally transformed many here as the Lakers prepare to play the Indiana Pacers in the National Basketball Association finals.

Slug Sports-Basketball-Lakers Mania. Has moved.

By Anthony Breznican

ALSO MOVED:

LOS ANGELES Sports-Basketball-NBA Finals.

DALLAS Sports-Ice Hockey-Stanley Cup.

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-RugbyL-Australian State of Origin.

AP News Digest

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

TENNIS:

PARIS Unseeded Franco Squillari becomes the first Argentine since 1982 to reach a Grand Slam men's semifinal when he beats Albert Costa at the French Open.

Sports-Tennis-French Open. Has moved.

By Steven Wine.

PARIS The four women fighting for a place in the French Open final won't need to study videos to know their rivals' strengths and weaknesses.

Sports-Tennis-French Open-Women. Has moved.

By Clar Ni Chonghaile.

ALSO:

PARIS Sports-Tennis-French Open Notebook. Has moved. By Marilyn August.

SOCCER:

TEHRAN, Iran Egypt narrowly beats Iran in a penalty shootout Wednesday, but diplomacy is the real victor in the first soccer match between the two nations.

Sports-Soccer-Diplomacy. Has moved.

By Afshin Valinejad.

ALSO:

DALLAS Sports-Soccer-MLS Roundup. Expected by 0200 GMT.

FREIBURG, Germany Sports-Soccer-Germany-Liechtenstein. Has moved.

NEWCASTLE, Australia Sports-Soccer-Women's Pacific Cup. Expected by 1200 GMT.

EURO 2000:

BRUSSELS, Belgium Organizers promise full stadiums throughout Euro 2000. After a lackluster buildup, the tournament and host cities are finally starting to hop. But, security officials hope prisons won't fill with hooligans.

Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000. Has moved.

By Constant Brand.

LONDON Another England versus Germany confrontation at the European soccer championship almost certainly means plenty of drama on the field. It virtually guarantees trouble off it.

Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Hooligans. Expected by 0015 GMT.

By Robert Millward.

AP News Digest

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands Sex, drugs and soccer. That's the wide range of entertainment that'll be available in the Netherlands for those who come to watch the Euro 2000 championships.

Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Amsterdam Anticipation. Has moved.

By Anthony Deutsch

ALSO:

TIENEN, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Notebook. Has moved.

TIENEN, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Belgium. Has moved.

LUXEMBOURG Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Spain. Has moved.

RUGBY LEAGUE:

SYDNEY, Australia New South Wales, already 2-0 up in the best-of-three series, plays Queensland at the Olympic stadium in what is expected to be a bruising finale to the annual battle for rugby league supremacy in Australia.

Sports-RugbyL-Australian State of Origin. Expected by 1200 GMT.

AUTO RACING:

UNDATED Mauricio Gugelmin's twin boys were born 27 minutes and worlds apart.

Sports-Auto Racing-CART-Mo's Boys. Expected by 0015 GMT.

By Mike Harris.

SWIMMING:

LONDON With the Sydney Olympics just three months away, swimming has a new superstar. In a two-week period beginning in late May, Inge de Bruijn tied or broke six world records.

Sports-Swimming-Dutch Dynamo. Expected by 0030 GMT.

By Stephen Wade.

CRICKET:

DHAKA, Bangladesh Pakistani captain Moin Khan and Inzamam-ul-Haq plunder 72 runs in the last five overs to help their side score 277 for four against defending champions Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup cricket final.

Sports-Cricket-Asia Cup. Has moved.

ALSO:

CARDIFF, Wales Sports-Cricket-West Indies. Has moved.

GOLF:

HARRISON, New York Tiger Woods has once again distanced himself from golf's other top stars. While Woods is across the country preparing for next week's U.S. Open, the Buick Classic begins Thursday with one of the best fields in its 33-year history.

Sports-Golf-Buick Classic. Has moved.

By John Nicholson.

ALSO:

NEWPORT, Wales Sports-Golf-Wales-Ryder Cup. Has moved. By Brian Creighton.

ROCHESTER, New York Sports-Golf-LPGA Rochester. Has moved. By Ben Dobbin.

BASKETBALL:

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Lakers open the NBA Finals against an Indiana Pacers team playing for the title for the first time.

Sports-Basketball-NBA Finals. Game starts 0100 GMT.

By Chris Sheridan.

ALSO:

WASHINGTON Sports-Basketball-Wizards-Hamilton. Has moved.

TRACK:

NEW YORK Tegla Loroupe claims she is not looking past a title defense in the New York Mini Marathon, but she's already making plans for the Sydney Olympics.

Sports-Track-Loroupe. Has moved.

MILAN, Italy With world champion Maurice Greene sidelined with an intestinal infection, it was up to U.S. veteran sprinter Dennis Mitchell to take the 100-meter dash at the Milan track meet Wednesday night.

Sports-Track-Milan Meet. Has moved.

ALSO:

WASHINGTON Sports-Baseball-Cuba-Morales. Has moved. By George Gedda.

CHICAGO Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Has moved.

CINCINNATI Sports-Baseball-Interleague Roundup. Has moved. Will be updated.

LAS VEGAS Sports-Boxing-De La Hoya-Mosley. Has moved. By Tim Dahlberg.

LONDON Sports-Olympics-Britain-Swim Suits. Has moved.

NEW YORK Sports-Horse Racing-Belmont Stakes. Has moved. By Ed Schuyler Jr.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

Load-Date: June 7, 2000

No Headline In Original

Guardian Weekly

April 28, 1991

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Section: THE WEEK; Pg. 6

Length: 42 words

Body

TAMIL separatist guerrillas shot and hacked to death 22 Sinhalese villagers in east Sri Lanka, military sources claimed. Residents said 40 **Tamil Tigers**, wielding guns, knives and swords, killed 13 children, four **women** and four men, and set fire to houses.

End of Document

No Headline In Original

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

March 25, 1994

Copyright 1994 South China Morning Post Ltd.

Section: News; Pg. 33

Length: 1122 words

Body

ALMOST two years ago a Sri Lankan woman found herself running desperately through heavy rain in her slippers and clutching her bank book, wallet and umbrella.

She had no idea where she was, or where she was going, and finally found shelter in Chungking Mansions.

How a woman, who had once been a respectable postmistress in Sri Lanka ended up on the streets of Hong Kong is a remarkable story. But what is even more remarkable is the way this woman fought all the way to the Supreme Court in her search for justice.

In the course of her fight Ganhena (Ganga) Vineetha has forced judges, lawyers, government officials and employers alike to question seriously whether Hong Kong's judicial system is capable of giving a fair hearing to overseas workers.

Ganga claims her employers consistently underpaid her, giving her only \$ 1,000 a month instead of the agreed \$ 2,800, and failed to give her a day off each week. Altogether she says her employers owed her \$ 55,792.65.

The case came before the labour tribunal in October 1992. No legal representation is allowed at these tribunals, but despite this the presiding officer did not stop Ganga's employer bringing her son with her; he is a fully qualified barrister.

"He had all these questions prepared and he tried to catch me out and confuse me.

"Then it was my turn and I couldn't think of anything to ask. I had no one with me to help me," Ganga said.

Her lawyer, Ernest Tang, who used to be a presiding officer in the Labour Tribunal, believes this scenario is far too common.

"Employers are always more prepared than the maid, so if that's the case, the presiding officer will usually find in their favour," he said.

Ganga arrived in Hong Kong four years ago, leaving behind her husband and three children to earn desperately needed money to rebuild the post office she ran in the central province of Kandy. It had been burnt down in 1988 by the **Tamil Tigers** in its offensive against the government.

As Ganga operated the post office on a franchise basis, she was required to build a new building with little government assistance.

No Headline In Original

"My husband was initially against me coming to Hong Kong, but there was really nothing else we could do," she says now, as she quietly describes how in Hong Kong she was forced to work until 11 or 12 o'clock at night, and rarely allowed out of the flat where she lived.

"I was allowed to go to the temple on Sundays, but I was always accompanied by my employer's daughter- in-law and then afterwards we went straight back home. They said that was my day off."

Ganga said her employer claimed she couldn't pay the full salary because her son was getting married. Then a lease on a new flat had to be paid.

"She also used to say that I shouldn't send the money back home anyway, because my husband would spend it all on drink and women. I told her my husband wasn't like that, but she wouldn't listen."

Ganga now has copies of letters she wrote to her husband from that time that explain why she couldn't provide as much money as she had hoped. In one of them, dated January 25 1992, she writes: "Now she is telling their son's wedding took so much expenditure. Now they don't have money and she told me don't ask about balance salary. I told her we want to buy land.

"I cannot understand what they are trying to do. She promised anyway to pay all balance salary on June. What shall I do - I can't fight with them."

These aerograms, which are all postmarked, could have been submitted as evidence to the labour tribunal, but Ganga didn't have them then, and by the time her husband sent them back it was too late. No new evidence can be submitted to the appeal court.

Ganga's pleas for her money became more and more desperate as her contract neared its end. When, on June 13 1992, she again brought up the subject, and also asked for her passport and other documents, her employer lost her temper.

"She became very angry. She said who did I think I was. Sri Lankan beggar wanting to leave Hong Kong like a queen."

Ganga said her employer threatened to destroy her passport and that her son would make sure she never worked again.

Looking down at her hands, Ganga describes how she fled the apartment in terror that night, and ended up wandering the streets not knowing where to go or who to turn to.

She tried to report the incident to the police, but they said as there was no physical assault they could not investigate and she would have to go back herself to try to negotiate for her documents and passport. Otherwise the officer said it was a matter for the Labour Department, and he wrote the address down for her.

The presiding tribunal officer did not check with the police to verify Ganga's account, an omission which Mr Tang has criticised.

"He should have asked questions, he should have gone to the police station. She left in a hurry with no shoes and nowhere to go. He should have checked that because it is a matter of credibility.

"In this case the presiding officer certainly did not do his job sufficiently. There is no doubt in my mind that he failed in his duty to investigate this matter."

The presiding officer found in favour of the employers, and Ganga immediately filed for leave to appeal. She was not granted legal aid to get a lawyer, so she filled in the application forms herself and appeared before Deputy High Court Judge Yeung to plead her own case.

No Headline In Original

He was convinced that the presiding officer had failed in his duty to investigate and granted her leave to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Ganga applied for legal aid again, and this time she was successful. It was only at this late stage that she was able to seek legal advice and be represented by Mr Tang.

However when her case came before the Supreme Court this month, Justice Raymond Sears found there was no point of law for appeal and dismissed the case.

Ganga had finally come to the end of the road. "I am very tired now. I've been trying so hard and I hoped the judge would help me. But he didn't investigate what the presiding officer had written there.

"Now I am just waiting to go home. There is nothing else I can do."

Her former employer's son said Ganga's claims were completely false.

"She's had her day in court but her appeal was rejected. As far as we're concerned that's the end of the matter," he said.

But Ganga slowly turns the pages of all the documents and letters that she has built up over the two years, including the rain-blotched scrap of paper the police gave her all that time ago with the Labour Department's address. What will she do with all of this? She just shakes her head. She doesn't seem to know.

Load-Date: March 25, 1994

End of Document

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

January 9, 2000; Sunday 19:01 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 4354 words

Body

WORLD AT 1800 GMT:

NEW:

UN-SHAPING THE CENTURY. Annan wants leaders, ordinary people to help shape UN role.

GERMANY-JEWS. Holocaust survivor named new leader of Germany's Jewish community.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

MOZDOK, Russia Heavy street fighting rocks Grozny on Sunday, with helicopter gunships striking rebel positions as Russian forces resume an offensive to take the city after a brief holiday pause. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Elmira Kozhayeva. AP Photos NAZ101-106.

SEOUL, South Korea The United States will not investigate "every firefight, every battle" of the 1950-53 Korean War, despite allegations that U.S. forces killed unarmed civilians in dozens of incidents, the head of the U.S. Army says Sunday. SKOREA-NO GUN RI. Has moved. By Sang-hun Choe. AP Photos SEL101-102.

SHEPERDSTOWN, West Virginia President Bill Clinton is expected to resume mediation between Israel and Syria Sunday but the outlook for a settlement between the two is unclear. The talks are "moving along" Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says while touring a Civil War battlefield with Israel's prime minister. US-MIDEAST TALKS. Lead has moved. By Barry Schweid.

ALSO MOVED:

MIDEAST-BLURRED BORDERS. With Israel-Syria talks back on, the future of Kibbutz Snir, a communal farm at the foot of the Golan Heights is as blurred as the frontiers running through its backyard. AP Graphic GOLAN HEIGHTS.

MIDEAST-REFUGEES. For Syrians, Mideast peace talks have stirred expectations that next year's Eid al-fitr feast will be celebrated on Golan Heights land they were forced to leave in 1967. AP Photo DAM103-105.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina A group of retired Argentine naval officers are arrested for allegedly stealing children born to political prisoners during the 1976-83 dictatorship. ARGENTINA-BABY KIDNAPPING. Has moved.

AP News Digest

AMBON, Indonesia Thousands of people were fleeing their homes in fear of a resurgence of religious violence in eastern Indonesia, but Muslims and Christians in one refugee camp put aside their differences Sunday in a rare show of reconciliation. INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Has moved. By Irwan Firdaus. AP Photos JAK101-102.

BERLIN A 62-year-old Holocaust survivor is elected Sunday to lead the largest Jewish community in Germany since World War II. GERMANY-JEWS. Lead has moved. By Burt Herman. AP Photos ZBER101-105.

ALSO:

GERMANY-JEWS-THUMBNAIL. A biographical sketch of the new president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

AUSTRALIA-NAZI SUSPECT. A Nazi war crimes suspect who fled Britain for Australia denies involvement Sunday in mass killings in Latvia during World War II.

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Kofi Annan is inviting world leaders, key lawmakers and grassroots organizations to cast a critical eye on the United Nations and help shape its role in the 21st century. UN-SHAPING THE CENTURY. By Edith M. Lederer.

DHARMSALA, India _A teen-age Buddhist leader who escaped from Chinese-ruled Tibet leaves the headquarters of the Dalai Lama in a convoy of jeeps Sunday. INDIA-TIBET LEADER. Lead has moved. AP Photos DRM101,102 Del101.

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan _Uzbekistan holds its second ever presidential elections Sunday, with incumbent Islam Karimov expected to win a second term easily as leader of Central Asia's most populous country. UZBEKISTAN-ELECTION. Lead has moved. By Timofei Zhukov. AP Photos MOSB115-116.

VATICAN CITY Squalling, squirming, or sleeping serenely through the fuss, 18 white-clad newborns are baptized Sunday into the Roman Catholic Church at the hands of its leader, Pope John Paul II. VATICAN-PAPAL BAPTISM. Lead has moved. AP Photos ROM101-107.

LONDON Britain protests to Libya Sunday about an attempt to smuggle through London Scud missiles capable of hitting Europe with chemical or biological weapons. BRITAIN-LIBYA ARMS. Lead has moved. AP Photo LON5.

GOFFSTOWN, New Hampshire Republican presidential candidates participate in a youth forum with New Hampshire college students while the two Democratic candidates join the youth conference by satellite. US-CANDIDATES FORUM. Developing. By Glen Johnson.

MIAMI Cuban-American leaders, encouraged by a lawmaker's bid to keep Elian Gonzalez in the United States while a judge considers his case, say they'll temporarily halt protests against plans to return the child to Cuba. US-CUBAN BOY. Has moved. AP Photos WX101-102.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Monday, Iran's foreign minister visits Britain.

FEATURES:

CHAKOTHI, Pakistan It's a typical winter's day amid the breathtaking mountains of Kashmir: a hazy sun, cool air and a steady rain of artillery shells from just across the frontier in India. FEA-KASHMIR'S MISERY. Has moved. By Greg Myre. AP Photo NY107-110.

ARTS-CANADA-HURRICANE CARTER.

ARTS-US-COPIED CRAFTS.

ARTS-US-ART RETURNED.

ARTS-US-GRUNGE COMES CLEAN. AP Photo NY310.

AP News Digest

ARTS-US-JUMPING FLEA. AP Photos NY366-370.

ARTS-US-ELVIS PRESLEY. AP Photo NY332.

ARTS-US-STEFON HARRIS. AP Photo NY331.

ARTS-US-'LIVING EDENS'. AP Photo LA300.

ARTS-ENTERTAINMENT FLASHBACKS.

ARTS-CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS.

ARTS-FILM REVIEW.

ARTS-AUDIO REVIEWS.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Dafna Linzer and Josef Federman. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1)

12-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

UN-AFRICA-AIDS. UN considers AIDS a threat to peace in Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA-CHANGING LOYALTIES. Former apartheid rulers joining ANC.

CONGO-FOREIGNERS CONDEMNED. Court orders execution of Lebanese businessmen.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

SHEPHERDSTOWN, West Virginia Despite President Bill Clinton's renewed intervention, Israel-Syria negotiations on a land-for-peace treaty appear to be nearing a close without even a tentative agreement. US-MIDEAST TALKS. Recap expected by 0100 GMT. By Barry Schweid.

ALSO MOVED: ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Israel promises Palestinians framework accord before agreement with Syria.

MOZDOK, Russia As Russian troops launch another offensive on the Chechen capital, rebels carry out a series of attacks, including an ambush of a Russian troop column. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Elmira Kozhayeva. AP Photos MOSB101-102, 114; NAZ101-108.

ALSO MOVED: GERMANY-CHECHNYA. Russia to allow aid into Chechnya, Finnish prime minister says.

UNITED NATIONS U.S. Vice President Al Gore is to address a historic meeting of the Security Council on Monday, when the members are to discuss the threat that AIDS poses to peace in Africa. UN-AFRICA-AIDS. Expected by 0200 GMT. Meeting begins at 1530 GMT. By Nicole Winfield.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa Since the 1994 all-race elections ended white rule, several high-profile members of the former apartheid leadership have changed parties and joined the ruling African National Congress. For some, it may be an awakening to new moral values. For others, it is simple pragmatism. SOUTH AFRICA-CHANGING LOYALTIES. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Andrew Selsky. AP Photo JOH101.

JERUSALEM Thousands of Jewish university students from around the world have begun pouring into Israel for a novel program: Organizers are paying for the trips in hopes of preventing widespread assimilation in Jewish

AP News Digest

communities outside of Israel. ISRAEL-DIASPORA TIES. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Dina Kraft. AP Photos JRL101-102.

ALGIERS, Algeria Forty-five members of an Algerian insurgency movement reportedly surrender to authorities, hoping to benefit from a partial amnesty offer aimed at restoring peace to the war-torn nation. ALGERIA. Has moved.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina The arrests of former low-level naval officers may help shed light on the alleged involvement of top junta leaders in the kidnappings of children born to political prisoners during the 1976-83 dictatorship, a human rights activist says. ARGENTINA-BABY KIDNAPPING. Lead has moved. By Kevin Gray.

KINSHASA, Congo A military court orders the execution of two Lebanese businessmen convicted of spying and illegal currency dealing, state radio reports. They would be the first foreigners to be executed since President Laurent Kabila took power in 1997. CONGO-FOREIGNERS CONDEMNED. Has moved.

GOFFSTOWN, New Hampshire Republican presidential candidates speak to a large gathering of youths about the country's future and the government they will soon inherit. US-CANDIDATES FORUM. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Glen Johnson. AP Photos planned.

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan Results from Uzbekistan's presidential election are expected to be announced Monday, with incumbent Islam Karimov the overwhelming favorite. UZBEKISTAN-ELECTIONS. Lead has moved. By Timofei Zhukov. AP Photos MOSB115-116.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, the leader of a Muslim vigilante group implicated in South African terror bombings is to appear in court.

FEATURES:

PERADENIYA, Sri Lanka In this beautiful island nation of feathery palms, fat papayas and ever-smiling people, despair may seem far away. But puzzlingly, this paradise in the tropics has one of the world's highest suicide rates. FEA-SRI LANKA-SUICIDE ISLAND. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Tom Rachman. AP Photo NY300

With BC-FEA-SUICIDE STATISTICS.

GENEVA Switzerland is fiercely protective of its centuries-old armed neutrality. Yet the very symbol of that independence is firmly in American hands. A Connecticut-based company owns sweeping rights to market products under the "Swiss Army" name and the distinctive Swiss cross. FEA-SWITZERLAND-SELLING SWISS ARMY. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Clare Nullis. AP Photo NY301

Other features moved:

FEA-KASHMIR'S MISERY. When Pakistan and India feud, Kashmir suffers. AP Photo NY107-110.

YOUR QUERIES: World service editors in charge are Joe Federman and Charles Gans. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650,

ax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 1230 GMT:

NEW:

BLURRED BORDERS. Most of Israeli-Syrian frontier a tangle of lines.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

AP News Digest

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina A group of retired Argentine naval officers are arrested for allegedly stealing children born to political prisoners during the 1976-83 dictatorship. ARGENTINA-BABY KIDNAPPING. Has moved.

SEOUL, South Korea U.S. Army Secretary Louis Caldera is to arrive in Seoul to discuss the investigation of alleged mass killings of South Korean civilians by American troops. SKOREA-NO GUN RI. Expected by 1500 GMT.

GROZNY, Russia Weary and nervous Russian soldiers on a frontline in Grozny say the campaign to seize the capital of rebel Chechnya is taking far more of their comrades' lives than the Russian military admits. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Has moved. By Anna Dolgov. AP Photos MOSB101/102.

DAMASCUS, Syria For Syrians, Mideast peace talks have stirred expectations that next year's Eid al-fitr feast will be celebrated on Golan Heights land they were forced to leave in 1967. MIDEAST-REFUGEES. Has moved. By Susan Severeid. AP Photo DAM103-105.

KIBBUTZ SNIR, Israel The future of this communal farm at the foot of the Golan Heights is as blurred as the frontiers running through its backyard. MIDEAST-BLURRED BORDERS. Expected by 1300 GMT. By Karin Laub.

CHAKOTHI, Pakistan It's a typical winter's day amid the breathtaking mountains of Kashmir: a hazy sun, cool air and a steady rain of artillery shells from just across the frontier in India. KASHMIR'S MISERY. Has moved. By Greg Myre. AP Photo NY107-110.

DHARMSALA, India A teen-age Buddhist leader who escaped from Chinese-ruled Tibet leaves for an unknown destination. Local police say the 14-year-old is headed for nearby Gyuto monastery but a source close to the leaders of the Karmapa's Kagyu sect says he moved to the Dalai Lama's official residence. INDIA-TIBET LEADER. Has moved. AP Photos DRM101,102 Del101.

SYDNEY, Australia A Nazi war crimes suspect who fled Britain for Australia denies involvement in mass killings in Latvia during World War II. AUSTRALIA-NAZI SUSPECT. Has moved.

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan Uzbek voters cast ballots Sunday in an election that is seen merely as a formal confirmation of President Islam Karimov's continued authoritarian rule over the Central Asian nation. UZBEKISTAN-ELECTION. Polls close at 1500 GMT.

ALSO MOVED:

US-MIDEAST TALKS. The State Department's assessment of five days of talks between longtime foes Israel and Syria reads like diplomatic-speak for little progress achieved. AWH301-304.

ISRAEL-SYRIA. Prime Minister Ehud Barak sends young Jews a message of peace from the secluded hotel where he and Syria's foreign minister are struggling to end a half century of hostilities. JRL101-102,104.

ROME Fashion giant Benetton is joining Italy's offensive against the death penalty with its latest advertising campaign _ piercing portraits of American death-row inmates. ITALY-BENETTON-DEATH ROW. Lead has moved. By Elizabeth Greenspan. AP Photos NYR116-118.

LONDON Scud missiles, capable of carrying chemical or biological warheads, were illegally smuggled into Britain and seized before their shipment to Libya, a Customs and Excise spokesman confirmed Saturday. BRITAIN-LIBYA ARMS. Lead has moved.

WASHINGTON In a whirlwind week of presidential politics, four televised debates crackled with conflict, humor and policy discussions that opened the candidates to closer inspection to a public that begins judging them two weeks hence. US-CAMPAIGN WEEK. Has moved.

MIAMI Cuban-American leaders, encouraged by a lawmaker's bid to keep Elian Gonzalez in the United States while a judge considers his case, say they'll temporarily halt protests against plans to return the child to Cuba. US-CUBAN BOY. Has moved. AP Photos MH101-113.

AP News Digest

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, a South African court appearance is set for the leader of Muslim vigilante group PAGAD, implicated in terror bombings.

ALSO MOVED: Arts and Entertainment

ARTS-CANADA-HURRICANE CARTER.

ARTS-US-COPIED CRAFTS.

ARTS-US-ART RETURNED.

ARTS-US-GRUNGE COMES CLEAN. AP Photo NY310.

ARTS-US-JUMPING FLEA. AP Photos NY366-370.

ARTS-US-ELVIS PRESLEY. AP Photo NY332.

ARTS-US-STEFON HARRIS. AP Photo NY331.

ARTS-US-'LIVING EDENS'. AP Photo LA300.

ARTS-ENTERTAINMENT FLASHBACKS.

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ax (1) 212-621-5449.

A group of retired Argentine naval officers have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping children born to political prisoners during the 1976-83 dictatorship, local reports said. Argentine news agency Diarios y Noticias said six officers were arrested late Friday in the coastal city of Mar del Plata, 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Buenos Aires, while a report in the daily Pagina/12 newspaper said nine former officers had been detained. (ARGENTINA-BABY KIDNAPPING)

JERUSALEM (AP)

Prime Minister Ehud Barak has told his housing minister there was some progress in talks with Syria, despite procedural disputes that have interrupted the meetings, and that he would fly home in a few days. Speaking by satellite broadcast from West Virginia, Barak told Jewish university students visiting Jerusalem that as army chief, he saw too many soldiers return home on stretchers. "I am committed to bringing peace so that no more young men will be sent to the battlefields," Barak said. "It is especially for this reason that I know the tremendous importance of achieving peace in our region." (ISRAEL-SYRIA)

DHARMSALA, India (AP)

A teen-age Buddhist leader who escaped from Chinese-ruled Tibet left the headquarters of the Dalai Lama in a convoy of jeeps driven by monk guards and an Indian official on Sunday. There was no announcement about where he was heading. In predawn darkness illuminated only by television news cameras, the 17th Karmapa, wearing a dark brown monk's robe and light orange scarf, walked out of the guest house where he had stayed since Wednesday. He got into a black car, which was driven away surrounded by three jeeps carrying the 14-year-old's

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sister, who is a nun, and two followers who had fled with him on an eight-day journey across the Himalayas. (INDIA-TIBETAN LEADER)

ROME (AP)

Fashion giant Benetton is joining Italy's offensive against the death penalty with its latest advertising campaign — piercing portraits of American death-row inmates. The posters, which will hit billboards worldwide at the end of January, feature death-row inmates in prison uniforms staring into the camera over the words, "Sentenced to Death." The prisoner's name, date of birth, crime and expected method of execution follows. Photographer Oliviero Toscani, known for socially provocative Benetton ads that seemingly have little to do with fashion, visited prisons across the United States over two years to create the series, called "Looking Death in the Face." Italians, longtime opponents of the death penalty, increasingly are crusading against its use abroad. (ITALY-BENETTON-DEATH ROW)

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

Police arrested a suspected Tamil rebel who was allegedly planning to assassinate a politician, a police officer said Sunday. Suresh Kumar was taken into custody after he was found carrying a forged identity card, a top police officer said on condition of anonymity. Police refused to identify the politician allegedly targeted. Kumar was flown in a military helicopter to Colombo for further questioning. Security has been tightened across the island nation after suspected rebels recently carried out three suicide bomb attacks in the Sri Lankan capital, killing at least 50 people and wounding dozens. President Chandrika Kumaratunga escaped an assassination attempt with an eye injury. Earlier in the week, police detained nearly 1,500 Tamils and questioned them for possible links with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE. Later, all but 50 were released. (SRI LANKA-REBELS)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1400 GMT

SOCCER:

LONDON Division One leader Manchester City attempts to oust the Premier League's top club, Leeds United, from the FA Cup on Sunday while seven-time cup titlist Arsenal hosts four-time runner up Leicester.

Slug Sports-Soccer-British Roundup. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Robert Millward

ALSO:

LONDON Sports-Soccer-Weekend Roundup. Expected by 1900 GMT. By Robert Millward

ROME First-place Juventus and third-place Parma battle for the Serie A lead in an early afternoon match, followed by a full slate of late afternoon games. Two fierce night match-ups, Fiorentina-Internazionale and Milan-Roma, could shuffle the top of the tightly-stacked standings.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italian Roundup. Expected by 1430 GMT; Late afternoon games start at 1400 GMT, night games start at 1930 GMT.

By Jeff Israely.

MADRID, Spain After sitting out two games because of a row with his coach, Rivaldo is expected back in the lineup as Barcelona takes on Celta de Vigo.

Sports-Soccer-Spanish Roundup. Expected at 2030 GMT.

TENNIS:

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SYDNEY, Australia The Sydney 2000 Olympic tennis venue gets its first trial Sunday when the adidas International, an official Olympic test event, gets underway with a series of first-round games.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Sydney International. Expected by 0800GMT.

Also:

ADELAIDE, Australia Sports-Tennis-AAPT Championships. Expected by 1300 GMT.

DOHA, Qatar Sports-Tennis-Qatar Open. Has moved.

MADRAS, India Sports-Tennis-Gold Flake Open. Has moved.

CRICKET:

BRISBANE, Australia Australia plays Pakistan at the Gabba on Sunday in the opening match of the one day tri-series tournament that includes India.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Australia-Pakistan. Expected by 1300 GMT.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand The West Indies, losers of the first three matches, plays New Zealand on Sunday in the rain-postponed fourth one-day cricket international.

Slug Sports-Cricket-New Zealand-West Indies. Expected by 1000 GMT.

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Dennis Conner's Stars and Stripes won on the water Sunday to pick up a point in the America's Cup semifinal standings, then saw it taken away in the committee room due to a rule infraction in a previous race.

Slug: Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Lead has moved.

SKIING:

CHAMONIX, France The first World Cup slalom of the new millennium looks set to be a battle between rising Swiss star Didier Plaschy, who has claimed two-of-three races this season, and grizzled veterans, former-Olympic champions Finn Christian Jagge of Norway and Thomas Stangassinger of Austria.

Slug: BC-Sports-Skiing-Men's Slalom. 1st Ld expected by 1030 GMT.

By Erica Bulman.

BERCHTESGADEN, Germany Last week's winner Trine Bakke of Norway and last year's winner at Berchtesgaden, Sabine Egger, are the favorites in a wide-open slalom field.

Slug: Sports-Skiing-Women's Slalom. Expected by 1830 GMT.

By Roy Kammerer

ALSO:

ENGELBERG, Switzerland Sports-Ski Jumping-World Cup. Has moved.

SCHONACH, Germany Sports-Skiing-Nordic Combined-World Cup. Has moved.

ALSO:

TOKYO Sports-Sumo Roundup. Expected by 1300 GMT.

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TORONTO Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL All-Stars. Has moved.

BAMAKO, Mali Sports-Auto Racing-Dakar Rally. Has moved.

KAPALUA, Hawaii Sports-Golf-Mercedes Championship. By Doug Ferguson.

NEW YORK Sports-Football-NFL Roundup. Has moved; WILL be UPDATED with late game.

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup.

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup.

OBERHOF, Germany Sports-Biathlon-World Cup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT

SOCCER:

LONDON Lazio celebrates its centennial by marching back to the top of Italy's Serie A with a 3-1 victory over Bologna while Barcelona's Brazilian star Rivaldo scores on his return to the lineup as a substitute in a 2-0 victory over Celta Vigo in the Spanish League.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Weekend Roundup. Lead has moved.

By Robert Millward.

ALSO MOVED:

MADRID, Spain Sports-Soccer-Spanish Roundup.

LONDON Sports-Soccer-British Roundup.

ROME Sports-Soccer-Italian Roundup.

LISBON, Portugal Sports-Soccer-Portuguese Roundup.

ATHENS, Greece Sports-Soccer-Greece-Roundup.

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast Sports-Soccer-Ivory Coast-Egypt.

SAO PAULO, Brazil _ Sports-Soccer-Corinthians-Al-Nassr-Preview.

SAO PAULO, Brazil Sports-Soccer-Real Madrid-Raja Casablanca-Preview.

OAKLAND, California Iran takes on Mexico in a friendly at Oakland, California, one week before playing the United States.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Iran-Mexico. Expected by 0300 GMT.

MELBOURNE, Australia The United States plays Sweden and Australia hosts the Czech Republic on Monday in matches at the Australia Cup women's soccer tournament.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Australia Cup. Expected by 1300 GMT.

AP News Digest

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina Diego Maradona, who tested positive for cocaine last week after being hospitalized in Uruguay, returns to his native Argentina for continued treatments of a severe heart condition.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Maradona. Expected by 0100 GMT.

By Kevin Gray.

GOLF:

KAPALUA, Hawaii In a star-studded start to the season, Tiger Woods and Ernie Els share the lead entering the final round of the Mercedes Championship, with defending champion David Duval four strokes behind.

Slug Sports-Golf-Mercedes Championship. Expected by 0500 GMT.

By Doug Ferguson.

TENNIS:

SYDNEY, Australia American Todd Martin opens his defense of the Adidas International Monday with a first-round clash against Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine, while top-seeded Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil takes on Spaniard Francisco Clavet.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Sydney International. Expected by 0800GMT.

ALSO:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Sports-Tennis-Auckland Open. Expected by 1100 GMT.

HOBART, Australia Sports-Tennis-Tasmanian International. Expected by 1300 GMT.

DOHA, Qatar Sports-Tennis-Qatar Open. Has moved.

MADRAS, India Sports-Tennis-Gold Flake Open. Has moved.

CRICKET:

BRISBANE, Australia Pakistan plays India on Monday at the Gabba in the one-day tri-series cricket tournament.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Pakistan-India. Expected by 1300 GMT.

BRISBANE, Australia Shoaib Akhtar celebrates his temporary reprieve from a ban for using an illegal bowling action to snare three crucial wickets Sunday in Pakistan's upset 45-run win against Australia at the Gabba.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Akhtar. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

WELLINGTON, New Zealand Sports-Cricket-West Indies-Walsh.

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Stars and Stripes hopes to regain Monday the point it lost in the committee room Sunday when it races against Prada in the America's Cup semifinal series.

Slug Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Expected by 0800 GMT.

SKIING:

AP News Digest

CHAMONIX, France Angelo Weiss, sitting a seemingly unthreatening seventh after the opening leg, snatched the victory from under Kjetil Andre Aamodt's nose, making the Norwegian wonder if he'll ever reach his final career goal.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Men-Slalom. Recap expected by 0200 GMT.

By Erica Bulman.

BERCHTESGADEN, Germany Slovenia's Spela Pretnar strings together two near-perfect runs to win the World Cup slalom.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Women's Slalom. Lead has moved.

By Roy Kammerer.

ALSO:

ENGELBERG, Switzerland Sports-Ski Jumping-World Cup. Has moved.

MOSCOW, Russia Sports-Skiing-Cross Country-World Cup. Has moved.

FOOTBALL:

SEATTLE In one of four weekend U.S. National Football League playoff games, The Dolphins and Seahawks meet in what could be a farewell for Dan Marino.

Slug Sports-Football-NFL Roundup. Recap expected by 0300 GMT.

ALSO:

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay Sports-RugbyU-World Sevens. Has moved.

SAO PAULO, Brazil Sports-Volleyball-Brazil-Argentina. Has moved.

BOBO DIOULASSO, Burkina Faso Sports-Auto Racing-Dakar Rally. Has moved.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida Sports-Track-Disney Marathon. Has moved.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa Sports-Yachting-Cape to Rio. Has moved.

OBERHOF, Germany Sports-Biathlon-World Cup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Expected by 0300 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Expected by 0300 GMT.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (212-621-1857, fax (1)

12-621-5449.

Load-Date: January 9, 2000

No Headline In Original

July 24, 1996, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: UNDEFINED

Length: 2607 words

Byline: By The Associated Press

Body

Here are excerpts from editorials in newspapers in the United States and abroad.

July 19

Carlsbad (N.M.) Current-Argus on Flight 800:

It would be easy right now to start pointing fingers at various enemies of the United States for the (crash) of TWA Flight 800. ...

It would be easy to believe that a terrorist could have planted a bomb on the plane. After all, it's been done before, as evidenced by the tragedy over the skies of Lockerbie, Scotland, several years ago.

Following the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City last year, many were swift to speculate Middle Eastern terrorists were responsible. As it turns out, those who will face trial in the case were Americans.

That might be the case in the crash of the TWA 747. It might not. It may have been mechanical failure for all investigators know right now.

What investigators need now is good, solid evidence. They don't need wild goose chases.

The families of the victims in this tragedy are suffering enough without having false theories concocted about as to the demise of their loved ones.

Accusations should only come when a thorough investigation is complete.

Until then, all theories are just worthless speculation and conjecture.

July 22

The Daily Press, Ashland, Wis., on church fires and insurance:

As painful as it must be to lose a church to arson, it must be even more painful to battle to collect insurance after a fire. And if insurance companies are treating black churches differently than white churches when it comes to insurance claims, it is shameful.

Ministers at many of the predominately black churches that have burned in the South over the past 18 months report having difficulty collecting on claims, and have subsequently had their insurance canceled. What is even

No Headline In Original

more disturbing is that the white churches falling victim to arson have reported few problems collecting from insurance companies.

There have been enough complaints from the ministers of black churches to prompt an investigation by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. If the commission finds impropriety, they will refer the matter to the Justice Department.

An informal poll by The Associated Press indicated the ministers of the black churches had a point. Of 10 burned black churches and eight white churches contacted by the AP, five black churches had their insurance dropped. At the same time, ministers at the white churches reported they were treated well by insurers.

The picture of those burning churches is of ignorant, hateful racism. But the picture of insurance companies that would treat black churches differently than white churches is much more subtle, but no less hateful.

July 23

Saint Paul Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minn., on abortion pill:

Moving further to separate the political issues from the medical issues, an advisory committee has made the appropriate recommendation to the Food and Drug Administration on the abortion pill mifepristone.

By a wide margin, the panel studying test statistics accumulated in France, where the miscarriage-inducing drug is known as RU486, told the FDA that the drug meets U.S. requirements for safety and efficacy and that its benefits outweigh its risks.

The panel added the scientific caution that it wants to see final data from a U.S. study of 2,121 women who took mifepristone in combination with misoprostol to induce miscarriage in early pregnancy. Both studies find the medical abortion drugs to be 95.5 percent effective in ending pregnancy.

Abortion foes are complaining that the current abortion-rights administration is trying to ram mifepristone approval through the bureaucracy before the November election. The scientific data do not support their contention of a rush into the unknown.

The real objection to adding medical abortion to the choice of surgical abortion for American women has nothing to do with the drug itself, but with the fact that it expands access.

The politics of abortion will not go away because mifepristone is approved in the United States, but allowing women and their doctors to choose the drug will help get politics out of the practice of medicine.

July 21

The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, on Colin Powell and the GOP convention:

Colin Powell will speak to the Republican National Convention, perhaps after an introduction from Nancy Reagan.

This gives the retired general a wonderful opportunity to place himself in the mainstream of the Republican Party, if he establishes common interest with the pro-family, pro-life, and pro-opportunity delegates.

Not that we think he will, but Powell will stumble if he listens to anti-conservative voices who want him to reject the political values of his favorite president, Ronald Reagan. Those voices want Reagan's party to lose, and Reagan's agenda for traditional values, economic liberty and a strong national defense to become a footnote in history. ...

Powell's political philosophy remains largely undefined.

On Aug. 12, when Gen. Powell speaks to Republicans - and the nation - perhaps that philosophy will become clearer.

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July 22

Amarillo (Texas) Daily News on drugs and White House staffers:

Yet another troubling allegation has surfaced about the Clinton White House, this one involving drug use. ...

(On July 17), Secret Service agents testified that 21 White House employees were placed in special testing after their background checks revealed recent drug use two years ago. About 40 administration employees screened in late 1993 and early 1994 were found to have a history of drug use.

The employees originally were denied White House security passes, as they should have been, but the special testing was worked out as a compromise so the people could keep their jobs. The Secret Service naturally wanted to deny security to these people. Clinton officials wanted them to stay on despite their severe lapses in judgment. That says as little about the administration's judgment as it does about those workers whose weak characters led them to experiment with dangerous substances such as crack cocaine and hallucinogenics. ...

The White House has sought to draw a distinction between exceptions made to excuse past drug use and a strict policy of zero-tolerance for White House workers now.

The distinction makes little sense. It sends the wrong message. It also shows a significant security risk since use of illegal drugs means the users likely have contact with hardened criminals. ...

Put together with all the other lapses in judgment (and) questionable ethics shown in the FBI files scandal, Whitewater and other incidents, this doesn't bode well for the Clinton administration - or for the public's willingness to trust it.

July 18

The Parkersburg (W.Va.) News on meat inspection:

Overhauling the nation's system of inspecting meat and poultry - now subject to criticism from consumers, industry, health care professionals and some inspectors themselves - certainly would be a worthwhile project for federal government. It shouldn't be used as a pretext to add more fat to the bureaucracy and additional expensive red tape to the production and marketing processes.

President Clinton announced plans to update the meat and poultry inspection program recently. He noted that the current system doesn't make efficient use of modern technology, including certain testing and sanitation safeguards.

Much of the process currently involves the "sniff and poke" method whereby inspectors stroll through plants, attempting to detect the telltale odors of spoilage or to find it by touching carcasses.

Far more effective tools are available to detect the presence of bacteria or diseased meat and poultry. ...

Disease-causing microbes such as salmonella and E. coli sicken an estimated 10 million Americans each year. Of that number, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about 4,000 die.

Obviously, the inspection process leaves something to be desired. Making real improvements - not just adding to the bill taxpayers and consumers must foot for inspections - is a worthwhile goal.

July 18

Skagit Valley Herald, Mount Vernon, Wash., on athletes' salaries:

As Congress haggles over whether millions of workers will get a 90-cent-an-hour boost to the minimum wage, professional basketball players try to find out if there's a maximum wage.

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It's the difference between how little is enough and how much is too much.

The market for free agents in the National Basketball Association has gone over the top and we have no one to blame but ourselves. ...

Michael Jordan signed a one-year contract to play basketball for a mind-numbing \$ 25 million and Shaquille O'Neal snagged a seven-year deal worth \$ 123 million from the Los Angeles Lakers.

For most of us the amounts are tough to digest, and if we do comprehend the numbers, we don't understand the reasons. We still think of basketball as a game, when it's really a business that reflects the crazy-house capitalism of the age knocked off the foundation of economic reality. ...

Forget games. Professional sports nowadays are all about selling shoes, jackets, toys and soda pop. It's all about high ticket prices and pay-per-view television. It's all about buying into the NBA marketing machine.

Players and owners reflect what fans value most in the 1990s - fame and money. If we're ready to pay, rest assured they will always be ready to profit.

July 19

The Greenville (S.C.) News on Saddam Hussein:

Saddam Hussein is having trouble with his extended family again. But, as usual, the Iraqi dictator has no problem enforcing his idea of family values.

Saddam reportedly has put a son-in-law under house arrest, and his security forces have detained one of his nephews. Saddam particularly seems to have problems with his in-laws. Two of his sons-in-law were exiled to Jordan and then were killed in gangster execution style after they returned to Iraq.

These family troubles of Saddam's appear to be related to the feudal power structure he's established in Iraq. Blood relationships form the foundation of his regime, but the real tie that binds is the fear that flows with his willingness to shed blood - even his own family's - to maintain power.

Given his available successors, an irony is that if Saddam is ever toppled from power, he may be replaced by one of his nephews or sons-in-law.

July 23

Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich, Switzerland, on Bob Dole:

If Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole wins the elections in November, he will be the oldest president ever to assume the highest political office of the U.S.A. ...

Apparently Dole wants to reduce the issue of his age to its medical dimension, for here he has it easy and can produce documents that attest to his good health. ...

But the Americans won't be satisfied with assurances about Dole's good health. For them it is of greater consequence how the age of the candidate influences or even determines his perception. Does he, the last representation of the World War II generation who can still run for president, understand the world in which most Americans will live much longer than the Republican candidate? Does he understand the new forces and developments that form that world and make the future so uncertain for so many people? So far Dole hasn't proven that to his fellow Americans.

July 23

Clarín, Buenos Aires, Argentina, on U.S.-Cuba:

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Determined to pursue its tough stance toward Cuba, the U.S. government has had to make a choice between two of its most coveted tenets: democracy and free trade.

Its decision to implement the Helms-Burton law prompted an angry response from the European Union, Canada and Mexico. As a result, President Clinton had to backtrack and seek a compromise.

It was a great paradox that a unilateral attempt by the U.S. to force a liberalization of trade in Cuba prompted a new scenario of confrontation between large trade blocs.

In hindsight, Clinton was left with no option but to stall the legislation.

However, he was unable to reverse the alarming image of an administration whose foreign policy is determined by domestic concerns rather than international well-being.

July 17

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt, Germany, on U.S.-Cuba:

What's wrong with this picture? Politicians in America and Europe are drawing an idyllic image of a future transatlantic free trade zone. At the same time, some of these ladies and gentlemen are instigating a robust trade fight between America and Europe.

Everyone seems to have forgotten what Americans and Europeans expressed in a statement in late 1995: that they bear a special responsibility to strengthen the multilateral trade system and must assume leadership in the opening of trade and investment markets. The path of the Helms-Burton law goes in exactly the opposite direction: back to protectionism and telling others what to do.

Citing human rights abuses in Cuba, Washington wants to refuse entrance visas to family members of employees whose companies have anything to do with Cuba. It appears almost hypocritical when the United States claims the right to ruin trade possibilities for others with Cuba - and maybe tomorrow with Iran or Libya - and at the same time unscrupulously trades with China and other countries. In view of the small significance of trade with Cuba, the Europeans' reaction may be exaggerated. But it is justified.

July 20

The Jordan Times, Amman, Jordan, on Netanyahu-Arabs:

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's image among his Arab "partners in peace" seems to have undergone some change since his election on May 29, but especially most recently, after his talks in Cairo with President Hosni Mubarak and the visit of (Jordan's) Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti a couple of days earlier.

The initial reaction to Netanyahu's election in the Arab world generally was one of apprehension, bordering on fear, that the whole Middle East peace process would collapse if the Israeli leader pursued his declared policies.

Jordan, which enjoys the warmest kind of peace that any Arab country has with Israel, also made clear that it was unhappy at the way the new Israeli leadership was pronouncing itself on the peace effort.

It was now up to the Israeli leader to build on the change in image perceptions to move the peace forward.

Following his upcoming visit to Jordan, the new Israeli prime minister should be ready and willing to meet with Arafat and start once again engaging the Syrians.

Only if Israel is willing to continue along the path of compromise, based on international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions, can real peace and security be found.

July 22

The Times, London, on Sri Lanka:

Sri Lanka's hopes of peace, which six months ago appeared brighter than at any time in its bitter 12-year war against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have almost certainly died along with possibly the entire garrison of soldiers defending the Sri Lankan Army's Mullaitivu base. ... The LTTE has scored a huge psychological victory, proving that although it has been driven out of Jaffna, the seat of its crypto-government, its military teeth are unblunted. The army has suffered a humiliation that will harden political resistance to the imaginative peace plan which President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has been struggling for months to get through the Sri Lankan Parliament. ...

The president's ... opponents will have the support of the military in arguing that constitutional reform is not only irrelevant but dangerous until the grip of the Tigers is broken.

This is a tragedy for the exhausted Tamil population in the north and east. They are frightened of the army; they are even more terrified of the LTTE, which press-gangs young children and massacres whole villages which it suspects of collaboration.

Load-Date: July 24, 1996

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No Headline In Original

Guardian Weekly

April 26, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: THE WEEK; Pg. 6

Length: 61 words

Body

THE Sri Lankan Government was looking more shaken this week following last Friday's massacre near Tincomalee, than at any time since 150 Sinhalese men, women and children were shot by the Tamil Tigers in Anaradhapura two years ago.

That was the only slaughter of Sinhalese in the present communal conflict that was bigger than the Good Friday shootings. *Le Monde*, p12).

No Headline In Original

Hobart Mercury

October 3, 1992 Saturday

Copyright 1992 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1255 words

Byline: HUGO GILES

Body

David Owen: "We left South Africa with just two backpacks." Kathleen Mary Fallon: "I can just see Mummy and Daddy in bed with the Saturday papers: 'Sydney sex sauna!' By the sports writer - too much for me!" Writers' find new season of hope from spring windfall

By GILES HUGO EVERY spring, serious authors around Australia eagerly await the annual announcement by the Literature Board of the Australia Council which determines whether or not they have been awarded a writer's grant.

This week, Tasmanian residents Kathleen Mary Fallon, of North Hobart, David Owen, of Tinderbox, and yours truly were among the 96 authors fortunate enough to succeed with their applications.

When I phoned Fallon to arrange an interview, she had not yet visited her postbox, so I was able to surprise her with the news that an embargoed press release from the Literature Board had confirmed that she had been awarded a \$23,000 grant. She was ecstatic, as it means that now she can work full-time on two projects: a play and novel.

I have been a Fallon fan ever since I reviewed her novel *Working Hot*, published in 1989 by Sybylla, a feminist cooperative in Melbourne.

It won the Victorian Premier's Award for new writing, and the next year she was awarded her first writer's grant - \$22,000.

To support herself during the seven years it took her to write, rewrite and edit *Working Hot*, she worked in bars, cafes, buses and trams, and on trade and sporting magazines such as *Refrigeration Monthly* and *Modern Boating*.

The success of *Working Hot* has made her a cult author in Australia's gay community. A move from Sydney to Hobart earlier this year allowed her to escape the attentions of some rather curious literary groupies - academics and bizarre camp followers.

"I had a woman come round one night when it first came out," said Fallon. "A junked-out young woman, black lace hanging out all over. She asked if I would be interested in seeing her cigarette burns and whip marks. Really horrible things like that; you don't need it.

"Over the years *Working Hot* just keeps on selling. It's the sort of book people buy for each other. What I'm really pleased about is that it's not just 'a lesbian book' - it's had a lot of really good responses from men.

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"I was quite surprised by some of the reviews. There was one on Melbourne radio with two men - very intelligent, neither of them jumping up and down outraged." The first review of Working Hot was a hatchet job in a Sydney paper.

"They got some woman to review it who had written stories for Women's Weekly or something. She said things like I thought I was a second Christ." Here Fallon fell about laughing.

"My parents went beserk. Before it was published I changed my name by deed poll because my mother virtually threatened to commit suicide.

My father's a politician in Brisbane - you know, small town full of snobs.

"But there was a fantastic review in the Courier Mail by - I think it was - a sports writer. It was absolutely bizarre - it started out 'Sydney sex sauna!' and it was along the lines of 'Don't those girlies get up to some mischief!' I can just see Mummy and Daddy in bed with the Saturday papers: 'Sydney sex sauna!' By the sports writer - too much for me!" Fallon again dissolved into cackles.

The play she will be working on promises to be equally controversial. An early draft, entitled Three Blacks in the Kitchen, was given a reading earlier this year by Playworks in Hobart. The title alone offended the "political correctness" of some critics. Because of her own circumstances, Fallon finds this ironic.

"It's fairly autobiographical," she said. "I have a foster son who is a Thursday Islander. I fostered him when he was 5 - he's 24 now. I've had many, many years of looking racism in its nasty eyes." In the play, a young islander returns to Brisbane with his foster mother to be reunited with his natural mother, who is dying.

"The foster mother hasn't seen her white family for a long time, and they're going to stay with them," said Fallon. "Then the boy's family come round to visit. It's about how the white family deals with this 'black invasion' - hence Three Blacks in the Kitchen.

"Everybody is always saying: 'I'm not a racist, but . . .' It's also about violence in the family and denial about what does go on in Australia." Fallon goes more than skin-deep in her examination of prejudice.

"There's an Aboriginal women as well as the islanders in the play, and, in fact, the word 'boong' is only used by islanders against the Aboriginal women." Fallon will also use her grant to work on The Staff of Life, a novel about a spiritual quest.

"It's about sustenance - bread, wheat, flour, spirituality - what Christ called the staff of life, characters who are the staff of life," said Fallon. "I'm not pushing any barrow; I've got no philosophy. I'm trying to create a world to live in that is bearable - that has food and people and spirituality." David Owen arrived late for the interview after untangling one of his 15 goats from a fence on his property at Tinderbox, where he lives with wife Leisha and two children.

He is delighted by his \$23,000 fellowship grant; he had applied several times before and this was his first success.

Owen was born in 1956 in KweKwe, Rhodesia, then grew up in Malawi and Swaziland before going to university in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

Repulsed by the apartheid system, he migrated to the United Kingdom and then moved on to Melbourne in 1986. He settled in Tasmania in 1990.

In 1981 he had written two novellas, Venter & Son and Eden.

"We left South Africa with just two backpacks and I had the manuscripts in my backpack," said Owen. "They did the rounds and gathered dust for years." Eventually, they were published back-to-back in one volume by Bloomsbury in the UK and Allen & Unwin in Australia.

No Headline In Original

"They did fairly well, then in 1988 in Melbourne I wrote *Coping with Pleasure*, working at night in a tin shed in my back garden, which I built for my cats," said Owen.

"I wanted to write an Australian-based novel, a satire. And because I was writing for a publisher in Britain, I wanted to make ironical and amusing highlights out of urban weirdness. It was basically written for a British market, that's why it was quite strongly over the top." His next novel, *Bitters End*, will be published by Picador next year - "basically a tale of love and death set in the outback".

He will use his grant next year to write *Precious Cargo*, a novel about a would-be illegal migrant coming to Australia.

"The novel is going to take place at sea," said Owen. "This young person is cheating death by escaping to paradise - he's fled his country because of the civil strife.

"It will explore this fellow's past and his thoughts of what he is going to - his expectations of what Australia is. I've been through that myself.

"And there's this force of evil, the ship's captain, who is getting a whack of money for his part in the deal. The ship is an enclosed world, outside geographical limits." And, after having lived on three continents, Owen has now come around to writing about the Island State and its people.

"I'm halfway through a novel about a grand family reunion," he said. The view across the Derwent River from his study has supplied the title - *South Arm*.

Then it's on with *Precious Cargo*. Owen hopes to travel to Sri Lanka to research the background. Given the civil conflict there between the government and the *Tamil Tigers*, I hope he packs a flak jacket.

Graphic

1) David Owen 2) Kathleen Mary Fallon ALL 920 INDIVIDUALS 1) X5612/13A 2) X5613/9

Load-Date: September 27, 2003

No Headline In Original

Guardian Weekly

March 29, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: THE WEEK; Pg. 6

Length: 113 words

Body

TWENTY-FIVE Sinhalese villagers, including 12 women and five children, were massacred in the village of Seranuwa, not far from Trincomalee on the border of the Eastern and North Central provinces according to the Sri Lankan Government.

In a confused series of announcements, the Government blamed Tamil "terrorists", though it did not say which group was responsible.

At about the same time as the Seranuwa massacre, the Tamil Tigers made an audacious attack on the army's main base in the Jaffna peninsula, killing and capturing a number of soldiers. The army said four men were killed and five taken prisoner. But the Tigers claim to have killed 20 soldiers and captured eight.

End of Document

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

October 23, 2000; Monday

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Section: International news

Length: 6470 words

Body

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

NORTH KOREA'S RULER. North Korean leader stands to gain at home from Albright visit.

PANAMA-PERU-MONTESINOS. Peruvian strongman Montesinos leaves Panama for Ecuador, apparently en route to the Peruvian capital Lima.

MEXICO-ELECTION. Ruling party declared winner of disputed governor's race in Tabasco state.

PHILIPPINES-ESTRADA. Philippine Congress takes first step in considering Estrada impeachment.

ISRAEL-WRONG TURN. Israeli soldiers take wrong turn into Palestinian town but leave alive.

CHINA-EU. China says it will adhere to WTO rules.

MOSCOW-US-PRISONER. Espionage trial of American businessman to resume.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

JERUSALEM Ehud Barak calls for a "time-out" in the peace process and Yasser Arafat tells him to "go to hell." The Israeli and Palestinian leaders seem further than ever from the peace their U.S. and Egyptian sponsors have tried so hard to salvage. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Greg Myre. AP Photos.

WITH:

MIDEAST-ARAB SUMMIT. A two-day Arab summit closes with a carefully worded declaration that stops short of making an outright call for cutting ties with Israel. Has moved. AP Photos XCA1101-105, CA1101-108.

MIDEAST-ARAB SUMMIT-IRAQ. Iraq calls on Arabs to revolt against moderate rulers who "exposed themselves as representing Zionist and American domination." Has moved.

ANALYSIS-ARAB SUMMIT. Arab summit defies the masses, holds out hope for negotiations. Has moved.

ISRAEL-WRONG TURN. Israeli soldiers take wrong turn into Palestinian town but leave alive.

AP News Digest

PYONGYANG, North Korea Breaking down one of the last barriers of the Cold War, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright opens a historic visit to North Korea on Monday by paying her respects to the late Kim Il Sung, the Soviet-trained ruler who formed the communist nation 55 years ago. US-NORTH KOREA. Developing. By George Gedda. AP Photos PRK101-119.

WITH:

NORTH KOREA'S RULER. Not long ago, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il was viewed as a villain in the West, a ruler of a totalitarian regime and a suspected sponsor of terrorism in the 1980s. But Kim's efforts to engage the world, albeit on his own limited terms, have won him international praise and are likely to reinforce his mandate by lending him a statesman's image. Has moved.

VISITING NORTH KOREA. Pyongyang is an eerily still place, devoid of the hustle and commercial chaos of Asia's bustling cities. It has the aura of a museum, a relic from a Cold War era when communism seemed robust. Has moved. AP Photo PRK103.

KOREA-CHRONOLOGY. Significant events in U.S.-North Korea relations. Has moved.

PANAMA CITY Peru's former intelligence chief leaves Panama and heads to Ecuador, apparently en route to Lima, Peru. Hours after his departure, Panama's government announces it had closed his request for political asylum. PANAMA-PERU-MONTESINOS. Developing. By Juan Zamorano.

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico In an important victory for Mexico's embattled ruling party, Manuel Andrade is declared the winner of the disputed governor's race for Tabasco state, according to official results. Members of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party have said they would not recognize the results, believing they were marred by fraud. MEXICO-ELECCION Has moved. By Luis Lopez.

MANILA, Philippines The Philippine Congress takes its first step Monday to consider the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada on allegations he received millions of dollars from illegal gambling operators. PHILIPPINES-ESTRADA. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos MLA101-102.

JAYAPURA, Indonesia Armed with little more than bows and arrows, spears and a fierce longing for freedom, tribesmen in Indonesia's Irian Jaya province have been fighting for independence for 37 years. INDONESIA INSURGENCY. Has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photo NY199; Graphic INDONESIA PROVINCE.

BEIJING In word and deed namely its biggest military show in 35 years China has made clear that it views the United States as potential enemy No.1. CHINA-GUNNING FOR AMERICA. Has moved. Eds: A version already moved to Asian lines Oct. 18. By John Leicester. AP Photos NY191, 193.

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast Ivory Coast awaits results Monday morning of a presidential election billed as a return to civilian government, 10 months after soldiers seized power in a military coup. Longtime opposition leader Laurent Gbagbo says his victory appears apparent, but the final result was far from clear. IVORY COAST-ELECTIONS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Tim Sullivan. AP Photos ABI101.

MOSCOW The espionage trial against U.S. businessman Edmond Pope is scheduled to resume in a Moscow court Monday, with Pope likely to read a 40-page statement he prepared in advance, his lawyer said. MOSCOW-US PRISONER.

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina Bosnian leaders cautiously applaud President Vojislav Kostunica's first visit to this war-ravaged country but say more is needed to heal the wounds of a bloody ethnic conflict that non-Serb Bosnians believe Yugoslavia started. BOSNIA-KOSTUNICA. Has moved. By Alexandar S. Dragicevic. AP Photo BEL105.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

YUGOSLAVIA. Followers of deposed President Slobodan Milosevic and representatives of Serbia's pro-democracy alliance are resuming talks Monday toward forming a transitional government. Has moved; developments will be expedited.

TORONTO Prime Minister Jean Chretien calls a federal election for Nov. 27, gambling that a big budget surplus and runoff from the emotional outpouring over Pierre Trudeau's recent death will bring him a third straight term. CANADA-ELECTION. Has moved. By Tom Cohen. AP Photo OTT101, 104-106, 109, 111, XDIG101, SHAX104.

MADRID, Spain A prison officer is killed by a car bomb blamed on the Basque group ETA, one day after some 100,000 people marched for peace in the Basque region. SPAIN-BOMB BLAST. Has moved. By Ciaran Giles. AP Photos MAD116, 118.

MURMANSK, Russia Russian and Norwegian divers cut and pry their way to the thick inner hull of the sunken Kursk nuclear submarine in a precarious bid to recover the bodies of the 118 men inside. RUSSIA-NUCLEAR SUBMARINE. Has moved. By Ivan Sekretarev. AP Photo MOSB104-106.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida Stiff wind prevents the U.S. space shuttle Discovery and its seven astronauts from landing and keeps them in orbit an extra day. US-SPACE SHUTTLE. Has moved. By Marcia Dunn.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE:

BEIJING Opening a one-day meeting on relations, the European Union's top trade negotiator says Monday that the final push to get China into the World Trade Organization was down to important, but resolvable details. CHINA-EU. Has moved. Will be UPDATED after EU news conference scheduled for 0700 GMT. AP Photos BEJ101-108.

AUGUSTA, Maine The union representing 4,800 shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works approved a new contract Sunday, ending a 55-day strike that crippled production at one of the U.S. Navy's biggest shipbuilders. US-SHIPYARD STRIKE. Has moved. By Glenn Adams.

LOOKING AHEAD: Next Sunday, Tanzania holds presidential and parliamentary elections and a referendum on semiautonomous Zanzibar; Colombia holds provincial and municipal elections, and Kyrgyzstan holds presidential election.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-KENYA-MAU MAU VETS. Impoverished Mau Mau veterans seek compensation from Kenya. AP Photo NY364.

FEA-FRANCE-BORDERS AND BLOODLINES. French Vietnamese torn between today's comfort and faraway homeland. AP Photo NY315.

FEA-MEXICO-AFTER THE PARTY. Activists of Mexico's ruling party threaten to break away, turn radical. AP Photos NY312-314.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Charles Gans and Priscilla Cheung. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org.

WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. **Tamil Tigers** attack naval base, shoot down helicopter, 14 killed.

SKOREA-ALBRIGHT REACTION. South Koreans divided over Albright trip to North Korea.

INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR. Indonesian judge rules militia leader's arrest illegal.

AP News Digest

RUSSIA-MIR. Russian Cabinet official says Mir space station will be dumped in February.

INDONESIA-CORAL REEFS. Scientists say one quarter of world's coral reefs are dead.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

PYONGYANG, North Korea U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright holds unprecedented talks Monday with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il, as she begins laying the groundwork for a visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton to one of the last bastions of the Cold War. US-NORTH KOREA. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Chris Torchia. AP Photos PRK101-130.

WITH:

NORTH KOREA'S RULER. Not long ago, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il was viewed as a villain in the West, a ruler of a totalitarian regime and a suspected sponsor of terrorism in the 1980s. But Kim's efforts to engage the world, albeit on his own limited terms, have won him international praise and are likely to reinforce his mandate by lending him a statesman's image. Has moved.

SKOREA-ALBRIGHT REACTION. South Koreans are divided Monday over the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to North Korea. Officials welcome her trip, viewing it as a boost to the inter-Korea dialogue. But critics say it is premature and may lessen Pyongyang's interest in talks with South Korea. Has moved.

KOREA-CHRONOLOGY. Significant events in U.S.-North Korea relations. Has moved.

JERUSALEM Israel on Monday blockades a West Bank town from which Palestinian gunmen have been firing into a Jewish neighborhood of Jerusalem, and two Palestinian teenagers injured in clashes with the Israeli army die of their wounds. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jack Katzenell.

WITH:

ANALYSIS-ARAB SUMMIT. Arab summit defies the masses, holds out hope for negotiations. Has moved.

ISRAEL-WRONG TURN. Israeli soldiers take wrong turn into Palestinian town but leave alive. Has moved.

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast Opposition leader Laurent Gbagbo is predicting victory in Ivory Coast's elections although the government commission overseeing the vote reports early returns showing him in a close race with junta leader Gen. Robert Guei. IVORY COAST-ELECTIONS. Developing. By Alexandra Zavis. AP Photo ABI101.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Tamil Tiger rebels in boats laden with explosives launch a suicide attack on a naval base and shoot down an air force helicopter at dawn Monday, killing at least 14 people, including eight rebels, and wounding 43 others, a government spokesman says. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dilip Ganguly.

PANAMA CITY Peru's former intelligence chief leaves Panama and heads to Ecuador, apparently en route to the Peruvian capital Lima, hours before Panama announced it had closed his request for political asylum in the Central American country. PANAMA-PERU-MONTESINOS. Developing. By Juan Zamorano.

JAKARTA, Indonesia An Indonesian court on Monday orders the release from police custody of a notorious East Timorese militia leader, ruling that his detention was illegal. INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR. Has moved; developments will be expedited. AP Photos JAK101-102.

ALSO MOVED:

EAST TIMOR-GUSMAO. Former rebel leader Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao takes one step closer to presidency with election Monday to lead East Timor's first U.N.-appointed legislature.

AP News Digest

JAYAPURA, Indonesia Armed with little more than bows and arrows, spears and a fierce longing for freedom, tribesmen in Indonesia's Irian Jaya province have been fighting for independence for 37 years. INDONESIA INSURGENCY. Has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photo NY199; Graphic INDONESIA PROVINCE.

SPACE CENTER, Houston Poor weather forecasts in Florida and California Monday are threatening to delay again the landing of space shuttle Discovery. US-SPACE SHUTTLE. Has moved; developments will be expedited. Landing scheduled for 1851 GMT. By C. Bryson Hull.

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico In an important victory for Mexico's embattled ruling party, Manuel Andrade is declared the winner of the disputed governor's race for Tabasco state, according to official results. Members of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party have said they would not recognize the results, believing they were marred by fraud. MEXICO-ELECCION Has moved. By Luis Lopez. AP Photo VIL101.

MANILA, Philippines The Philippine Congress takes its first step Monday to consider the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada on allegations he received millions of dollars from illegal gambling operators. PHILIPPINES-ESTRADA. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos MLA101-105.

MOSCOW The espionage trial against U.S. businessman Edmond Pope resumes in a Moscow courtroom on Monday, with the defendant expected to read a 40-page statement proclaiming his innocence. RUSSIA-US PRISONER. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Gennady Konoplyov. AP Photos MOSB101-102.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia Followers of deposed President Slobodan Milosevic on Monday delay resumption of negotiations with representatives of Serbia's pro-democracy alliance on forming a transitional government. YUGOSLAVIA. Lead expected by 1100 GMT. By Jovana Gec.

TORONTO Prime Minister Jean Chretien calls a federal election for Nov. 27, gambling that a big budget surplus and runoff from the emotional outpouring over Pierre Trudeau's recent death will bring him a third straight term. CANADA-ELECTION. Has moved. By Tom Cohen. AP Photo OTT111, SHAX104.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida Stiff wind prevents the U.S. space shuttle Discovery and its seven astronauts from landing and keeps them in orbit an extra day. US-SPACE SHUTTLE. Has moved. By Marcia Dunn.

MOSCOW A senior Cabinet official says Monday that the Mir space station will be dumped early next year, leaving no hope for the survival of the last symbol of Soviet space glory. RUSSIA-MIR. Has moved. By Vladimir Isachenkov.

NUSA DUA, Indonesia International scientists warn Monday that more than a quarter of the world's coral reefs have been destroyed by pollution and global warming and that unless drastic measures are urgently taken, most of the remaining reefs may be dead in 20 years. INDONESIA-CORAL REEFS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Daniel Cooney.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE:

BEIJING Opening a one-day meeting on relations, the European Union's top trade negotiator says Monday that the final push to get China into the World Trade Organization was down to important, but resolvable details. CHINA-EU. Has moved; developments will be expedited. AP Photos BEJ101-108.

NEW YORK General Electric Co., one of the world's largest and most profitable companies, took a big step over the weekend toward getting even bigger. The industrial powerhouse agrees to acquire Honeywell International Inc. for \$45 billion in stock, in a move that further solidifies GE as an aerospace giant. US-GE-HONEYWELL. Has moved. News conference scheduled for 1300 GMT. By Brad Foss. AP Photo NY123, Graphic GE HONEYWELL.

LOOKING AHEAD: Next Sunday, Tanzania holds presidential and parliamentary elections and a referendum on semiautonomous Zanzibar; Colombia holds provincial and municipal elections, and Kyrgyzstan holds presidential election.

FEATURES:

NEW:

ABILENE, Texas Despite a firm grip on his ever-present walking cane, Chris Yarger has trouble getting around his home. Household chores can take the Gulf War veteran hours and leave him exhausted. His memory has grown weak, and he hasn't held a job in some five years. Nearly a decade after Yarger and more than 100,000 other U.S. soldiers returned from the Middle East, a debate still rages over whether Gulf War Syndrome exists and what the government should do about it. FEA-US-GULF WAR SYNDROME. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Troy Goodman. AP Photos NY128-129.

LAS VEGAS Continuing a trend toward mixing culture and neon, the Hermitage and Guggenheim museums plan to offer their masterpieces on the gaudy Las Vegas Strip. ARTS-US-GUGGENHEIM IN VEGAS. Has moved. By Lisa Snedeker. AP Photo NVLVS.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-KENYA-MAU MAU VETS. Impoverished Mau Mau veterans seek compensation from Kenya. AP Photo NY364.

FEA-FRANCE-BORDERS AND BLOODLINES. French Vietnamese torn between today's comfort and faraway homeland. AP Photo NY315.

FEA-MEXICO-AFTER THE PARTY. Activists of Mexico's ruling party threaten to break away, turn radical. AP Photos NY312-314.

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WORLD SPORTS AT 1400 GMT:

SOCCER:

LONDON After beating its big rival Real Madrid in league action, Barcelona could come back down to earth with a bump on Tuesday. A loss to Leeds in the Champions Cup could mean Barca goes out in the first round while Real is already through.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Champions Preview. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Robert Millward.

BERLIN A former Bundesliga player says he warned Christoph Daum to stop snorting cocaine, the future president of the German Soccer Federation is under fire, and prosecutor's are investigating the disgraced coach as Daum's positive drug test continues to shake up Germany.

Slug Sports-Soccer-German Coach. Expected 1700 GMT.

By Roy Kammerer

TRIPOLI, Lebanon Three-time champion Iran seeks to recapture past glory when it plays South Korea, itself a two-time winner, in the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Asian Cup-Iran-SKorea. Kickoff 1345 GMT.

By Hamza Hendawi.

AP News Digest

SIDON, Lebanon China, looking to finally make an impact at a major competition, plays winless Qatar at the Asian Cup quarterfinals.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Asian Cup-China-Qatar. Kickoff 1645 GMT.

By Tarek al-Issawi.

WITH:

SIDON, Lebanon Sports-Soccer-Asian Cup Roundup. Expected by 2000 GMT.

OLYMPICS:

GENEVA The International Olympic Committee says it has stripped German freestyle wrestler Alexander Leipold of his Olympic gold medal after he failed a drugs test. The decision means the gold should now go to the silver medalist, Brandon Slay of the United States.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Wrestling-Leipold. Has moved.

By Erica Bulman.

TENNIS:

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia Fourth seeded Denisa Chladkova of the Czech Republic and her countrywoman Radka Bobkova kick off the 110,000 dlr Eurotel Slovak Indoor tennis tournament.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Eurotel. Expected by 2000 GMT.

GOLF:

MOBILE, Alabama Karrie Webb beats Dottie Pepper on the first hole of a playoff to win the AFLAC Champions tournament and clinches LPGA player of the year honors for the second straight year.

Slug Sports-Golf-LPGA-AFLAC. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

GAINESVILLE, Virginia Sports-Golf-Presidents Cup. Has moved.

KAANAPALI, Hawaii Sports-Golf-Kaanapali Seniors. Has moved.

PARALYMPICS:

SYDNEY, Australia Ticket sales for the Sydney Paralympics have broken the 1 million barrier, stamping Sydney 2000 again as the biggest Paralympics on record.

Slug Sports-Paralympics-Tickets. Has moved.

CYCLING:

LILLE, France French cycling star Richard Virenque and nine others go on trial for their alleged roles in a doping scandal that nearly wrecked the 1998 Tour de France and forced the sports world to take a hard look at the growing use of illegal substances by athletes.

Slug Sports-Cycling-Doping Trial. Has moved.

By Pierre-Antoine Souchard.

AUTO RACING:

AP News Digest

SEPANG, Malaysia Michael Schumacher's victory in the Malaysian Grand Prix is the final illustration this year of how he and Ferrari dominated the 2000 Formula One season.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-Malaysian Grand Prix. Has moved.

By Salvatore Zanca.

BASEBALL:

NEW YORK Roger Clemens pitches eight shutout innings and the New York Yankees holds off the New York Mets' five-run ninth for a 6-5 victory and a 2-0 lead in the World Series.

Slug Sports-Baseball-US World Series. Has moved.

By Ben Walker.

WITH:

NEW YORK Sports-Baseball-US World Series-Piazza-Clemens. Has moved.

ALSO:

ATHENS, Greece Sports Olympics-Athens 2004-Culture. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, by telephone at (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449 or by e-mail at worldnews@ap.org.

WORLD AT 1700 GMT:

NEW:

RUSSIA-KURSK RECOVERY. Divers face overwhelming odds inside Kursk.

PERU-MONTESINOS. Former Peruvian spy chief returns home from Panama.

UN-CELEBRITY AMBASSADORS. Celebrity ambassadors gather at the United Nations.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

JERUSALEM With the peace process on ice and clashes raging in the streets, embattled Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak attempts to cobble together a coalition government Monday that would include hard-liners opposed to a political settlement with the Palestinians. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead Upcoming. By Greg Myre. AP Photos JRL102-103, 106, 109-110, XGAZ101.

WITH:

MIDEAST-BATTLE AT HOME. Palestinian militiamen are increasingly taking their battle to populated areas, leaving civilians on both sides caught in the line of fire. Upcoming.

MIDEAST REACTION. Calls for war against Israel echo across the Arab world, where frustration has peaked over a faltering Middle East peace process. Upcoming. AP Photos BAG101-103.

PYONGYANG, North Korea Their hands clasped in historic greeting, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il take measured steps Monday to mend a relationship born in war and steeped in a half century of hostility. US-NORTH KOREA. Lead Upcoming. By George Gedda. AP Photos PRK111, 124, 126-127, 129.

WITH:

KOREA-TWO CITIES. The Korean capitals of Seoul and Pyongyang have traveled radically different paths since their peninsula was partitioned at the end of World War II. Upcoming.

MOSCOW In one of the most challenging salvage efforts in naval history, an international team of divers faces the task of recovering remains of the Kursk nuclear submarine crew from a narrow, silt-filled labyrinth of mangled steel. **RUSSIA-KURSK RECOVERY.** Upcoming. By Vladimir Isachenkov. AP Photos MOSB104-105.

LIMA, Peru The apparent return Monday of feared spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos to Peru from Panama touches off a new political crisis as opposition leaders plan nationwide demonstrations and a weakened government tries to contain the damage. **PERU-MONTESINOS.** Incorporates Panama-Peru-Montesinos. Upcoming. By Monte Hayes. AP Photo NY190.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic's party agrees Monday to pro-democracy demands on the makeup of a new transitional government for Yugoslavia's main republic Serbia. **YUGOSLAVIA.** Lead has moved. By Jovana Gec. AP Photos BEL105-106.

MECHELEN, Belgium One of Europe's most influential cardinals calls Monday for a debate on limiting the term of the papacy but denies suggesting Pope John Paul II should resign next year. Godfried Danneels is the highest-ranking churchman to go public with calls for possible term limits. **BELGIUM-POPE-RESIGNATION TALK.** Lead Upcoming. By Constant Brand. AP Photos BRU102-103.

ADEN, Yemen A man being sought in the bombing of a U.S. warship regularly visited a hilltop apartment with an excellent view of the harbor and chatted with local fishermen about the comings and goings of boats in the area, witnesses say. **YEMEN-SHIP ATTACK.** Upcoming. By Donna Abu Nasr.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Tamil Tiger rebels in boats laden with explosives launch a suicide attack on a naval base and shoot down an air force helicopter at dawn Monday, killing at least 14 people. **SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR.** Lead has moved. By Dilshika Jayamaha. AP Graphic SRI LANKA ATTACK.

BERLIN A top manager of Germany's scandal-tainted conservatives unexpectedly quits Monday after only six months on the job, the latest victim of the opposition party's turmoil as it attempts to shake a yearlong financing scandal triggered by former Chancellor Helmut Kohl. **GERMANY-KOHL'S PARTY.** Lead has moved. By Tony Czuczka. AP Photos FRA112, BER113.

BOGOTA, Colombia A southern province is paralyzed Monday because of a rebel traffic ban with food and medicines running critically low. U.S.-made combat helicopters are thrown into battle against leftist rebels, with disastrous results. **COLOMBIA.** Expected by 1800 GMT. By Andrew Selsky. AP Photos.

SPACE CENTER, Houston Strong winds prevent space shuttle Discovery and its seven astronauts from landing in Florida on Monday while NASA considers a California touchdown. **US-SPACE SHUTTLE.** Lead Upcoming; landing opportunities at 2022 GMT and 2158 GMT. By C. Bryson Hull.

WITH:

RUSSIA-MIR. A senior Cabinet official says the Mir space station will be dumped early next year, leaving little hope for the survival of the last symbol of Soviet space glory.

UNITED NATIONS A host of international celebrities, including boxing great Muhammad Ali, actor Michael Douglas, Spice Girl Geri Halliwell and soccer star Ronaldo gather at the United Nations Monday to discuss using their names to fight poverty, AIDS and war and promote education and women's rights. **UN-CELEBRITY AMBASSADORS.** Expected by 1900 GMT. By Edith M. Lederer.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE:

AP News Digest

LONDON Shares in Nestle and other Swiss blue-chip companies are to trade primarily on Tradepoint Financial Networks PLC, a British electronic stock exchange, under a deal announced formally Monday with the SWX Swiss Stock Exchange. BRITAIN-SWITZERLAND-STOCK MARKETS. Has moved. By Bruce Stanley.

NEW YORK AT&T Corp., the nation's largest long-distance telephone and cable TV company, is considering splitting itself into four separate businesses. US-AT-AND-T. Has moved.

NEW YORK General Electric Co. has agreed to acquire Honeywell International Inc. for dlrs 45 billion in stock and GE chairman John F. Welch Jr. is postponing his planned retirement until the end of 2001 to oversee the merger. US-GE-HONEYWELL. Has moved. By Brad Foss. AP Photos NYR101, 103-104.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Tanzania holds presidential and parliamentary elections and a referendum on semiautonomous Zanzibar; Colombia holds provincial and municipal elections, and Kyrgyzstan holds presidential election.

FEATURES:

FEA-US-GULF WAR SYNDROME. AP Photos NY128-129.

ARTS-US-GUGGENHEIM IN VEGAS. AP Photo NVLVS.

FEA-KENYA-MAU MAU VETS. AP Photo NY364.

FEA-FRANCE-BORDERS AND BLOODLINES. AP Photo NY315.

FEA-MEXICO-AFTER THE PARTY. AP Photos NY312-314.

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Jordan-Israel Border Pro-Palestinian protests at Allenby Bridge organized by Jordanian trade unions opposed normal relations with Israel.

Luxor, Egypt Conference on Mideast politics sponsored by Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs and International Institute of Strategic Studies. Through Oct. 28.

Baltimore Sentencing set for Dr. Alpna Patel, a Canadian dentist convicted of voluntary manslaughter for stabbing her husband.

Wednesday, October 25:

Seoul, South Korea U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright holds talks with senior South Korean and Japanese officials.

Thursday, October 26:

New Delhi, India Diwali, Hindu festival of lights. National holiday.

Ulan Bator, Mongolia Russian President Vladimir Putin pays one-day visit to Mongolia.

Washington The National Archives and Records Administration opens approximately 420 hours of White House tape recordings from the Nixon presidency recorded from August 1971 to December 1971, the second of five chronological segments to be released.

Friday, October 27:

AP News Digest

No major events added.

Saturday, October 28:

Belfast, Northern Ireland Ulster Unionists, Northern Ireland's major Protestant party, hold special conference that could undermine province's power-sharing government.

Sunday, October 29:

Bogotoa, Colombia Provincial and municipal elections.

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Elections to choose president of Tanzania and another for semiautonomous Zanzibar. Voters also electing members for union parliament and Zanzibar parliament.

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Presidential election pitting incumbent Askar Akayev against five challengers.

Berlin German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder begins tour of Middle East. Tentative stops are Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Israel. Through Oct. 31.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

YUGOSLAVIA-MILOSEVIC. Former leader could face arrest at home.

LEBANON-HARIRI'S COMEBACK. Startling comeback for billionaire.

RUSSIA-REFUGEES. Refugees from Chechnya brace for second winter.

ROMANIA-TIME FOR TRUTH. Former prison commander's trial opens.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

JERUSALEM With chances for peace receding as clashes intensify, Prime Minister Ehud Barak appeals to hawkish opposition leader Ariel Sharon to join a coalition government, a move that further dashes hopes of Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Recap expected by 0500 GMT. By Laurie Copans. AP Photos JRL102-103, 106, 109-110, 112-113, 115, 117-123; XGAZ101; XEW101.

WITH:

MIDEAST-REACTION. With the Middle East peace talks at a standstill, frustrated Palestinians in exile say the only way forward is to fight. Has moved.

PYONGYANG, North Korea Hands clasped in historic greeting, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il take measured steps to mend a relationship ruptured in war and steeped in a half-century of hostility. US-NORTH KOREA. Lead has moved. By George Gedda. AP Photos PRK111-117, 124-130, 132-141.

WITH:

KOREA-TWO CITIES. The Korean capitals of Seoul and Pyongyang have traveled radically different paths since their peninsula was partitioned at the end of World War II. Has moved.

KARABULAK, Russia Tens of thousands of Chechen residents are bracing for their second grim winter in refugee camps in the republic of Ingushetia. The refugees complain that as the Chechen war drags on, they're receiving less help than ever. RUSSIA-REFUGEES. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos NAZ101-103.

AP News Digest

LIMA, Peru Peru's feared former spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos abandons Panama and returns home, deepening a political crisis and further endangering President Alberto Fujimori's already shaky hold on power. PERU-MONTESINOS. Lead has moved. By Monte Hayes. AP Photos LIM101, 104-109.

BEIRUT, Lebanon Only two months ago, state-run television denounced Rafik Hariri as a corrupt politician and likened him to a Mafia boss in campaign ads. Today, the dynamic billionaire businessman is back as Lebanon's prime minister. LEBANON-HARIRI'S COMEBACK. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Sam F. Ghattas. AP Photo BEI101.

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast Election returns are interrupted and soldiers barricade streets after a leading opposition candidate predicts victory over Ivory Coast's junta leader in presidential elections. IVORY COAST-ELECTIONS. Lead has moved. By Alexandra Zavis. AP Photo ABI101.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia Although the West has agreed to put the extradition of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes on the back burner, the former Yugoslav leader may soon face arrest at home for alleged corruption. YUGOSLAVIA-MILOSEVIC. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Dusan Stojanovic.

With:

YUGOSLAVIA. Serbia's parliament postpones approval of a transition government and new elections. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. AP Photos BEL115-116, 118.

KOSOVO REPORT. An independent international commission recommends that Kosovo become independent subject to a host of conditions. Expected by 0300 GMT.

BRASOV, Romania Former prison inmates are to testify about Communist-era brutality at a trial opening Tuesday of a prison commander charged with the deaths of 216 prisoners. ROMANIA-TIME FOR TRUTH. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Alison Mutler. AP Photos BUC101-103.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Sri Lanka's navy beats back a suicide attack on a naval base, sinking three of four explosives-filled rebel boats as they headed into port to strike at ships there. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Lead has moved. By Dilshika Jayamaha. AP Graphic SRI LANKA ATTACK.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE:

NEW YORK Blue chip stocks move higher but technology issues lag behind in one of Wall Street's quietest sessions in recent weeks. The Dow Jones industrial average closes up 45.13, or 0.4 percent, at 10,271.72. US-CLOSING STOCKS.

NEW YORK Analysts say AT&T Corp. is likely to announce corporate restructuring steps on Wednesday, but expect the moves to stop well short of breaking up the long-distance telephone service and cable television provider. US-AT&T. Has moved. By Adam Geller.

ZURICH, Switzerland Major U.S., Swiss and other big banks have drawn up new guidelines to strengthen the global battle against money laundering, a spokesman for UBS says. SWITZERLAND-MONEY LAUNDERING. Has moved.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Tanzania holds presidential and parliamentary elections and a referendum on semiautonomous Zanzibar; Colombia holds provincial and municipal elections, and Kyrgyzstan holds presidential election.

FEATURES: Business and Finance:

TOLUCA, Mexico The fungus that caused the Irish Potato Famine is back and meaner than ever. Scientists on two continents are fighting back by homing in on where the fungus apparently started. FEA-MEXICO-FAMINE FUNGUS. To move as wire time permits. By Traci Carl. AP Photos MEX192-193

AP News Digest

FRANKFURT, Germany Just when Europe was getting used to the Internet and e-commerce, along come e-books novels, dictionaries, technical guides and comics published to be read on handheld computer screens. FEA-GERMANY-BOOK FAIR-eBOOKS. To move as wire time permits. By Hans Greimel.

DETROIT The show floor of Convergence 2000 auto electronics convention was awash in gadgets of the future from navigation computers that sense traffic jams to systems that can locate a vehicle to within a centimeter. Automakers are pushing to make advanced auto technology more than a convention hall curio. FEA-US-HIGH-TECH AUTOS. To move as wire time permits. By Justin Hyde. AP Photos NY116-117

NEW YORK Protecting corporate networks: Security administrators get the hack of it. FEA-US-HACKING 101. To move as wire time permits. By Anick Jesdanun. AP Photo NY382.

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WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

SOCCER:

SIDON, Lebanon When nothing else works, send in Lee Dong-gook. The striker came off the bench and scored the golden goal in extra time to secure South Korea's place in the Asian Cup semifinals with a 2-1 victory over Iran on Monday.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Asian Cup Roundup. Has moved.

By Nesha Starcevic.

ALSO MOVED:

SIDON, Lebanon Sports-Soccer-Asian Cup-China-Qatar.

TRIPOLI, Lebanon Sports-Soccer-Asian Cup-Iran-South Korea.

BERLIN The bizarre Daum saga, which has even the country's soccer-hating fans fascinated, could cost the most powerful official in German soccer his job.

Slug Sports-Soccer-German Coach. Lead has moved.

By Roy Kammerer.

FLORENCE, Italy Among his varied nicknames, Turkish soccer coach Fatih Terim is currently reveling in the role of "Imperatore." Following a hard-fought road draw this weekend with Brescia, the new Fiorentina coach seems like he may end up conquering Italy's Serie A after all.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italy-Terim. Has moved.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina Boca Juniors moves a step closer to Argentina's soccer league title, beating Velez Sarsfield 3-1 while main rivals River Plate could only manage a draw in weekend play.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Argentina Roundup. Has moved.

By Laurence Norman.

SAO PAULO, Brazil Pele turned 60 on Monday, far from the spotlight that has shone on him since he emerged a soccer star at age 18, when he led Brazil to its first World Cup title. The soccer "king" planned a quiet celebration with his family in the Czech Republic.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Pele. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

LONDON Sports-Soccer-British Roundup.

ZAGREB, Croatia Sports-Soccer-Blazevic Resigns.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil Sports-Soccer-Parreira.

AUTO RACING:

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia From the opening victories on three different continents, through the tears in Monza to the earth-shaking victory clinching in Japan, the 2000 Formula One Season belonged to Michael Schumacher and Ferrari.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-F1 2000 Review. Expected by 0100 GMT.

By Salvatore Zanca.

ALSO:

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Sports-Auto Racing-F1 Lookahead. Expected by 0100 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Auto Racing-F1 Season Glance.

GOLF:

GAINESVILLE, Virginia Any bitter feelings the International team took away from its crushing loss in the Presidents Cup had more to do with the rematch.

Slug Sports-Golf-Presidents Cup. Has moved.

By Doug Ferguson.

TENNIS:

MOSCOW Tatiana Panova of Russia produced a major upset Monday as she ousted six-seeded Julie Halard-Decugis of France in straight sets 6-4, 7-6 in the first day of the dlr\$ 2.05 million Kremlin Cup tennis tournament.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Kremlin Cup. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia Sports-Tennis-Eurotel.

CRICKET:

KINGSTON, Jamaica The head of the West Indies Cricket Board says he wants to see a report by Indian investigators before commenting on allegations that two Caribbean players accepted bribes.

Slug Sports-Cricket-West Indies-Match Fixing. Has moved.

BOXING:

NEW YORK Andrew Golota, discharged from the hospital Sunday night, was worried about what his 9-year-old daughter Alexandra would think about his fight against Mike Tyson.

Slug Sports-Boxing-Golota Hurt. Has moved.

AP News Digest

By Ed Schuyler Jr.

BASEBALL:

NEW YORK Major League Baseball started investigating Roger Clemens on Monday for throwing the barrel of Mike Piazza's shattered bat at him in Game 2 of the World Series.

Slug Sports-Baseball-World Series-Clemens. Has moved.

By Ronald Blum.

ICE HOCKEY:

LITTLETON, Colorado The wife of Patrick Roy, the NHL's winningest goalie, called emergency because she was afraid of what her husband would do as they argued about in-laws, according to a police report Monday.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Roy Arrest. Has moved.

ALSO:

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Expected by 0500 GMT.

FOOTBALL:

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina Jury selection began Monday in the murder trial of ex-NFL player Rae Carruth, accused of masterminding the shooting death of his pregnant girlfriend to avoid paying child support.

Slug Sports-Football-Carruth Shooting. Has moved.

By Paul Nowell.

ALSO:

UNDATED Sports-Football-NFL Roundup. Expected by 0400 GMT.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, by telephone at (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449 or by e-mail at worldnews@ap.org.

Load-Date: October 23, 2000

No Headline In Original

Associated Press Worldstream

December 28, 1995; Thursday 02:59 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 139 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Government soldiers ambushed Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka, killing 15 guerrillas, the military said Thursday.

The attack occurred Wednesday at Puththur village, southeast of the Palali military base, a military statement said.

Soldiers recovered seven rebel bodies, including those of four **females**, and weapons after the attack, 310 kilometers (193 miles) north of Colombo.

Many **women** are members of the **Tamil Tigers**, a fierce guerrilla group that is fighting for a homeland in the north and the east.

In separate incidents, one rebel and two civilians were killed in eastern Sri Lanka during the past two days, the military said.

The rebels are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils, who claim discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and military. More than 39,000 people have been killed since 1983.

Load-Date: December 28, 1995

UN
Foreign Ministers of Canada and Liechtenstein address Commission on Human Rights

M2 PRESSWIRE

April 1, 1998

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Length: 5306 words

Highlight: Debate continues on migrant workers, religious intolerance, minority rights

Body

A changing world required a renewed vision of human rights, combining remedial action to address existing abuses with preventive measures, Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs told the Commission on Human Rights this morning.

Lloyd Axworthy, said the collapse of the bipolar world order had ushered in an era in which the international community grappled with issues ranging from labour standards to children's rights, impunity to peace-building - complex, cross-cutting issues with an undisputed human rights dimension. Addressing those issues effectively required viewing human rights through the more comprehensive lens of human security and integrating human rights concerns more fully into other aspects of international relations, he added, citing the campaign to ban landmines as a clear example of how new approaches with a human focus could be brought to bear on the traditional security agenda.

Also addressing the Commission this morning, the Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein, Andrea Willi, said a look at the global situation made it dramatically clear that much remained to be done in all parts of the world to improve protection of human rights. She pointed to refugees and internally displaced persons, the vast majority of whom were women and children, and whose plight had worsened over the past few years. She called for concerted efforts by the international community to prevent the causes for such massive population displacements, in which human rights violations played such a primary role.

The statements by the two Ministers came as the Commission continued to discuss the rights of migrants, religious intolerance and minority issues. The Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance and the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group on international migration - Abdelfattah Amor and Jorge Bustamante - introduced their reports this morning.

During the general debate statements were made by representatives of Mexico, Ecuador, Czech Republic, China, Bangladesh, India, Russian Federation, Poland, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Egypt, Hungary, Norway, Finland and Switzerland. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) delivered statements: Minority Rights Group, Fraternite Notre Dame and the Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation. A representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) also spoke.

Statement by Foreign Minister of Canada

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LLOYD AXWORTHY, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, said the breakdown of the old bipolar world order had created new possibilities to promote and protect human rights. Globalization had opened up borders to new ideas and information, providing opportunities to build a universal culture of human rights. Democracy had taken root in the majority of the world's States, and civil society was thriving. The conditions were there to achieve progress on human rights unimagined by the drafters of the Universal Declaration in 1948.

At the same time, Mr. Axworthy continued, human rights violations continued in many parts of the world: political dissidents were being jailed, peoples were being tortured and international conflicts were claimed innumerable civilian lives. Globalization had a dark side: transnational organized crime, terrorism, environmental pollution, hate propaganda distributed over the Internet, and growing global economic inequalities. Although recent years had seen impressive progress, there was still a significant gap between respect for human rights on the ground and the lofty principles set out in the Declaration 50 years ago.

Mr. Axworthy said that what he called a "human security approach" for a new era required not only remedial action to address existing abuses, but also preventive measures to address their root causes, including, as the High Commissioner for Human Rights had noted, greater attention to the human right to development. The link between human rights and human security was particularly clear in cases of conflict or the threat of conflict. Human rights abuses were often the early warning signal of emerging conflict. In countries torn by inter-ethnic strife, ensuring respect for the human rights of every sector of the population was the key to building sustainable peace. Conversely, States which respected human rights and the rule of law were less likely to go to war with one another, unleash waves of refugees, created environmental catastrophes, engage in terrorism, or break their commercial commitments. Global stability and peace were intimately linked with respect for international human rights.

Pointing to the recent adoption of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Mr. Axworthy said it was a clear example of how one could bring new approaches with a human focus to bear on the traditional international security agenda. For the first time, a majority of States agreed to ban a weapon that was part of the military arsenal of nearly every nation. Banning landmines could no longer be seen primarily as a question of disarmament, where the focus was on the weapon itself. Instead, one began to see that as a question of humanitarian law which took account of civilian and the horrible impact that those weapons had on their lives. Humanitarian law had put a human face on the landmines crisis.

Children's rights were a particularly high priority for Canada, Mr. Axworthy continued. Canada had been working hard on the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and hoped to see them completed soon. Another priority was the adoption of a strong and effective Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Mobilizing and empowering all segments of society - including children, indigenous peoples, those with disabilities and women - was key to implementation of human rights.

Statement by Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein

ANDREA WILLI, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, said a look at the global situation made it dramatically clear that much remained to be done in all parts of the world to improve protection of human rights. The plight of refugees and internally displaced persons, the vast majority of whom were women and children, had worsened over the past few years, and concerted efforts by the international community were required to prevent the causes for such massive population displacements of which human rights violations played such a primary role.

Women's rights needed special emphasis, the Foreign Minister said. Although progress had been made, many shortcomings remained; the full integration of a gender perspective into all human rights activities of the United Nations was an important measure, but targeted and concrete efforts were needed to improve the situation of women worldwide. The complex phenomenon of violence against women had to be given special attention. Representation of women in the secretariat was constantly growing and Liechtenstein hoped that this positive trend within the United Nations would lead to greater presence of women in decision-making positions.

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A very significant contribution to the human rights year would be adoption of a statute establishing an International Criminal Court in Rome, Ms. Willi said. That would enable prosecution of the most serious crimes over which universal jurisdiction already existed, and the interruption of the vicious circle of crime and impunity.

Ms. Willi said Liechtenstein had introduced a few years ago an initiative on the right of self-determination aimed at contributing to the prevention of conflicts within States and remained convinced that a framework for a constructive dialogue between States and communities living within them would have a significant potential to defuse tensions and thus contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the protection of human rights. The situation in Kosovo was only one example of a case where too much time had elapsed with too little being done. Liechtenstein hoped the international community would come to realize the benefits of a proactive and preventive approach to such situations.

Statements in Debate

PORFIRIO MUNOZ-LEDO (Mexico) said migration was as much an inevitable consequence of the global economy as of such traditional causes as war and famine. International migrants amounted to some 120 million, in official figures; in fact, that was only a small part of the actual number, most of whom were unofficial. Many were victims of situations at home, and in their host countries many had fallen prey to open or covert manifestations of racism, and many - especially women - were grievously treated. States must respect and guarantee to all persons under their jurisdiction, without any reference to race, origin, sex, or other factor, all basic human rights, and must treat all persons in the same way. As both a sending and receiving State, Mexico was dedicated to fair and humane treatment of migrants; international cooperation was essential to achieving this goal worldwide. Mexico also was deeply involved in regional cooperation programmes related to migrants.

LUIS GALLEGOS CHIRIBOGA (Ecuador) said human beings were not included in schemes for marketing and movement of money and commodities over international borders, yet they were a major factor in the global economy, and displacements of workers occurred on a massive scale, especially from the developing countries as individuals moved towards work and towards what they hoped was a better world. But many countries now were trying to halt migratory flows onto their territories and were committing abuses against them and violating the terms of international instruments related to the Commission's work. Migrants were blamed for social problems that were not of their making, and were subject to administrative reprisals and even to violence. The Commission and the international community must take greater measures to protect the rights of such people.

MIROSLAV SOMOL (Czech Republic) said his country and other countries of Central Europe had experienced a new phenomenon since the early 1990s, namely immigration. The Czech Republic therefore sought to participate in activities and programmes concerned with rights of immigrants, in particular at the regional level. In that context, the first National Round Table on Community Relations had taken place in February in Prague within the framework of the Council of Europe's activities. Participants included relevant agencies of the public administration as well as non-governmental organizations and representatives of migrants' groups. The Czech Republic felt minimum standards of protection of the human rights of migrants should be respected and adhered to by all States; the need to agree on that minimum standard was not only a regional but also a global task.

MA YUHONG (China) said China was a country with a great diversity of religious beliefs, and had over 100 million followers of Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, and other beliefs. At present, all religions in China had equal status and coexisted in tranquillity, and religious disputes were unknown; according to incomplete statistics, there were more than 85,000 sites for religious activities and some 300,000 clergy. China had made great achievements in protection of the freedom of religious belief, and protected all religious activities carried out within the framework of the Constitution and relevant laws; it had to be pointed out, however, that while enjoying their lawful rights, citizens also had to fulfil obligations prescribed by law. All citizens, religious or not, were equal before the law and had to assume criminal liability when committing crimes - that had nothing to do with a person's religious belief. Three religious leaders from the United States recently had conducted a successful visit to China, and a Chinese delegation had visited the United States - visits of this kind had enhanced mutual understanding.

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IFTEKHAR CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said migrants continued to be one of the most vulnerable groups in today's world. It was not only that there was abuse of their rights: more alarmingly, there was even denial of their basic human rights. They were faced with hostility and racist violence; they were used as scapegoats for the domestic ills of societies around the globe. The plight of the under documented or irregular migrants was all the more disconcerting. Much had been said about the need to address, in the context of the globalization of trade, the growing relevance of a regime for regular migration providing appropriate protection for all migrants. People had been on the move since time immemorial; the foundations of human civilization owed much to such movements. Today, millions of people moved across borders, voluntarily or pressed by exigencies - whether for work, education or family reasons. There was also a forced dimension in migration, the pressures of which had increased manifold. In the case of some categories, protection mechanisms were recognized. Such protection was not yet extended to others migrating predominantly due to the simple urge for survival.

SAVITRI KUNADI (India) said most States, including India, were comprised of ethnic pluralities and reflected a world that was multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-lingual. If all were to live together in an environment of peace and harmony, active and determined promotion of the values of tolerance and democracy was essential; currently, however, there were many examples of extreme forms of aggressive nationalism and narrow chauvinism, along with the rise of so-called religious fundamentalism, which posed challenges in all parts of the world. India believed it was necessary for all countries to find appropriate responses in a democratic framework by establishing firm foundations of equality and non-discrimination under rule of law. At the international level, all needed to intensify efforts to promote respect for human rights and for tolerance. India supported continuing the mandate of the working group on minorities established by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

ABDELFATTAH AMOR, Special Rapporteur on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, introducing his report (document E/CN.4/1998/6), said a visit to Australia had allowed him to observe that the country constituted an original example of multicultural integration and religious tolerance. However, that tolerance had met some exceptional obstacles with regard to the building of places of worship. Also, there had been certain displays of hostility towards Buddhist minorities, while the mass media often conveyed a distorted image of religious minorities. The conflict in the Persian Gulf had also provided a pretext to some media to propagate hate against Muslims, particularly Arabs.

With regard to his recent visit to Germany, Mr. Amor said that although the Jewish minority there enjoyed a satisfactory situation, and even a privileged position, the Muslim minority was enjoying less favourable conditions. Meanwhile, the leaders of the Scientology group complained that, by denying them the status of religious movement, the German authorities applied to them a discriminatory policy.

JORGE A. BUSTAMANTE, Chairman-Rapporteur of the working group on the human rights of international migrants, introducing the group's report (document E/CN.4/1998/76), said there were some 120 million migrants in the world, and the number was growing; such people became vulnerable in terms of their human rights in direct proportion to their distance from their home communities. Migrants to begin with were among the poorest and had the least education; when they left their countries they became especially vulnerable. Societies that took in migrants, especially if they were poor or did not have papers, imposed structural vulnerabilities could be very hard to overcome; it was necessary to stress that "irregular" migrants still had human rights despite State rights to decide who came onto their territories. States were still obligated to offer basic and fundamental protections to irregular migrants.

The working group had distributed a questionnaire and had received replies from more than 40 countries that showed a great interest in the topic, a laudable capacity for self-criticism, and sophisticated knowledge of the situation, Dr. Bustamante said. The working group also had established effective contacts with NGOs and various international agencies. Further time and resources were needed to take the best advantage of the work performed by the group so far, and an extension of the body's mandate was requested in proportion to the importance it seemed have been given by various Governments.

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BORIS KYRYLOV (Russian Federation) said scientific or social means should be found for the full protection of the rights of minority groups in all countries. Understanding between minorities and governments should be established in order to promote their rights. Regular contacts between the Working Group on Minorities and regional mechanisms for the protection of minorities was to be recommended. In addition, while examining country reports, treaty bodies should pay special attention to the situation of minorities. For its part, the Russian Federation had solved its minority problems by giving federal autonomy to its minorities and by encouraging them to promote their cultures and languages. On the question of minorities in Estonia and Latvia, those States had not yet drop the idea of building a monoethnic society excluding all minorities within their territories. Minorities were denied their basic rights. The process of naturalization of people of Russian origin was long and full of complicated procedures - only one per cent of them were naturalized in Latvia, and they were deprived of the right to vote.

YOUNG SAM MA (Republic of Korea) said that 50 years after the end of the Second World War, there continued to be blatant acts of ethnic and religious persecution throughout the world; differences in race, religion, and language continued to serve as pretexts for discriminatory acts of violence against minority groups, notwithstanding international protections. It was the responsibility of the State to ensure that human rights and fundamental freedoms were respected, particularly for minority groups; political will was necessary; effective, pragmatic action was required. Yet caution also should be exercised when undertaking repressive measures to counter cases of appalling social persecution, because these efforts could have negative repercussions and further inflame existing tensions. Korea fully supported the technical cooperation programme of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; the country also called for decisive steps to protect minority groups, migrant workers, and women migrants, and recognized that education was vital for improving tolerance for minorities and migrants, and should be carried out on an ongoing basis.

JACEK TYSZKO (Poland) said human rights could prove their value when they efficiently protected those who were weaker and exposed to discrimination and other forms of human rights violations. Furthermore, human rights were necessary if democracy was to be prevented from degenerating into the tyranny of majority. The common element of those two observations was that the protection of minorities formed a constitutive part of the human rights hard core. Consequently, there was no respect for and observance of human rights when the rights of persons belonging to minorities were not safeguarded. Moreover there was no respect for human dignity when the protection of the individual was to extend to the maintaining of one's won identity in its national, cultural, spiritual and religious dimensions. Protection of human dignity assumed protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities as an indispensable component thereof.

ARUNI WIJewardena (Sri Lanka) said that in recent years, violence resulting from an illegal armed group espousing terrorism in the guise of promoting minority rights had tended to obscure the fact that historically and today, Muslims, Tamils, Burghers, and Sinhalese continued to co-exist peacefully in Sri Lanka in a tolerant society and within a democratic political framework which encouraged and fostered the preservation of distinct ethnic, religious, and linguistic identities. Over the past decades, incremental progress had been made through political, administrative, constitutional, and legislative measures on several legitimate demands of minorities, articulated through their elected leaders; the subject of devolution of governmental authority as a means of ensuring greater participation by minorities had been discussed at length and constitutional reforms were now proposed; a system to give greater possibilities for minority representation than in the simple majority system was now under consideration. It was regrettable that an internationally condemned terrorist group, the LTTE, was seeking to destroy this bold initiative through suicidal bombings of civilians and public targets. The people of Sri Lanka had rejected communal violence and the Government had declared its determination to pursue the political process to its conclusion.

BULENT MERIC (Turkey) said increasingly draconian restrictions were being imposed on the movement of individuals, particularly in the developed countries. Yet, international migratory movements were steadily increasing. That was not only because a large number of developing countries were experiencing economic and social difficulties, but also because the need for foreign labour in the developed world was continuing despite claims that there was a crisis. Therefore, the presence and problems of migrant workers would seemingly continue to exist, at least for the foreseeable future. Those problems presented one of the most complex human rights issues. Those were issues affecting millions of people living in foreign countries, with or without a proper status, sometimes for

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generations, bereft of international or domestic legal protection. Today, almost 3 million Turkish citizens lived outside their home country as migrant workers. Whether they were legal or illegal in status, all migrant workers, as human beings should enjoy all human rights and freedoms on an equal basis.

TAREK ADEL (Egypt) said the rights of migrant workers were not sufficiently protected, regardless of international human rights instruments; Egypt regretted the fact that many countries had not ratified the relevant international Convention; only 12 had done so, Egypt among them; it was to be hoped that many more ratifications would come soon so that the Convention could enter into force; one wondered what various countries were thinking in failing to ratify such basic rights for a vulnerable group of human beings. It was necessary to rectify the erroneous viewpoint that migrants were a burden on their host countries, and the erroneous idea that they were a cause of domestic troubles. The United Nations and related agencies and NGOs should redouble their efforts to protect migrants' rights, and sending countries should make greater efforts to rectify situations that caused such massive population movements; the international trade system should be more equitable, and investment increased in developing countries to spur economic development that would keep such migrants in their home countries.

PETER NARAY (Hungary) said his country welcomed the growing attention the international community had started to pay in recent years to questions related to minorities. The United Nations had, for a long time, failed to adequately and effectively address the issue of the protection of minorities. Therefore, the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities by the General Assembly in 1992, was a landmark achievement. Although not a treaty, the Declaration had provided for global minimum standards of minority rights to be respected by each and every country. In 1995, the establishment of the Working Group on Minorities by the Commission at the level of the Subcommission represented another significant step in the right direction. In addition, Hungary welcomed the fact that representatives of minorities had the opportunity to participate in the work of the Working Group.

PETTER WILLE (Norway) said the Working Group on Minorities was the only body within the United Nations system to focus on that topic, and its work was important and difficult. Over three years, the group had got a good start; Norway especially welcomed the way it had focused discussions and activities on better understanding of the principles contained in the relevant Declaration. Norway emphasized the right of persons belonging to minorities to speak their own language, learn and be taught in their mother tongue, profess and practice their own religion and enjoy their own culture. Norway recently had signed the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the ratification process was expected to be concluded quickly; the Government also had decided to appoint an inter-ministerial working group to evaluate ways in which the State could better coordinate its policy with regard to a number of national minorities, in particular the Roma and travellers - two minority groups that had faced and continued to face particular difficulties.

RISTOW VELTHEIM (Finland) said his country had found that minority rights deserved to be given special attention in the human rights context.

There was ample reason for that: persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities often faced an increased risk of human right violations; their cultural and linguistic rights were often ignored, and the realization of their economic and social rights might leave quite a lot to be desired. Furthermore, persons belonging to minorities might even be singled out for persecution. Ethnic intolerance bred conflict, as one could see from a number of crises around the world today. Violations of minority rights contributed to refugee flows and to great deal of human suffering. There was thus plenty of reason to give minority issues a high priority and constant vigilance.

IRENE McCLURE, of the International Labour Organization (ILO), said the ILO had been at the forefront of international standard-setting in the field of the protection of the rights and dignity of migrant workers. It had adopted a number of standards and Conventions, including Conventions 97 and 143. However, signatories of these instruments had remained limited, perhaps because of their ground-breaking content, also a problem for the International Convention. The ILO had begun a general survey of the obstacles to ratification and difficulties of application of these two conventions, with a view to possible revisions. The ILO also was reaching the end of a project called "combatting discrimination against migrant workers and ethnic minorities in the world of work"; conclusions were now being drafted in the form of a manual; there would a focus on the need for comprehensive,

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civil anti-discrimination legislation aimed at the employment relationship, stringently enforced by a national agency specialized in non-discrimination. The ILO participated actively in the working group on the human rights of migrants, but held certain reservations concerning its activities so far and the potential extension of its mandate - the group should avoid duplication of previous activities undertaken by the United Nations or related agencies.

JEAN-DANIEL VIGNY (Switzerland) said his country hoped that a true dialogue would continue within the Working Group between States and their minorities. The contributions of minorities within the Group were often constructive; they were made in a good spirit and without any polemics, which led to a positive working atmosphere. The role of the Working Group was to offer an informal forum and to favour a dialogue in which information could be exchanged on, among other things, legislation relating to minorities. The five members of the Group and the participants possessed much expertise on the issue. They therefore assisted Governments and minorities in the search for concrete solutions to their differences.

ALAN PHILLIPS, of Minority Rights Group (MRG), said that four years ago MRG had co-sponsored a conference warning of the dangers of a war around Kosovo. MRG had also urged early action to prevent the conflict in former Yugoslavia, before the first bullet was fired; and its studies had predicted the long-running conflict in Sri Lanka. MRG took no pride in these facts, but wished to point out that some 90 per cent of violent conflicts today were between different communities and that the large majority of refugees under the mandate of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were from minority communities; although there was no lack of information and analysis, or of warning, there was a lack of dialogue and action to prevent such crises and to honour the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Another example of current and future trouble was in treatment of the Roma in Europe. There should be closer cooperation between different United Nations human rights organs acting to protect minorities, better planning and implementation involving minorities in advance of the world conference on racism, more formal and informal dialogue and debate on inter-community issues, and a permanent mandate for the Working Group on Minorities.

Bishop LAURENT DENEUX, of Fraternite Notre Dame, said that for the past few years, States had submitted to the power of majority religions wishing to protect their prestige, their faithful and their money in the face of new forms of thinking. Those churches had influenced governments to pass legislation to condemn religious minorities. Such groups faced another danger in the form of ecumenism, a movement with no room for a large number of religious minorities. One church held sway over the ecumenical movement, and it always imposed her own ideas. It was a pity to see that in a country like France, a campaign of misinformation in the press had been reflected in laws whose aim was to reduce the rights of religious movements.

KULBHUSHAN WARIKOO, of the Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation, said the organization was concerned over problems created by trans-border terrorism in the Himalayas and adjoining regions. The extremist Taliban movement had unleashed atrocities against national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities in Afghanistan as well as violating the rights of women and children, thus sharpening the internal divide that caused instability in Afghanistan. Similarly, the induction of Islamic extremism, terrorists and mercenaries by Pakistan in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir had imparted a death blow to its composite societal character and secular polity; Kashmir had been known for a long time for a harmonious blend of cultures, but that had been obliterated by Islamist terrorists and mercenaries induced and inducted by Pakistan in the name of Jihad - religious crusade. Several Pakistan-based extremist and terrorist groups had been publicly taking pride in "killing Hindus", and were still collecting funds, arms, and ammunition openly for export into Kashmir.

Load-Date: April 2, 1998

No Headline In Original

Associated Press Worldstream

December 28, 1995; Thursday 02:06 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 145 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

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In separate incidents, one rebel and two civilians were killed in eastern Sri Lanka during the past two day, the military said.

The rebels are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils, who claim discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and military. More than 39,000 people have been killed since 1983.

(dc/dg/kg)

Load-Date: December 28, 1995

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

December 26, 2000, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 18

Length: 189 words

Body

Bus crash kills 20

EAST LONDON: At least 33 people died yesterday in road accidents including 20 in a bus crash, in South Africa's Eastern Cape province, state radio SABC reported. The bus passengers died when the driver lost control of the overloaded bus, which plunged down a steep embankment and rolled over.

Gloomy gambler

LONDON: A gloomy gambler has staked a pound stg. 5 (\$13.36) bet at odds of 10 million-to-one for the world to end yesterday. It was a bizarre bet because if he was successful the punter from Sussex would not have been around to collect his pound stg. 50 million (\$133.56 million) prize money.

Talking tough

KANO, Nigeria: Hundreds of women in the northern Nigerian city of Kano were expected to spend the next few days in detention after a crackdown ordered by religious officials for being seen talking to members of the opposite sex.

Child soldiers

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan forces raiding a Tamil rebel camp yesterday killed 14 girl fighters and four others in a gunbattle in the Jaffna Peninsula, an official spokesman said. Children, especially girls, are among the most efficient fighters in the Tamil Tigers ranks.

Load-Date: December 4, 2001

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

May 12, 2000; Friday

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Section: International news

Length: 6962 words

Body

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

RUSSIA-CAPITAL MOVE. Putin sparks speculation on possible move to St. Petersburg.

PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. Pope to beatify two shepherd children.

ACEH PEACE TALKS. Cease-fire declared in 25-year guerrilla war.

KOREAS-SOIL AID. South Koreans to send fertilizer to the North.

AFRICA-AIDS. Cut in drug prices may make little difference in Africa.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone More peacekeepers arrived in Sierra Leone's capital to reinforce against a possible rebel offensive on the capital, where as many as 30,000 refugees have gathered to escape guerrilla attacks. SIERRA LEONE. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay. AP Photos.

ALSO MOVED:

ESCAPING THE REBELS. Three British military observers and one New Zealander being held captive make a break for it. LAB101-103.

UN-SIERRA LEONE. Despite calls from African countries to let U.N. peacekeepers in Sierra Leone use more force against rebels, there is little indication that the Security Council wants to play a more active combat role.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea return to open war with fighting reported on three fronts. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Andrew England.

ALSO MOVED:

UN-HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, predicting "a very brutal war" between Ethiopia and Eritrea, urgently appeals to both countries to stop fighting. NYR123.

AP News Digest

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia As thousands of people kneel and pray for peace in mosques across Aceh province, Indonesian government and separatist rebel negotiators meeting in Geneva sign the region's first formal cease-fire agreement in 25 years of fighting. ACEH PEACE TALKS. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photos JAK120-123, LON117.

ALSO MOVED:

INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Police fire tear gas at hundreds of student protesters gathered outside former President Suharto's home to demand he go on trial for corruption.

INDONESIA-ACEH-GLANCE.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Hundreds of civilians in Sri Lanka flee Jaffna city as advancing Tamil Tiger rebels on the outskirts of their former capital warn of heavy fighting to come. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Recap expected by 0600 GMT. AP Photos COL101,104.

FATIMA, Portugal Tens of thousands of pilgrims attend an emotional candlelight vigil in the main square of the Fatima shrine in anticipation of Pope John Paul II's beatification Saturday of two shepherd children who said they witnessed visions of the Virgin Mary. PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Barry Hatton. AP Photos.

MOSCOW When Russian rulers from Ivan the Terrible to the Bolsheviks wanted to make major changes, they moved to a new capital a tradition that has some Russians asking if President Vladimir Putin wants to leave Moscow. Putin's decision to receive foreign leaders in his native St. Petersburg has prompted speculation that he wants to move the capital out of Moscow. RUSSIA-CAPITAL MOVE. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Anna Dolgov.

ALSO MOVED:

RUSSIA-POLITICS. President Vladimir Putin pledges to uphold media freedoms after politicians and journalists expressed alarm at a police raid on a leading media group.

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Russian forces claim to be cracking down on rebel bands a day after Chechen fighters killed 18 servicemen outside the breakaway republic. MOSB110-112.

JOLO, Philippines Negotiators re-establish contact with a Muslim rebel group holding 21 hostages in the Philippine jungle and hope for word Saturday that the guerrillas are willing to free two ailing captives. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Recap expected by 0100 GMT. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos JOL111-114.

SEOUL, South Korea South Korea has showered all manner of gifts on its aloof neighbor, North Korea: eggs, tangerines, cattle, bicycles, even money-bearing tourists. Now, one of the most coveted handouts in the hungry North is on its way: fertilizer. KOREAS-SOIL AID.

ALSO MOVED:

US-NORTH KOREA. North Korea agrees to resume talks on excavating an area in North Korea where U.S. officials believe they could unearth the remains of several hundred Americans killed in the Korean War, a U.S. official says.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa On an AIDS-ravaged continent where many countries spend only dlns 5 a year per capita on healthcare, pharmaceutical companies' plans to sharply reduce the price of AIDS drugs is greeted as a sign of progress, but one that would have little impact on most of those infected. AFRICA-AIDS. Has moved. By Ravi Nessman.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Israeli and Palestinian peace talks resume in undisclosed location; Ethiopians vote in only the second general election in their country's long and turbulent history.

FEATURES: Travel

AP News Digest

TEHRAN, Iran Tehran is the unquestioned museum capital of the Middle East. The city boasts 69 museums. But the star of Tehran's museum show has to be the crown jewels museum itself actually, a high-security underground vault in Iran's central bank. TRAV-IRAN-TEHRAN'S TREASURES. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Vijay Joshi. AP Photos NY411-414.

WITH:

TRAV-TEHRAN'S TREASURES-TIPS. Upcoming.

SINGAPORE Singapore has many open-air dining centers known as hawker stalls. For tourists, sitting down to a hawker meal is one of the few typically Asian experiences they are likely to have in this modern and Westernized country. TRAV-SINGAPORE-A TASTE OF ASIA. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Anna Sathiah. AP Photo SIN101.

NEW YORK Dining in Tokyo a city of gourmands that is notoriously difficult to navigate if you don't speak the language _ just got a whole lot easier. The first-ever English-language Zagat Survey of Tokyo Restaurants has hit bookstores on both sides of the Pacific. TRAV-ZAGAT TOKYO. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Katherine Roth. AP Photos NY405-407.

FREDERICK, Maryland Everything old is new again on the American Discovery Trail, a coast-to-coast footpath celebrating its grand opening with a four-person team hiking across the continent. TRAV-US-DISCOVERY TRAIL. Expected by 0300 GMT. By David Dishneau. AP Graphic DISCOVERY TRAIL. AP Photo NY410.

ALSO:

TRAV-TRAVEL BRIEFS. Upcoming.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Malene Arce. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

More peacekeepers arrived in Sierra Leone's capital Friday to reinforce against a possible rebel offensive on the city, where as many as 30,000 refugees have gathered to escape guerrilla attack. A few hundred more Jordanian soldiers arrived to help shore up the beleaguered peacekeeping force. The fresh troops came on the same day that President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah paid homage to 19 people killed during a recent demonstration. He said the rebels who broke a peace deal and resumed fighting the government can "never be trusted." The peace accord, already imperiled when rebels took 500 peacekeepers hostage last week, was tattered further when bodyguards for rebel leader Foday Sankoh began shooting in crowds of peace demonstrators in front of Sankoh's home on Monday. (SIERRA LEONE)

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

Ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea returned to open warfare Friday with fighting reported on three fronts. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan predicted "a very brutal war," and expressed frustration that peace efforts had failed. The two sides issued contradictory statements on the details of the fighting, but both agreed that war had erupted once again along the 620-mile (1,000-kilometer) frontier, which contains a now-evacuated stretch of fertile land of great value in this drought-wracked region of Africa. A resumption in the war had been rumored in both capitals, Addis Ababa and Asmara, for days, even as Richard Holbrooke, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and six other Security Council representatives urged leaders of both countries not to return to a "senseless" war. Speaking Friday in Munich, Germany, Holbrooke accused Ethiopia and Eritrea two of the world's poorest countries of "stupidity" for whipping up relatively minor disputes out of national pride and of "cruel disregard for the interests of the people." (HORN OF AFRICA-WAR)

NEW DELHI, India (AP)

Hundreds of civilians in Sri Lanka fled Jaffna city Friday as advancing Tamil Tiger rebels on the outskirts of their former capital warned of heavy fighting to come. Sri Lanka's navy and air force blasted the Sangupiddi causeway,

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which the separatist rebels used to move reinforcements toward Jaffna, a government spokesman said. Troops also destroyed the rebels' main communication tower in the nearby town of Pooneryn, he said. President Chandrika Kumaratunga told the 40,000 soldiers who had retreated from defense lines that this was a "decisive moment" in the 17-year civil war, which has left 65,000 people dead in the small island nation off India's southern coast. The guerrillas have never been so close to Jaffna since they were ousted from the city in 1995. For five years they had occupied the city, running an administration that controlled surrounding Tamil areas. (SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR)

FATIMA, Portugal (AP)

Pope John Paul II joined more than 100,000 pilgrims in silent prayer in this small rural town Friday as he prepared to beatify a shepherd boy and girl on the site where they said they spoke to the Virgin Mary in 1917. Joyous local priests kissed his hand before he rode the popemobile two kilometers (1.2 miles) through ecstatic crowds to pray at Fatima's Chapel of Apparitions, built where the Virgin Mary allegedly appeared to three shepherd children on May 13, 1917. On Saturday, the pope is to beatify Jacinta Marto and her brother Francisco, who said the Virgin Mary appeared to them and their cousin Lucia de Jesus dos Santos six times above an olive tree and told them three secrets. The brother and sister died of pneumonia two years after the visions, at the ages of 9 and 11. Dos Santos, now 93, has been at a Carmelite convent in central Portugal since 1929. Many pilgrims hoped the pope would reveal the last of three secrets the shepherd children said the Virgin told them. The first two foretold the end of World War I and the rise and fall of Communism. Dos Santos has told the third secret to several popes but the Vatican has refused to disclose it. (PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT)

MOSCOW (AP)

President Vladimir Putin on Friday defended his commitment to news media freedom in the wake of a raid by submachine gun-toting police on a media company often critical of the Kremlin. Russian politicians and news organizations expressed concern that Thursday's search of Media-MOST offices could be a prelude to restrictions on free speech. Putin's press service issued a statement saying that "the president is firmly convinced that freedom of speech and freedom of the mass media are immutable values," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Liberals and others are concerned that Putin, an ex-KGB officer, does not support a free press and other democratic rights. Putin insists he is a democrat. Police in black masks, military-style uniforms and armed with submachine guns on Thursday searched the Moscow offices of the Media-MOST company, led by tycoon Vladimir Gusinsky. They occupied the offices most of the day, rummaging through documents and taking down workers' personal data. Gusinsky said the search was intended to punish the group's NTV television and other media properties for critical coverage of Putin. (RUSSIA-POLITICS)

Nicosia, Cyprus Miss Universe pageant.

Stockholm, Sweden Eurovision song contest.

Sandusky, Ohio Public gets first chance to ride Millennium Force, which the Cedar Point amusement park bills as the tallest and fastest roller coaster in the world.

Lisbon, Portugal Last day of Pope John Paul II's visit.

Sunday, May 14:

Jerusalem Israel-Palestinian peace talks resume in undisclosed location.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Ethiopians vote in only second general election in their country's long and turbulent history.

Ankara, Turkey Pro-Islamic Virtue Party leader runs against younger, reformist candidate in leadership race at party congress.

Nago, Japan Ceremony to be held to mark the completion of Bankoku Shinryokan, conference hall in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, where Japan will host G-8 summit in July.

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Monday, May 15:

Cairo, Egypt Egyptian and Israeli aviation officials meet to resolve differences over a route Egypt wants to fly to Gaza.

Stockholm, Sweden Polar Music Prize awarded to Bob Dylan and Isaac Stern.

Geneva The 191-nation governing assembly of the World Health Organization meets to discuss latest efforts to fight disease globally, including TB, polio and AIDS.

Tuesday, May 16:

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Presidential election. June 30 runoff if needed.

Tortola, British Virgin Islands Postponed hearing on whether four Americans should stand trial in the murder of Lois McMillen, a 34-year-old artist from Middlebury, Connecticut.

Ankara, Turkey President-elect Ahmet Necdet Sezer to be sworn in.

Wednesday, May 17:

Copenhagen, Denmark Nordic conference on the EU's Northern Dimension and the Russian Baltic Sea enclave of Kaliningrad.

Thursday, May 18:

Copenhagen, Denmark Dalai Lama visits Denmark. Through May 21.

Vatican City Pope John Paul II celebrates his 80th birthday.

Friday, May 19:

No major events added.

Saturday, May 20:

Belfast, Northern Ireland Members of the Ulster Unionists, Northern Ireland's largest Protestant party, vote on whether to again participate in the province's power-sharing government with members of the Irish Republican Army-allied Sinn Fein, in light of the IRA's pledge to disarm.

Tokyo Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko begin 13-day visit to Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland.

Sunday, May 21:

Port-au-Prince, Haiti elections.

Vatican City Pope John Paul II presides over the canonization of Mexican martyr Cristobal Magallanes.

Rome Italians vote in national referendum to change electoral system and six other issues.

Bern, Switzerland Referendum to decide whether Switzerland accepts seven treaties that will facilitate trade and other links between the go-it-alone Swiss and the 15-nation European Union that surrounds them.

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels say they are set to reclaim Jaffna.

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KOREAS-SUMMIT. North and South Korea begin working talks to prepare for summit.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Sierra Leone army soldiers and a pro-government militia drive back rebel forces outside the capital, an army spokesman says. The fighting comes as U.N. troops and pro-government forces gear up for a feared rebel drive on the nervous capital. SIERRA LEONE. Recap has moved. By Alexandra Zavis. AP Photos XBL101-103; LON105-111.

ALSO:

UNITED NATIONS African countries and others are urging the Security Council to revise the mandate for U.N. peacekeepers in Sierra Leone to let them use more force to salvage a crumbling peace accord. UN-SIERRA LEONE. Lead has moved. By Nicole Winfield. AP Photos NYR138-139.

NEW DELHI, India Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels say they are just 1 kilometer (1/2 mile) from the northern city of Jaffna and are set to recapture their former capital from government control at any moment. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved. Leads will be expedited. By Neelesh Misra.

JOLO, Philippines Leaders of a Philippine Muslim rebel group holding 21 hostages refuse to release two ailing European captives and reject the government's negotiating team. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos BAS101-103.

MANILA, Philippines Investigators want to question a 23-year-old student who acknowledged he may have accidentally thrown the world's e-mail systems into chaos by releasing a powerful virus. But it's unclear whether any serious criminal charges can be made because of the scarcity of Philippine cyber laws. PHILIPPINES-COMPUTER LOVE BUG. Recap has moved. New lead expected by 0800 GMT. By Dirk Beveridge. AP Photos MLA101.

GENEVA Representatives of Indonesia's government and Acehese rebels plan to meet for peace talks and are expected to sign an agreement to start their first formal cease-fire in 25 years of fighting. ACEH PEACE TALKS. Expected by 0900 GMT. By Geir Moulson.

ALSO:

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia Across Aceh province, students kneel on the floors of their classrooms Friday to pray for peace, as Aceh separatists and Indonesian officials prepare to meet in Geneva. ACEH-PEACE TALKS-INDONESIA. Has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photo JAK103.

SEOUL, South Korea North and South Korean officials will begin talks this weekend to decide communications and other working details for a summit of their leaders in June, South Korea says. The first such talks are scheduled for Saturday at the border village of Panmunjom. KOREAS-SUMMIT. Has moved.

WASHINGTON Army investigators, struggling to piece together a coherent version from inconsistent accounts, are extending a probe of civilian killings by U.S. soldiers during the Korean War, American officials say. US-NO GUN RI. Has moved. By Robert Burns.

VATICAN CITY Pope John Paul II, frail and turning 80 next week, travels Friday to Portugal's Fatima shrine to beatify two shepherds who as children said they witnessed apparitions of the Virgin Mary. VATICAN-FATIMA TRIP. Has moved. By Victor L. Simpson. ROM125, FAT101-105.

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico A firestorm sweeps through the abandoned streets of the town that is home to the storied Los Alamos nuclear laboratory, burning as many as 400 homes while frustrated firefighters brace for wind gusts. US-FIRES. Recap has moved. With AP Photos; AP Graphic NEW MEXICO FIRES.

AP News Digest

ATLANTA Three federal appeals judges listen skeptically to both sides in the Elian Gonzalez case, questioning whether a 6-year-old boy can comprehend an asylum application and whether it's in his best interest to be raised in a communist country. US-CUBAN BOY-COURT. Recap has moved. By Russ Bynum. AX101, 108-114.

LONDON Children should be discouraged from using cellular telephones for nonessential calls, a government advisory panel said, recommending that cell phones carry labels disclosing the amount of radiation they generate. BRITAIN-CELLULAR PHONE SAFETY. Has moved. By Emma Ross. LON128.

MEXICO CITY Crime is a constant reality in Mexico's industrial cities, but when Sony's top official here suggested the company could pull out because of lawlessness, the rest of the border assembly industry gave a collective shrug. MEXICO-MAQUILADORA CRIME. Expected by 0800 GMT. By Mark Stevenson. AP Photos NY198

NEW YORK Mayor Rudolph Giuliani fights off speculation that he is about to get out of the U.S. Senate race because of his prostate cancer, his crumbling marriage and reports of his alleged affairs. US-GIULIANI-FUTURE. Lead has moved. By Beth J. Harpaz. AP Photos NYR120-121

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Israeli and Palestinian peace talks resume in undisclosed location; Ethiopians vote in only the second general election in their country's long and turbulent history.

FEATURES:

HONG KONG For more than a century, one family has been in control of the Jardines Group, a Hong Kong blue chip that traces its roots to two Scottish opium runners but has evolved into a modern conglomerate with computer superstores, 7-Elevens and Pizza Huts. But this relic of British colonial domination of Hong Kong could see its very foundations shaken if shareholders meeting on June 1 approve proposals aimed to break the Keswick family's 125-year control. FEA-HONG KONG-THREATENED EMPIRE. Has moved. By Priscilla Cheung.

TODOS SANTOS, Guatemala Japanese tourists who had come to visit a colorful village market found themselves plunged into a cauldron of hysteria about Satan worshippers fed by decades of civil-war violence and centuries of ethnic exploitation. One tourist and a bus driver died in the explosion of rage. Nobody knows how the rumors started, but they grew rapidly. FEA-GUATEMALA-SATANIC LYNCHING. Has moved. By Will Weissert.

LOS ANGELES Remaking Spacey: Actor's search for nuanced roles finds success. ARTS-US-KEVIN SPACEY. Has moved. By David Germain. AP Photo NY338

With ARTS-SPACEY-DEVITO.

LONDON Royal Shakespeare Company offers up regal touring fare. ARTS-BRITAIN-SHAKESPEARE. Has moved. By Matt Wolf. AP Photo LON101.

WICHITA, Kansas A fairy tale set in Kansas and celebrated worldwide turns 100. ARTS-US-100 YEARS OF OZ. Has moved. By Roxana Hegeman. AP Photos NY344-348, KSLAW359.

Also Moved:

ARTS-US-Hollywood Memories. AP Photo NY332

ARTS-US-The Conducting Jarvis. AP Photos NY349-351

ARTS-US-Culpable Germans. AP Photos NY336-337

ARTS-US-Sherman Alexie. AP Photos NY325-326

ARTS-US-Peach Pit Sculptor. AP Photos NY306-307

ARTS-US-Kurt Elling. AP Photo NY343

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ARTS-Hollywood Makeup. AP Photo NY342

ARTS-US-Black Television.

ARTS-Hollywood Celebs Show. AP Photos NY339-NY340

ARTS-US-Johnny Rivers. AP Photo NY324

ARTS-Entertainment Flashbacks.

ARTS-Celebrity Birthdays.

ARTS-Audio Reviews.

ARTS-US Top Ten.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Malene Arce and Paisley Dodds. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Fighting breaks out on Ethiopian-Eritrean border.

TURKEY-QUAKE. Moderate quake causes injuries and damage in southern Turkey.

INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Protests rock Jakarta on the second anniversary of student killings.

ZIMBABWE-VIOLENCE. White farmer and attacker are wounded in shoot-out.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Sierra Leone army soldiers and a pro-government militia drive back rebel forces outside the capital, an army spokesman says. The fighting comes as U.N. troops and pro-government forces gear up for a feared rebel drive on the nervous capital. SIERRA LEONE. Recap has moved. By Alexandra Zavis. AP Photos XBL101-103; LON105-111.

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ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Two days after a high-level United Nations delegation abandon attempts to get Ethiopia and Eritrea to make peace, both countries say heavy fighting has broken out at three contested places on their common border. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Lead has moved. By Abebe Andualem.

GENEVA Representatives of Indonesia's government and Acehese rebels are meeting for a round of peace talks before signing an expected agreement to start their first formal cease-fire in 25 years of fighting. ACEH PEACE TALKS. Lead has moved. By Geir Moulson.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia Across Aceh province, students kneel on the floors of their classrooms to pray for peace, as Aceh separatists and Indonesian officials meet in Geneva. ACEH-PEACE TALKS-INDONESIA. Lead has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photo JAK103.

JOLO, Philippines Leaders of a Philippine Muslim rebel group holding 21 hostages refuse to release two ailing European captives and reject the government's negotiating team. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos BAS101-103.

MANILA, Philippines By saying he may have accidentally released the notorious "Love Bug" computer virus that crippled e-mail systems worldwide, a young Filipino student seems to have admitted he did it while trying to avoid responsibility, a top investigator says. PHILIPPINES-COMPUTER LOVE BUG. Lead has moved. By Dirk Beveridge. AP Photos MLA101.

NAZRAN, Russia Russian forces brace for possible rebel attacks as federal forces comb forests for Chechen fighters who killed 18 Russian servicemen in an ambush, officials say. The rebels have inflicted a string of ambushes on Russian forces in recent months, killing scores of soldiers. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Has moved. By Yuri Bagrov.

ANKARA, Turkey A moderate earthquake hits southern Turkey, jolting a town and sending residents into the streets or jumping from balconies in panic. At least 12 people are injured. TURKEY-QUAKE. Lead has moved.

HARARE, Zimbabwe A white farmer and an attacker are shot and wounded in a gunbattle on the farmer's land southwest of Harare, farmer's representatives say. It comes just days after another farmer was bludgeoned to death by attackers linked to the ruling party militants who have occupied more than 1,000 white-owned farms across Zimbabwe. ZIMBABWE-VIOLENCE. By Angus Shaw. Has moved.

JAKARTA, Indonesia About 2,000 students march through central Jakarta in a noisy protest demanding that former President Suharto be put on trial for corruption during his 32 years in power. The march is held on the second anniversary of a police attack that killed four people during a pivotal moment of the student-led, pro-democracy movement that drove Suharto out of power. INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Lead has moved. By Jamie Tarabay. AP Photos JAK110-113.

FATIMA, Portugal Portuguese officials say they are launching their biggest security operation ever as Pope John Paul II prepares to arrive here to beatify two women who as shepherd children say the Virgin Mary appeared to them at Fatima. PORTUGAL-PAPAL VISIT. Expected by 1300 GMT. By Barry Hatton.

SEOUL, South Korea North and South Korean officials will begin talks this weekend to decide communications and other working details for a summit of their leaders in June, South Korea says. The first such talks are scheduled for Saturday at the border village of Panmunjom. KOREAS-SUMMIT. Has moved.

ALSO:

TOKYO Top U.S., Japanese and South Korean officials say that upcoming bilateral talks with North Korea offer an "unprecedented" chance to strengthen stability in Northeast Asia. The discussions in Tokyo are aimed at coordinating policy towards North Korea. JAPAN-SUMMIT. Has moved. By Scott Stoddard.

WASHINGTON Army investigators, struggling to piece together a coherent version from inconsistent accounts, are extending a probe of civilian killings by U.S. soldiers during the Korean War, American officials say. US-NO GUN RI. Has moved. By Robert Burns.

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ATLANTA Three federal appeals judges listen skeptically to both sides in the Elian Gonzalez case, questioning whether a 6-year-old boy can comprehend an asylum application and whether it's in his best interest to be raised in a communist country. US-CUBAN BOY-COURT. Recap has moved. By Russ Bynum. AX101, 108-114.

LONDON In a deal that would form the world's largest advertising company, Britain's WPP Group PLC announce that it is buying U.S. heavyweight Young and Rubicam Inc. for dlrs 4.7 billion in stock. The two advertising powerhouses already share a number of major customers. BRITAIN-US-ADVERTISING BUYOUT. Has moved.

NEW YORK Mayor Rudolph Giuliani fights off speculation that he is about to get out of the U.S. Senate race because of his prostate cancer, his crumbling marriage and reports of his alleged affairs. US-GIULIANI-FUTURE. Lead has moved. By Beth J. Harpaz. AP Photos NYR120-121

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FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-HONG KONG-THREATENED EMPIRE. Management of an old Hong Kong trading house is threatened by U.S. investor. By Priscilla Cheung.

FEA-GUATEMALA-SATANIC LYNCHING. Guatemala village hysteria led to death for Japanese tourist and bus driver. By Will Weissert.

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Sierra Leone soldiers and pro-government militia drove rebel forces farther from the capital, an army spokesman said, as the government moved to head off a feared guerrilla offensive on Freetown. The fighting Thursday near the town of Newton, 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Freetown, came as U.N. peacekeeping troops and pro-government forces geared up for a possible Revolutionary United Front, or RUF, advance on the nervous capital, where thousands of frightened villagers have sought sanctuary in recent days. The battle near Newton pitted the recently rearmed Sierra Leone Army and the pro-government Kamajors a militia made up of traditional hunters against RUF rebels, said army spokesman Prince Nicol. In Washington, U.S. President Bill Clinton on Thursday dispatched the Rev. Jesse Jackson as a special envoy to the region in an effort to halt "a return to all-out war." (SIERRA LEONE)

NEW DELHI, India (AP)

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels warned civilians Friday to flee the northern city of Jaffna as the fighters were prepared to recapture their former capital at any moment from retreating government troops. "Our cadres are advancing toward Jaffna city and at times there will be heavy firing and cross-firing," the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said in a radio broadcast heard by northern Sri Lanka residents who were reached by telephone. "Please go to places of safety, as we can move into the city any moment." Sustained Sri Lankan air force bombing on the rebels' backup units is seen as delaying the Tamil Tigers' final march into the city of 500,000 that they lost to the government five years ago. The government acknowledged that under heavy rebel mortar fire, "troops had to readjust their defenses temporarily," and move back from Ariyalai, 5 kilometers (3 miles) southeast of Jaffna. (SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR)

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

Two days after a high-level United Nations delegation abandoned attempts to get Ethiopia and Eritrea to make peace, both countries said Friday that heavy fighting had broken out at three contested places on their common border. A resumption in the two-year war over the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) border had been rumored for days in both Addis Ababa and Asmara, Eritrea, even as Richard Holbrooke, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and

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six other Security Council representatives, urged the leaders of the two nations not to return to a "senseless" war. (HORN OF AFRICA-WAR)

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)

In schools and mosques across Aceh province, children and adults fell to their knees to pray on Friday that rebels and soldiers will soon begin a cease-fire in the region. "Let peace come soon. Let the fighting end. Let God punish those who violate the cease-fire," students chanted at No. 39, one of the many crowded and poor public schools in Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh. In Jakarta, President Abdurrahman Wahid also said he hoped that Indonesian and rebel negotiations meeting in Geneva would agree to start the first formal cease-fire in 25 years in Aceh, where 5,000 people have been killed in the last decade, including 345 this year. But he also said once again that he will not accept the rebels' demand for independence. Earlier this week, several of Aceh's separatist groups stopped fighting to support the cease-fire talks, but they also said they will never drop their demand for independence. (ACEH PEACE TALKS)

JOLO, Philippines (AP)

A Philippine Muslim rebel group holding 21 hostages has decided to refuse to release two ailing European captives, a guerrilla leader said Friday. The hostages, including 10 foreign tourists, have been moved by the Abu Sayyaf rebels to a new "safe place" much further in the mountains of remote Jolo island, said the leader, Abu Escobar. Escobar told The Associated Press that Abu Sayyaf leaders met Thursday to discuss a request from negotiators for the release of Renate Wallert, a German woman who has suffered two strokes according to her family, and Stephane Loisy, a French man with a urinary tract infection. They ruled out any immediate release and said they were prepared to hold the hostages "for a long time." (PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1315 GMT:

SOCCER:

COPENHAGEN, Denmark Police will not tolerate any trouble during next week's UEFA Cup final between England's Arsenal and Turkey's Galatasaray in Copenhagen and any foreigner violating the law faces immediate expulsion from the country, authorities say Friday.

Slug Sports-Soccer-UEFA Cup Final. Has moved.

By Jan M. Olsen.

ROME When Andriy Shevchenko arrived at AC Milan last summer, with his choirboy haircut and dlr\$ 22 million price-tag, it looked like the fabled Serie A league might eat him for lunch. But after a tentative start, it's the 23-year-old Ukrainian striker who has sunk his teeth into the gourmet-caliber Italian league. Shevchenko now stands on the verge of the Serie A scoring crown in his inaugural season.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italy-Shevchenko-Top Scorer. Has moved.

By Jeff Israely.

ALSO:

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Security. Has moved.

BRUSSELS, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Belgium-Hooligans. Has moved.

CYCLING:

ROME He's in. He's out. He's back in again. Eight days after flatly denying reports that he would race in the Giro d'Italia, Marco Pantani said Friday he will enter the prestigious cycling event.

AP News Digest

Slug Sports-Cycling-Giro d'Italia-Pantani. Has moved.

By Jeff Israely.

ROME The last-minute decision by Marco Pantani to start in the Giro D'Italia adds a much-needed protagonist to the list of entries in the Italian cycling marathon, awarding the first pink jersey in Saturday's time trial ending in front of St. Peter's Square.

Slug Sports-Cycling-Giro Preview. Expected by 1500 GMT.

ICE HOCKEY:

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia Reigning Olympic and world champion Czech Republic faces Canada in the semifinals of the world hockey championships while two-time reigning silver medalists Finland face tough Slovakia.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Worlds. Slovakia-Finland faced-off at 1230 GMT; Canada-Czech Republic scheduled for 1630 GMT start.

By Erica Bulman

TENNIS:

ROME No. 3 seed Gustavo Kuerten continues his defense of his 1999 Italian Open crown in Friday's quarterfinal round. The Brazilian is the top seed remaining, along with No. 4 Magnus Norman of Sweden.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Italian Open. Early lead expected by 1500 GMT.

BERLIN Top-ranked Martina Hingis, seeking her second straight clay-court title, plays Sandrine Testud in the quarterfinals of the German Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-German Open. Expected by 1800 GMT.

RUGBY UNION:

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand Andrew Walker and Mitch Hardy score a try apiece Friday as the ACT Brumbies edge Canterbury 17-12 at Christchurch to clinch No. 1 spot on the Super 12 standings at the end of the regular season.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Canterbury-ACT. Has moved.

PRETORIA, South Africa Wellington needs a victory against the last-placed Northern Bulls on Friday to have any chance of earning a semifinal berth in the Rugby Super 12.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Bulls-Wellington. Match scheduled for 1715 GMT kickoff.

WITH:

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-RugbyU-New South Wales-Otago. Has moved.

AUTO RACING:

MOTEGI, Japan Reigning CART FedEx Series champion Juan Montoya outduels Sweden's Kenny Brack and former series champion Jimmy Vasser on Friday to earn his second Indy-car pole of the season in the Firestone Firehawk 500.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-CART-Japan GP. Has moved.

By K.P. Hong.

AP News Digest

ALSO:

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina Sports-Auto Racing-Argentina Rally. Expected by 2400 GMT.

GOLF:

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England Phillip Price takes a one-shot lead into the second round of the Benson and Hedges International Open with seven players within two strokes of the leader.

Slug Sports-Golf-Benson and Hedges. Early lead expected by 1400 GMT.

ALSO:

YOKOSHIMA, Japan Sports-Golf-Japan PGA Championship. Expected by 1400 GMT.

IRVING, Texas Sports-Golf-Nelson Classic. By Doug Ferguson. Expected by 2400 GMT.

FRANKLIN, Tennessee Sports-Golf-LPGA-Electrolux. By Teresa M. Walker. Expected by 2400 GMT.

ALSO:

TOKYO Sports-Sumo Roundup. Has moved.

TOKYO Sports-Baseball-Japan Roundup. Expected by 1400 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

OLYMPICS:

LONDON IOC vice president Kevan Gosper apologizes Friday for a "lapse in judgment" in allowing his 11-year-old daughter to be the first Australian to run with the Olympic torch in Greece. He offers to give up his own relay leg in Australia in favor of the girl his daughter replaced.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Gosper-Torch Flap. Has moved.

By Stephen Wilson.

SYDNEY, Australia The issue of full-length bodysuits is expected to make as many waves at the Australian Olympic trials starting Saturday as the swimmers striving for limited places at the Sydney 2000 Games.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Swimming-Australian Trials. Expected by 1130 gmt.

ALSO:

ATHENS, Greece Sports-Olympics-Athens 2004. By Lisa Orkin. Has moved.

SOCCER:

BRUSSELS, Belgium A night of riots and stabbings surrounding the final round of the Belgian league championship is being touted as a warning to Euro 2000 organizers about looming security threats for next month's European Championship.

AP News Digest

Slug Sports-Soccer-Belgium-Hooligans. Has moved.

By Raf Casert.

ALSO:

LONDON Sports-Soccer-England Penalties. Has moved.

FRANKFURT, Germany Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Germany. Has moved.

AUTO RACING:

MOTEGI, Japan Reigning CART FedEx Series champion Juan Montoya is on pole with Kenny Brack beside him for the start of the Firestone Firehawk 500 Saturday at Twin Ring Motegi's oval speedway.

Sports-Auto Racing-CART-Japan GP. Expected around 1000 GMT.

By K.P. Hong.

LOUDON, New Hampshire NASCAR's most famous driving family has lost its youngest star. Adam Petty, stock car racing's first fourth-generation driver, has died after a crash during practice, five weeks after the family buried patriarch Lee Petty, his great grandfather.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-Petty Crash. Has moved.

By Rebecca Mahoney.

ATHLETICS:

OSAKA, Japan The IAAF Grand Prix season opens in Japan on Saturday, the first major event on the road to the Sydney Olympics.

Slug Sports-Track-Osaka Meet. Expected by 1200 GMT.

GOLF:

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England Pdraig Harrington of Ireland says he feels uncomfortable putting, but holes two big ones on his second nine for a one-shot lead after two rounds of the Benson and Hedges International Open.

Slug Sports-Golf-Benson and Hedges. Has moved.

By Brian Creighton.

ALSO:

YOKOSHIMA, Japan Sports-Golf-Japan PGA Championship. Expected about 1300 GMT.

IRVING, Texas Sports-Golf-Nelson Classic. By Doug Ferguson. Has moved.

FRANKLIN, Tennessee Sports-Golf-LPGA-Electrolux. Expected by 0200 GMT.

RUGBY UNION:

BRISBANE, Australia Auckland needs a victory to secure its place in the Rugby Super 12 semifinals on Saturday, facing off against two-time champion Queensland.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Queensland-Auckland. Kickoff scheduled for 0935 GMT.

AP News Digest

PRETORIA, South Africa Hannes Venter scores a try 15 minutes into injury time to finally snuff out the Hurricanes' challenge and allow the Bulls to win their first Super 12 match 47-33 at Loftus Versfeld stadium.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Bulls-Wellington. Has moved.

TENNIS:

BERLIN For the second day in a row, top-ranked Martina Hingis struggles at the German Open. And for the second day in a row, she squeezes through.

Sports-Tennis-German Open. Has moved.

ROME Australian teen-ager Lleyton Hewitt fires a match-point ace Friday to put away clay-court specialist Mariano Puerta in Hewitt's first European clay appearance, moving into the semifinals of the Italian Open.

Sports-Tennis-Italian Open. Has moved.

By Ellen Knickmeyer.

CYCLING:

ROME Shrugging off mental strain from doping allegations and doubts about his questionable form, Marco Pantani will start in the Giro d'Italia, adding a much-needed star to Italy's most prestigious cycling race.

Slug Sports-Cycling-Giro Preview. Has moved.

ICE HOCKEY:

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia Reigning world champion Czech Republic posts a 2-1 semifinal win over Canada on Friday while Slovakia upsets Finland 3-1, bringing together both halves of the former-Czechoslovakia for a historic final at the World Hockey Championships.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Worlds. Has moved.

By Erica Bulman.

CRICKET:

CHELMSFORD, England Zimbabwe loses more practice time to rain on Friday in its match with English county side Essex as it prepares for next week's first test against England in the midst of a run-scoring drought.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe. Has moved.

BASKETBALL:

UNDATED The Los Angeles Lakers, escaping with a win in Game 2, attempt to take a commanding 3-0 lead over the Suns when the second-round series shifts to Phoenix.

Slug Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0600 GMT.

ALSO:

LE MANS, France Sports-Motorcycle Racing-French GP. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Expected by 0200 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Expected by 0200 GMT.

AP News Digest

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

Load-Date: May 12, 2000

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Associated Press International

May 5, 2002 Sunday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1641 words

Body

WORLD at 0100 GMT:

New: MIDEAST-BETHLEHEM. Israel, Palestinians agree on deal to end siege of Bethlehem church.

Update: FRANCE-ELECTION. French voters say 'no' to far right: Chirac re-elected in landslide victory over Le Pen.

New: COLOMBIA-FIGHTING. Death toll rises to 108 in remote village battle.

New: MYANMAR-SUU KYI. Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi to be freed Monday, says ambassador.

New: CONGO-MASSACRE CLAIM. Congo ethnic group alleges massacre; U.N. says area too dangerous for investigators.

New: VENEZUELA-CHAVEZ. Venezuela's Chavez announces Cabinet shake-up in wake of coup.

New: AFGHAN-DEADLY MOTHERHOOD. With little health care and cultural stigma, motherhood kills more Afghan women than war.

MIDEAST: Israel, Palestinians agree on deal to end siege of Bethlehem church: officials

BETHLEHEM, West Bank - Israel and the Palestinians have agreed on a deal to end the monthlong standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Palestinian officials said early Monday. A top Israeli official said there was progress in the talks but denied that a deal had been struck. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved; developing. By Ibrahim Hazboun. AP Photos XGB101, XDG103, JRL104,110, ABL105.

- ISRAEL-NEW TACTICS. JERUSALEM - With Israel's military out of most West Bank towns, its offensive against Palestinian militants has entered a new phase: soldiers surround the towns and briefly enter them at will, arresting wanted men, trying to foil potential attacks and then quickly departing. Has moved. By Ravi Nessman. AP Photos JRL113-114.

- ISRAEL-ARAFAT. JERUSALEM - Israel presents documents it says proves Yasser Arafat was personally involved in terrorism. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is taking them with him to Washington to show U.S. President George W. Bush. Has moved. By Yoav Appel.

- US-MIDEAST. WASHINGTON - The United States is committed to a Palestinian state with Yasser Arafat as its likely leader, President George W. Bush's foreign policy advisers said, heading off opposition expected from Israel's prime minister at his White House meeting this week. Has moved. By Ron Kampeas.

FRANCE-ELECTION: Chirac re-elected in landslide victory over Le Pen

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PARIS - In a resounding rebuke to the extreme right, French voters returned President Jacques Chirac to power in a landslide victory over Jean-Marie Le Pen, ending a dramatic presidential race that brought citizens into the streets and shook France to its foundations. FRANCE-ELECTION. Has moved. By Jocelyn Noveck. AP Photos XJD110112; MAR104; PRV103; PAR117; STC101, 108; SRN101; XLR104. AP Graphics FRANCE RESULTS and FRANCE ISSUES.

-FRANCE-ELECTION-REACTION. BERLIN - Europeans expressed relief at French President Jacques Chirac's overwhelming victory in the presidential election, but said extreme-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen's showing nonetheless indicates worrisome support for his isolationist and anti-immigrant policies. Has moved. By Colleen Barry.

-FRANCE REACTS-ELECTION. PARIS - Several thousand people danced in the streets of Paris and jumped for joy after hearing of President Jacques Chirac's landslide re-election. Has moved. By Jocelyn Gecker. AP Photos.

-FRANCE-CHIRAC-PROFILE. PARIS - One challenger called President Jacques Chirac tired and old. Many French voters doubted the integrity of a leader tangled up in various corruption allegations. But in the end, the debonair president with a touch for the common citizen came through with a landslide re-election victory. Has moved. By Pamela Sampson. AP Photos available.

-FRANCE-ELECTION-WHAT NEXT? PARIS - For the last few weeks, it seemed that Jacques Chirac could do no wrong. Then came his landslide victory, by the highest margin in the history of France's Fifth Republic, and the celebrations. Now, the president has to prove himself. Has moved. By Angela Doland.

ALSO: France-Chirac Profile; France-Le Pen Profile; France-Le Pen Quotes; France-Election-Issues.

QUIBDO, Colombia - The death toll in an isolated village where rebels and paramilitaries are fighting for control rose to 108 while authorities continued to debate how to rescue the survivors. COLOMBIA-FIGHTING. Has moved. By Margarita Martinez. AP Photo XRM101,104-105.

BANGKOK, Thailand - Myanmar's military junta will release opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest on Monday, Myanmar's ambassador in Washington and a military government spokesman said. MYANMAR-SUU KYI. Has moved; developing. AP Photos TOK101-102.

PESHAWAR, Pakistan - Biding their time under their elusive leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban are regrouping in mountain hide-outs, waiting for the present Afghan government to falter, a Taliban intelligence official in hiding said. AFGHAN-TALIBAN REGROUPING. Has moved. By Kathy Gannon.

AHMADABAD, India - Hindu rioters explode a bomb and burn Muslims alive, killing four people, including a baby boy, in renewed religious violence in western Gujarat state, where more than 900 people have been killed in the past two months. INDIA-RELIGIOUS STRIFE. Has moved. By Rupak Sanyal.

SATNOL, Bangladesh - Rescuers pull 42 bodies from a river in southern Bangladesh and search for more victims missing since a ferry sank two days ago, officials said. BANGLADESH-FERRY SINKING. Has moved. By Farid Hossain.

AFGHAN: With little health care and cultural stigma, motherhood kills more Afghan women than war

KABUL, Afghanistan - The child sits in a dim and crowded hospital room, staring far into the distance. At first glance it is hard to tell whether the child is a boy or a girl, but the clue lies in the tiny newborn cradled in her arms.

Gulkana says she is about 15, but looks more like 12. Although she nearly died during delivery, she and her baby constitute a rare success story in Afghanistan, where a quarter of all children fail to reach the age of 5 and where one woman in seven dies giving birth. AFGHAN-DEADLY MOTHERHOOD. Has moved. By Niko Price. AP Photos XMS106-110.

CONGO: Ethnic group alleges massacre; U.N. says area too dangerous for investigators

No Headline In Original

KISANGANI, Congo - A senior U.N. official said he was taking an ethnic group's claim of a new massacre in east Congo "very seriously," but called the area too dangerous to investigate. Some reports said several hundred people may have been killed. CONGO-MASSACRE CLAIM. Has moved. By Arnaud Zajtman.

KANO, Nigeria - Boy Scouts in bright green uniforms pulled scorched bodies and body parts from the charred wreckage of a passenger jet that plowed through homes, mosques and a school. The Red Cross reported 145 dead, with the army saying that included the country's sports minister. NIGERIA-PLANE CRASH. Has moved. BY Glenn McKenzie. AP Photos XSA101,102. AP Graphic NIGERIA CRASH.

MALI: After decade of promising start, some young African democracies sliding back to old ways

BAMAKO, Mali - Just a year ago, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was lauding Mali's 10-year-old democracy as "a model for the rest of the world to see and focus on."

Amid a chaotic and disputed presidential vote count this month, however, many were left fearing that Mali - West Africa's model - had become only the latest promising young African democracy to slide back into old, corrupt ways. AFRICA-BACKSLIDING DEMOCRACY. Has moved. By Ellen Knickmeyer. AP Photo NY194.

CARACAS, Venezuela - President Hugo Chavez replaced four members of his Cabinet, ceding to a major opposition demand in a dizzying shake-up aimed at restoring stability after a failed coup. VENEZUELA-CHAVEZ. Has moved. By Alexandra Olson. AP Photo NY198.

LA PAZ, Bolivia - Former President Hugo Banzer, a dictator turned democratically elected leader, dies of a heart attack early in Santa Cruz, according to his doctor. BOLIVIA-OBIT-BANZER. Has moved. By Vanessa Arrington. AP Photos NY107-108.

HAVANA - Vladimiro Roca, Cuba's best known political prisoner, is freed just two months short of completing his five-year sentence. CUBA-PRISONER FREED. Has moved. By Vivian Sequera. AP Photos HAV101-105.

JENIN: Hills of rubble and tales of loss - but no evidence of massacre

JENIN REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank - Nearly a month after the ferocious battle in this camp, Palestinian residents still conduct daily digs, rummaging through mounds of shattered concrete to salvage pieces of their former lives - a dented cooking pot here, a tattered coat there. MIDEAST-UNDER THE RUBBLE. Has moved. By Greg Myre. AP Photos JRL106-108.

IRAQ: Powell says weapons inspections in Iraq separate from U.S. goal of overthrowing Saddam Hussein

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration wants new leadership in Iraq even if Saddam Hussein allows U.N. inspectors to resume their search for weapons of mass destruction, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says. US-IRAQ. Has moved.

SINDELFINGEN, Germany - The overnight shift at a major DaimlerChrysler plant launched the first strike by Germany's largest industrial union in seven years, one that could slow the recovery of Europe's biggest economy. GERMANY-STRIKE. Has moved; rally planned at Porsche at 0400 GMT. By David McHugh.

ACCOUNTING WOES: Jurors to be selected in Arthur Andersen obstruction trial

HOUSTON - Arthur Andersen LLP's federal trial for obstruction of justice could be the knockout punch in the company's struggle to survive client losses, fleeing partners and severe damage to its reputation. US-ANDERSEN TRIAL. Has moved. By Kristen Hays.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, Sri Lanka's Parliament meets and may lift a ban on the Tamil Tigers.

Also in Sohag, Egypt, a verdict is expected for 96 defendants tried on charges arising from Muslim-Christian clashes in southern Egypt that killed 21.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Ranjan Roy and Peter Spielmann. Story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org

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Load-Date: May 6, 2002

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Associated Press International

August 9, 2002 Friday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1752 words

Body

WORLD at 0100 GMT:

New: INDONESIA-ISLAMIC LAW. Attempts to impose sharia Islamic law in Indonesia gain steam.

New: US-ATTACKS-POLICING THE SEAS. U.S. plans new tactics, seeks new authority to chase down terrorists, weapons at sea.

Update: EUROPE-FLOODING. Torrential rains soak Europe, sparking floods that kill 41.

New: NIGERIA-BAKASSI BOYS. Bakassi Boys battle bandits with guns, machetes and Bibles - but to many, they are just ruthless killers.

New: NEW ZEALAND-REVERED REAL ESTATE. New York financier gets permission to buy Maori site despite protests in New Zealand.

New: CHINA-CHASING BEAUTY. Hair and beauty festival showcases products - and China's pursuit of beauty.

New: RUSSIA-SPORTS CRIME. Worlds of sport, crime often overlap in former Soviet Union.

AFGHAN BLAST: Blast reportedly kills 25 in eastern Afghan city; said to be car bomb

KABUL, Afghanistan - A powerful explosion rips through an Afghan construction firm in the eastern city of Jalalabad, killing 25 people and injuring 80 others, government television reports. AFGHAN-EXPLOSION. Has moved. By Amir Shah. AP Photos LON101, 103-106.

PAKISTAN: Explosion at Christian hospital kills three nurses, one attacker

TAXILA, Pakistan - Three attackers hurl grenades at women leaving a church on the grounds of a Presbyterian hospital, killing three nurses and wounding about 25 people in the second attack this week against Christian or Western targets. PAKISTAN-HOSPITAL ATTACK. Has moved. By Munir Ahmad. AP Photos ISL101,102,106, KAR102.

BRITAIN-TERRORISM: Londoner cleared of terrorist charges for running "Jihad" Internet site

LONDON - The first Muslim to be tried in Britain under terrorism laws since the Sept. 11 attacks is found innocent of inviting people to take weapons training in the United States to become terrorists. BRITAIN-TERRORISM. Has moved. By Ed Johnson. AP Photos LON109-110.

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Women in miniskirts gyrate in all-night discotheques, where designer drugs circulate as freely as alcohol. Friday, the Islamic sabbath, is a regular work day. Pork is widely available in restaurants and

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supermarkets. These and other violations of Islamic law - or sharia - are the norm in Indonesia, the world's largest Islamic country, where secularism has long held sway in national legislation.

On Saturday, however, Indonesian lawmakers are expected vote on whether to amend the constitution to impose sharia law on all Muslims. INDONESIA-ISLAMIC LAW. Has moved. By Steven Gutkin. AP Photos JAK107-108.

SRI LANKA: President: Tamil rebels setting up their own administration

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Behind the back of Sri Lanka's government, Tamil Tiger guerrillas are using an ongoing cease-fire to set up their own courts, banks and prisons, and also to smuggle arms and forcibly recruit children, the nation's president alleges. SRI LANKA-TAMIL TIGERS. Has moved. By Dilip Ganguly.

NEW ZEALAND: New York financier gets permission to buy Maori site despite protests in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand - A wind-blown corner of New Zealand's wild east coast is revered by the indigenous Maori people as the place their ancestors first came ashore. But the government ignored protests and approved its sale to a wealthy New York financier who immediately announced he would donate some sections of the grassy headland to the government in an attempt to ease tribal sensitivities NEW ZEALAND-REVERED REAL ESTATE. Has moved. By Ray Lilley. AP Photo SYD104.

CHINA: Hair and beauty festival showcases products - and China's pursuit of beauty

BEIJING - Thousands of Chinese woman streamed into Beijing's exhibition center for the China International Hair and Beauty Festival, an over-the-top splash of goods from makeup and hair potions to steam spas. The four-day event offers a sharply focused snapshot of China's women - and the pressures and products offered by a fast-changing world.-CHINA-CHASING BEAUTY. Has moved. By Audra Ang. AP Photos BEJ107-108,110,112.

CHILD PORN: 20 Americans, Europeans arrested in crackdown against international Internet pornography ring

WASHINGTON - A group of parents sexually molested and photographed their own children and swapped pictures over the Internet, forming what one man called "the club," said U.S. Customs Service officials who announced charges against 10 Americans and 10 Europeans. US-CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. Has moved. By Connie Cass. AP Photos WCAP101-102, IDSIP101.

WINNING JOBS: As Argentina undergoes record unemployment, game show contestants compete for jobs

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - Facing record unemployment in his country, Fabian Godoy found a job in his profession as a home nurse - not through the classified ads or networking but through a television game show. ARGENTINA-GAME SHOW JOBS. Has moved. By Bill Cormier. AP Photos BAI101-103.

ZIMBABWE: No evictions reported as deadline for white farmers to leave land passes

HARARE, Zimbabwe - White farmers ponder their uncertain future after a deadline for them to get off their land passes. The government has made no immediate moves to forcibly remove the hundreds of farmers who have defied the eviction orders. ZIMBABWE-LAND. Developing. By Angus Shaw.

NIGERIA: Women protest outside Nigerian offices of ChevronTexaco and Shell

LAGOS, Nigeria - Hundreds of women block the gates of ChevronTexaco and Shell offices in separate protests aimed at forcing community development and other concessions from oil multinationals in southern Nigeria, company officials say. NIGERIA-OIL WOMEN. Has moved. By Glenn McKenzie.

NIGERIA: Bakassi Boys battle bandits with guns, machetes and Bibles - but to many, they are just ruthless killers

ONITSHA, Nigeria - The Bakassi Boys, a vigilante group once were celebrated as heroes in Onitsha's once-crime ridden market but increasingly scorned by human rights groups - and privately by some residents and police - who say they are ruthless killers. NIGERIA-BAKASSI BOYS. Has moved. By d'Arcy Doran. AP Photos NGA101-108.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Accused Palestinian bombing planner killed as Palestinians prepare to meet CIA director

JERUSALEM - On the eve of the Palestinian security minister's talks with the CIA director, a Palestinian official says his side is "exerting every possible effort" to achieve peace, but Palestinian-Israeli clashes continue, with Israeli troops killing a Palestinian man and arresting another they accuse of planning attacks. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved. By Jason Keyser. AP Photos NN101,XVG101,JRL104-105.

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IRAQ: Opposition groups will meet with U.S. officials on ways to depose Saddam

WASHINGTON - As the administration intensified contacts with Iraqi opposition leaders, U.S. President George W. Bush said he has no timetable for deciding on a military strike against Iraq and may not decide this year. US-IRAQ. Has moved. By George Gedda. AP Photos XWX102-103.

TERROR FIGHT: U.S. plans new tactics, seeks new authority to chase down terrorists, weapons at sea

WASHINGTON - Moving to widen its hunt for terrorists and cut off their weapons routes at sea, the Bush administration is negotiating agreements with dozens of nations for new powers to police the world's waters, defense officials said. US-ATTACKS-POLICING THE SEAS. Has moved. By Pauline Jelinek.

NORTHERN IRELAND: British forces gird for Protestants' divisive parades

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - More than 1,000 police and soldiers plan a major security operation to prevent sectarian clashes in Northern Ireland's two largest cities on Saturday, where Protestant hard-liners are staging weekend parades past hostile Catholics. NORTHERN IRELAND. Has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

FLOODS: Death toll rises in Russian floods, threat of more rain hangs over much of Europe

GELENDZHIK, Russia - Torrential floods that have devastated southern Russia and other parts of Europe claimed new victims as the death toll mounted to 41, most of them along Russia's Black Sea Coast. EUROPE-FLOODING. Has moved. By Alexander Merkushev. AP Photos VIE107,124; CTK103.

KORYAZHMA, Russia - These days, the management at Kotlas paper mill are a bit jumpy: they've barricaded roads, blocked the plant's front entrance and posted black-jacketed guards to keep a wary eye on visitors. This is a corporate battle Russian-style, another example of a vicious ownership war. RUSSIA-MILL DISPUTE. Has moved. By Mara Bellaby. AP Photos MOSB108-111.

KURDS: Turkish Kurds prepare to teach Kurdish, but pessimism dominates about key EU-reform

ISTANBUL, Turkey - Nazif Ulgen has applied for permission for his five language institutes to teach Kurdish days after parliament legalized Kurdish courses as part Turkey's bid to join the European Union. If his petition is approved, his institutes will become the first to legally teach the language in Turkey's history. TURKEY-TEACHING KURDISH. Has moved. By James C. Helicke. AP Photos IST101-102.

RUSSIA: Worlds of sport, crime often overlap in former Soviet Union

MOSCOW - The turbulent recent history of the former Soviet Union is packed with events that suggest - in some cases as fleetingly as a photograph, in others as powerfully as a fatal gunshot - connections between organized crime and sports. RUSSIA-SPORTS CRIME. Has moved. By Steve Gutterman. AP Photo NY190.

WALL STREET: Stock indexes all end higher for week for first time in three months

NEW YORK - Investors, feeling more confident after the market's huge three-day rally, refrain from making major moves, allowing the three major stock indexes to all end the week higher for the first time in three months. The Dow industrials score 700 points in their first four-day winning streak in nearly seven months. US-CLOSING STOCKS. Has moved. By Amy Baldwin.

WORLD.COM: WorldCom's latest disclosure could lead to high-level changes

CLINTON, Mississippi - WorldCom Inc.'s latest revelation that its phony accounting topped dlr 7.1 billion could be a precursor to more changes at the highest levels of the bankrupt company, analysts and observers say. US-WORLDCOM. Has moved. By John Porretto.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, international experts begin to gather in Stockholm, Sweden, for World Water Week ahead of the U.N. environmental summit. On Monday, North and South Korean officials begin three-day Cabinet-level reconciliation talks in Seoul, South Korea.

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Load-Date: August 10, 2002

No Headline In Original

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Challenge is to find solutions to economic, social, cultural and political problems - Senegal FM

M2 PRESSWIRE

April 13, 1999

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Length: 6554 words

Dateline: GENEVA

Highlight: Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression Introduces Report

Body

Jacques Baudin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, this morning told the Commission on Human Rights that the challenge of the next century would be to find lasting solutions to the economic, social, cultural and political problems facing the globe. Until now the international community had shown a great lack of courage in implementing economic, social and cultural rights. Much more efforts had to be made to promote these rights as well as development.

The Commission also heard from Abid Hussain, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, who said that human rights advocacy was a powerful political weapon and care had to be taken to see that in advancing its cause, it was not inadvertently allowed to be exploited or manipulated by the powerful in order to advance hidden agendas against the less powerful.

Mr. Hussain noted that while more and more countries had accommodated more freedom of expression, there were still countries where people were placed half way between freedom and suppression of rights.

The Commission continued its discussion on civil and political rights. A number of government representatives spoke on various aspects of these rights, including measures taken to uphold them. Pakistan and the Philippines said that the Commission's objective of promoting fundamental human rights and freedoms for all could be best accomplished if it addressed the factors which continued to impede full and effective realization of the right to development.

Mexico and Norway both expressed their concern that Special Rapporteurs did not have adequate resources to optimize the accomplishment of their mandates. Saudi Arabia took exception to the Special Rapporteurs methods of dealing with communications from States.

Representatives of the following countries addressed the Commission: United States, China, Argentina, Ireland, Senegal, Mexico, Norway, Botswana, Pakistan, Ecuador, Indonesia, Philippines, Poland, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Cyprus, and Nicaragua,

A representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also spoke as did a number of non-governmental organizations including International Educational Development, Asian Cultural Forum on Development, International Union of Socialist Youth, Federation of Associations for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", and the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

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The NGOs raised allegations of violations of civil and political rights in specific countries.

The Commission will continue its debate on civil and political rights at 3 p.m. this afternoon.

Civil and Political Rights

Under this item, the Commission has before it document (E/CN.4/1999/64) which is a report by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Abid Hussain. This report covers the right to seek and receive information, national security laws, criminal libel, new information technologies, and women and freedom of expression in 25 countries.

The Special Rapporteur strongly encourages States to take all necessary steps to ensure the full realization of the right to access to information. Regarding new information technology, they should be considered in the same light as all other methods of communication. All reasonable steps should be taken to promote access to the Internet. The Special Rapporteur expresses great concern at the continuing silencing of women by various devices. All necessary steps to combat this should be taken.

The Commission also has before it document (E/CN.4/1999/64/Add.1) which is an addendum to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Abid Hussain, concerning his mission to Malaysia. The Special Rapporteur concludes that Malaysia has of late made great progress in the economic and social fields. Steps need to be taken to strengthen the protection of human rights, and in particular the rights to freedom of opinion and expression. The Special Rapporteur notes that the Malaysian public would like to see more transparency and accountability in its own media. Freedom of expression would be enhanced if a more liberal view were taken with respect to demonstrations.

The Special Rapporteur encourages the Malaysian Government to consider taking further steps to fully guarantee the protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The Government ought to review cases of persons who are being held for having exercised their right to freedom of opinion and expression with a view to releasing them. The Government needs to take the necessary steps to ensure the independence of the media, and to respect the right of Malaysians to hold peaceful demonstrations and assemblies. The Government is encouraged to align its national law with the provisions of international law relating to freedom of opinion and expression. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government take all necessary steps to sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Also before the Commission is document (E/CN.4/1999/64/Add.2) which is an addendum to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression concerning mission to Hungary. Mr. Hussain concludes that the large-scale transition in Hungary from an authoritarian to a more democratic State has led to profound political, economic and social changes. A wide range of international obligations have been accepted in the field of human rights. Many new laws have been drafted and passed for the creation of a democratic system and a liberalised market environment.

The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government should ensure that future legislation and its implementation are in compliance with international standards, and to consider ways to ensure that these will not affect freedom of expression and media freedom. All necessary measures should be considered to limit the financial pressure on the media.

Statements

ABID HUSSAIN, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, said that while more and more countries had accommodated more freedom of expression, there were still countries where people were placed half way between freedom and suppression of rights. Under his mandate, he had accomplished among other tasks the following: communications had been sent to States on allegations received on violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression; cooperation had been strengthened with other human rights mechanisms, non-governmental organizations and other United Nations agencies and a more

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complementary approach was worked out; and, visits had been continued to countries including Malaysia and Hungary.

The Special Rapporteur said that he had drawn attention to the following issues among others: stressed the importance of the freedom of the press and the role of writers in a democratic State; underscored a balance between freedom and security; underlined that cases of libel and defamation suits had led to a climate of fear in which writers, editors and publishers had become increasingly reluctant to report and publish on matters of public interest; noted that new technologies had remained a challenge, particularly the Internet; and stated that the promotion and protection of women's right to freedom of opinion and expression was an issue which deserved particular attention.

He concluded with a word of caution that since human rights advocacy was a powerful political weapon, care had to be taken to see that in advancing its cause, it was not inadvertently allowed to be exploited or manipulated by the powerful in order to advance hidden agendas against the less powerful.

JACQUES BAUDIN, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, said the challenge of the next century would be to find lasting solutions to the economic, social, cultural and political problems facing the globe. Inequalities seemed to be increasing - in 25 years there would be 8 billion people on earth, more than half of them living below the poverty level. Until now the international community had shown great lack of courage in implementing economic, social and cultural rights. Much more effort had to be made to promote development. Nor was the situation in other fields of human rights encouraging - who would have believed that a few hundred miles from here, in Kosovo, such a catastrophe could be under way; that such a systematic, thorough tragedy could be created in this age to deny Kosovars their basic human rights.

Racism was entirely unacceptable in this day and age, the Foreign Minister said. For that reason Senegal and other countries of Africa were encouraging the Spanish Government to return from its Darder Museum in Banyoles the body of an African warrior chief that was on display there; this body should be returned to Africa for a humane and dignified burial. The Senegalese delegation to the Commission had worked hard to eliminate racial discrimination and would contribute as much as it could to preparations for the upcoming World Conference against Racial Discrimination.

Senegal was making every effort to consolidate the harmony and cohesion of Senegalese society and to promote economic, social and cultural rights, Mr. Baudin said. Senegal had been the first country to ratify the Statute establishing the International Criminal Court; it considered the Court to be vital for combating impunity and ensuring justice and effective respect for fundamental human rights.

FRANK LOY (United States) said that profound and wondrous changes in the architecture of world governance had taken place since the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, more people enjoyed the right to democratic self-governance than ever before. Not all was well however, for example in States such as Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, China, Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba and Iraq, where democracy did not hold sway. Democratization was a long, difficult and complicated struggle that should begin within a society, rather than be imported. The United States had a long-term interest in promoting democracy for many reasons, including national security and the protection of human rights. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had recognized this, and had been deeply and commendably involved in democracy-building efforts. But it had not spoken directly on the issue of promoting the right to democracy for many years. The Commission was therefore called upon to affirm the right of all people to democratic governance.

LI BAODONG (China) said the United States had just now engaged in groundless allegations against China; its supposed efforts to promote civil and political rights were hollow; it should provide full freedom and democracy for its own people and put its own house in order instead of pointing its finger at others.

Mr. Baodong said China believed that the realization of civil and political rights required attention to the balance between rights and obligations - as there were no obligations that did not lead to rights, there also were no rights that did not have obligations; it required building civil and political rights on a platform of economic development; and it required patience, as the process was long and gradual. To that end, China was taking major steps, among

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other things, to speed up the process of governing the country with emphasis on judicial independence and fairness; to protect freedom of speech in accordance with the law; to protect religious freedom; and to prohibit and oppose torture. Much progress had been made, but the Government also knew it had a long way to go and was willing to work with others to progress further.

PABLO CHELIA (Argentina) spoke regarding the mechanisms concerning torture, the right to life, personal liberty and security, the right to freedom and the right to conscience and religion. Argentina fully supported the affirmation, promotion and implementation of civil and political rights. Argentina had fully cooperated with the Working Group on forced or involuntary disappearances. Regarding independence of the judiciary, administration of justice and impunity, Argentina stated that it had instituted constitutional reforms intended to guarantee the independence of the judiciary. Argentina had furthermore undertaken a programme of indemnity for victims of arbitrary detentions, disappearances, and torture and had paid out \$823 million as compensation.

Mr. Chelia said Argentina agreed with the Special Rapporteur on torture's report and his conclusions that public agents that had committed acts of torture must not be allowed to continue with impunity. Argentina had also supported the recommended international measures to put an end to torture at the level of an international criminal court.

MAHON HAYES (Ireland) said that his country attached great importance to the independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, and impunity. Issues such as the question of intimidation and harassment of defence lawyers in Northern Ireland were of grave concern, both in Ireland and among the international human rights community. Ireland would monitor closely the progress and outcome of the investigation now undertaken by senior British police officers with the assistance of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation into such matters. Religious intolerance, although difficult to acknowledge as such, was one of the root causes of many conflicts and strife both within and between nations which had occurred over many centuries. Freedom of religion and belief was still not enjoyed by all people in all parts of the world, although considerable progress had been made.

ELEZAR RUIZ Y AVILA (Mexico) said that all human rights were universal, indivisible and interdependent. However, civil and political rights were the ones most commonly associated to democracy, and could not be aspired to without respect for those rights in all circumstances; nor could such a respect be guaranteed outside a regime with broad liberties and under the rule of law. The full realization of all civil and political rights had not yet been reached in Mexico despite great efforts to create a legality culture and to consolidate the rule of law in three areas: legal standard setting; enforcement of law; and cooperation with regional and universal mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. Three aspects were referred to: freedom of expression, the fight against torture, and the administration of justice. It was not acceptable that due to the lack of resources, reports of the special mechanisms presented incomplete pictures of national situations of human rights. It was important to secure the necessary resources so that the special mechanisms reports reached the impartiality and objectivity that they deserved.

MERETE BRATTESTED (Norway) said freedom of religion or belief included the right not to have a religion or belief, and to change one's religion; religious freedom explicitly entailed as well the right to public worship and to educate one's children in one's own religion; religion was an upholder of culture and a bearer of ethics. However, religion could be misused; too often today it was turned into an instrument for gaining political power and promoting the exclusiveness of one group at the expense of others. Religious intolerance often was shown towards other religions and people of other faiths and beliefs.

Mr. Brattested said that last August, the Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief had resulted in the Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion and Belief to promote tolerance. Norway supported the work of the relevant Special Rapporteur and thought his title should be changed to "Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief".

LEGWAILA JOSEPH LEGWAILA (Botswana) said that no democracy was worth its name in which citizens' civil and political rights were curtailed, abused, or denied. The full enjoyment of these rights was a vital prerequisite for a normal society, founded on the rule of law. So was the full enjoyment of all the other human rights. Botswana fully

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subscribed to the truism that human rights were universal and indivisible. They were not the cultural heritage of one particular society. No country anywhere was licensed or entitled to brutalize its citizens, or to deprive and deny them their human rights for any reason. Torture and detention without trial could not and should not be allowed in a civilized society. Botswana's Constitution prohibited the practice of torture and detention without trial, and the law meted out punishment to those found guilty of their perpetration. Disappearances and summary executions were alien to the country, and freedom of expression was one of the most cherished human rights. International human rights instruments on their own could not create a world free of religious intolerance, and various other forms of human rights violations. The responsibility of putting them into effect rested on the Member States and Governments.

SYED SHARIFUDIN PIRZADA (Pakistan) said the Commission's objective of promoting fundamental human rights and freedoms for all could be accomplished if it addressed the factors which continued to impede the full and effective realization of the right to development. An equitable international economic order should be established. It would enable developing countries to ensure the enjoyment of civil and political rights for their citizens.

Mr. Pirzada said that it was only through genuine respect for the plurality of beliefs, religious traditions, value systems and modes of thinking that the international community could foster the realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He outlined the administrative and legislative measures that Pakistan had taken including among others: a National Plan of Action especially concerning women's rights; a Task Force on Child Labour; a Cabinet Committee to review the provisions relating to the death penalty for blasphemy; magistrates had been required to investigate allegations of blasphemy; an Inter Faith Committee; and a National Commission on Minorities had been established at the federal level.

Mr. Pirzada said concerning the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Pakistan had a Constitutional article which laid down the independence of the judiciary which had taken full effect. The Special Rapporteur should consider the potential difficulty created by a Bench to hear matters which were considered to be a prerogative of the Chief Justice and the membership of a Judge to the Bench on the grounds of bias. The South Asian Sub-continent had a long tradition of contributions to the independence of the judiciary.

JOSE VALENCIA (Ecuador) said the interrelationship between civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and the right to development was critical. In theory all were equal, but this was the real world and in given circumstances and within certain territories, certain types of rights were violated purposely and with premeditation. The Commission faced a great challenge not only to ensure that international instruments on civil and political rights were observed, but also to ensure that they were observed effectively in a way that responded to international emergencies. Mass, repeated violations of extreme seriousness required quick and effective reaction by the Commission and the international community.

Mr. Valencia said dialogue and cooperation were the best approach for the Commission in dealing with human rights problems in general; they simply yielded the best results. The Commission's thematic rapporteurs should be encouraged to continue their work in this spirit.

HASSAN WIRAJUDA (Indonesia) said his country was undergoing a process of unprecedented and fundamental reforms in all fields, notably in the political, economic, social and legal sectors, the objectives of which were to restore socio-economic conditions, to enhance democratic political life, and to enforce laws. Human rights were placed as an all-encompassing element of these reforms. Legislative and judicial assurances were indispensable elements to the process of promotion and protection of human rights. Unhindered freedom of speech and open criticism, as well as the omnipresence of public demonstrations, freedom of the press, the release of all political prisoners, new political parties, and a growing number of human rights non-governmental organizations were matters of everyday realities. Indonesia had also developed bilateral as well as multilateral cooperation in fields of human rights, and Special Rapporteurs had been invited to the country. The Working Group on arbitrary detention had also visited, and measures had already been taken that closely matched its recommendations. These were a yardstick of the degree of progress made in all other aspects of civil and political rights in the wider context of the blossoming of a new spirit of democracy in the country.

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ROSALINDA TIRONA (Philippines) said the people who brought down authoritarianism in the Philippines would have felt betrayed if the democratic Government that took over did not give the same high priority to economic, social and cultural rights as it did to civil and political rights. In the approach taken by the Philippines Government, it was hard to tell where emphasis on one school of rights ended and emphasis on the next began. To set a course for the future, a People's Economic Summit had been held, resulting in a Social Pact for Empowered Economic Development, and this broad based effort had been successful in part because there was a sense of national consensus and ownership of the process.

Ms. Tirona said civil and political rights were best pursued not in isolation but in partnership with economic, social and cultural rights, especially in the world's poorer countries. But in calling for greater understanding for the situation faced by developing countries, the Philippines did not mean that Government oppression should be tolerated, nor did the Philippines have sympathy for Governments with profligate military spending or leaders who stole the wealth of their nations.

JANUSZ STANCZYK (Poland) said that the effectiveness of United Nations control over the exercise of human rights had been under discussion for some time. One of the most important means of control was the report submitted by individual States. It seemed that recommendations and guidance formulated by the relevant Committees were underestimated in their role. Undertaking activities aimed at the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committees, as well as at the elimination or limitation of the ascertained transgressions, could have positive influences on the effectiveness of means of control over the exercise of human rights. The system of control over respecting human rights stipulated by the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was not capable of providing effective control over the compliance with the prohibition to use torture and other inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. There was a need for additional mechanisms, which would be based on different principles, and would enable not only the ascertainment of violations post factum, but would also act in a preventive manner. They could be created on the basis of the draft additional Protocol which stipulated monitoring the conditions in which persons deprived of liberty were being kept.

PRASAD KARIYAWASAM (Sri Lanka) said the Government had established three different Commissions in 1994 to investigate disappearances in three geographical regions of the country; their work was concluded in September 1997; their reports were published and also shared with the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances; another Commission had been established in 1998 to look into disappearances which had not been covered by the work of the other commissions. These were serious efforts to come to grips with the problem, and prosecutions of several security force members and others had occurred based on the findings. The Attorney General's Department was processing a number of other cases, and a special unit had been created to handle these and other human rights cases.

Mr. Kariyawasam said the process was complex and difficult, in part because the LTTE terrorists were responsible for a large number of disappearances; it was hard to find a solution to this problem, although the Government was trying. The Working Group had been invited to visit Sri Lanka this year. It was for the international community to take a combined and resolute stand against terrorism.

ALAIN MODOUX, of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said UNESCO had established a close working relationship with the Commission and in particular with the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of opinion and expression. The resources of UNESCO were at the disposition of States in fulfilling the Special Rapporteur's recommendations.

Mr. Modoux outlined UNESCO's activities contributing to the promotion of the freedom of expression and public education as well as to operational activities including the following among others: offering media assistance to national authorities; organizing permanent seminars to relevant bodies on the facilitation of democratic measures; supporting the creation of local radios, and professional training. UNESCO had assumed a pioneer role in conflict zones to promote an environment of peace with and by the media.

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Mr. AL-MADI (Saudi Arabia) said that some Special Rapporteurs had treated their subjects in an imprecise manner, and without respecting the advice given to them by the States visited. Three specific examples were given. Communications by the States were ignored, clarifications were not given, and errors were not corrected. There was a contradiction between what was decided in the Working Group and what was in the report. This was unsatisfactory, since States were being accused, and had no means of responding to the accusations. The rights of States needed to be made clear, and communications distributed to all.

HAMUDIN HAMZAH (Malaysia) said the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, in his report on his visit to Malaysia, had focused mainly on the trial and detention of Anwar Ibrahim and related developments. Thus he had produced only a snapshot in time and had failed to bring forth the difficulties and hard choices faced by a democracy operating in a multi-ethnic society living in a turbulent world. He also had failed to note the historical context and social impulses which had formed the Malaysian mind set on the issue of freedom of opinion.

Mr. Hamzah said the Special Rapporteur gave the impression that all Malaysian laws were a means of suppression without indicating that if they were imperfect, they did mitigate and provide a yardstick for the hard choices the people and Government faced every day. And as laws, they were passed by a freely elected legislature and so represented public opinion and public standards of morality. Democracy was a work in progress; if the laws concerned were seriously flawed, the legislature and public would amend them - but it was up to the voters to decide.

PETROS EFTYUCHIOU (Cyprus) spoke of the tragic issue of persons missing from Cyprus since 1974. This issue had first been seized upon by the Commission in February 1975. The resolution then adopted called for the intensification of efforts aimed at tracing and accounting for all the missing persons. Today, 24 years later, their fate remained undetermined. The violation of the human rights of the missing persons and their families continued unabated. It was apparent that the necessary political and humanitarian will would exist if an end was to be given to the problem, but only if the human rights of the missing and their families were restored and respected by all. This can be done not on presumptive speculations but with the presentation of the necessary evidence proving the fate of each and every missing person. The destruction of the religious, historical and cultural identity of any country did not only constitute a painful violation of human rights, but was also an insult to human dignity and an affront to the international community.

ALVARO MONTENEGRO MALLONA (Nicaragua) stated that his country had made enormous progress in legal reform regarding civil and political rights including torture and detention, disappearances, liberty of expression, independence of the judiciary, the administration of justice and impunity, and religious intolerance, among others. Nicaragua had overcome a history filled with tragic memories of violations in these areas. Numerous areas of legislative and administrative reform were outlined which illustrated a new environment toward human rights and their observance.

Mr. Mallona said that despite the devastating effects of Hurricane Mitch, it had had a positive effect on Nicaragua's body of law. The Consultative Social Civil Council and the Presidential Commission for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Nicaragua were made up of an integrated group of representatives from diverse political, religious and civil sectors which had presented to the President of the Republic a future vision of Nicaragua and had concluded that their future must be based on a foundation of mutual tolerance, respect, solidarity, honesty, transparency and ethics and considered fundamental the values of true, open democracy.

He concluded by stating that Nicaragua had chosen to continue its course toward strengthening democracy and the body of law essential for promoting and protecting those fundamental political and civil rights.

ZACK DE LA ROCHA, of International Educational Development, said Mumia Abu-Jamal was the only political prisoner in the United States who faced the death penalty. A prominent journalist from Philadelphia who frequently reported on police brutality, Mr. Abu-Jamal had been threatened by the then-mayor of Philadelphia just before his arrest and it was clear that his advocacy for racial equality was a major factor in the imposition of the death penalty as the result of an incident in which a police officer was killed. In fact, Mr. Abu-Jamal was beaten by police officers and then shot in the incident; his trial was a travesty; there were many abuses of fair-trial provisions; now he was

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kept in solitary confinement. He should be released, and the Commission should condemn the way he had been treated.

Mr. Rocha said the organization also was concerned about two cases of torture by Moroccan officials in Western Sahara; about the conditions of detention of Abdullah Ocalan in Turkey; and about the situation in Yugoslavia and Kosovo - all parties should stop the bombing.

JOHN SOUTHALAN, of the Asian Cultural Forum on Development, spoke of various national security law abuses in the Asia Pacific region. These laws gave the State through the police, military or prosecution system wide powers of investigation and detention, and permitted restrictions on peoples' liberties. They also contributed to human rights abuses across the Asia Pacific region, not just in countries with military governments or dictatorships, but also in countries with established democratic and judicial systems. The majority of these laws breached the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and where they did not, governments' use of the law could do so. Any government restrictions on citizens's rights should be in accordance with international law, and should be subject to democratic processes by being properly controlled by the parliament and by the courts. Governments in Asia should repeal these laws that violated human rights or provided impunity for government violations, increase transparency and accountability in their use, and ensure all current and future laws complied with international standards.

KARMA YESHI, of International Union of Socialist Youth, said he was a Tibetan refugee who had now lived 33 years in exile; Tibetans in exile were what the world termed a "stateless" people; they had no international recognition. There was an appalling situation among detainees held in Tibet; they were subject to prison conditions well below international standards; torture and beatings were commonplace; prisoners were held for months without any outside contact; their workloads under Chinese overseers were heavy - in fact prison labour camps had become profitable ventures for the Chinese authorities.

Mr. Yeshi said the Chinese violated many human rights in Tibet, including the rights to freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion. He had been engaged in an indefinite hunger strike outside the Palais des Nations since 5 April; he and the other two hunger strikers trusted that the international community would help them end the human rights violations in Tibet. One of their demands was adoption by the Commission of a strong resolution condemning China's human rights record.

FERNANDO MARINO, of the Federation of Associations of the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights, said the organization had adopted the project of the international convention for the protection for all persons against forced disappearances and requested that the Commission make all possible efforts for its success.

Mr. Marino said the Federation expressed its disappointment at the delay of the optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and noted paradoxically that many western democratic States had demonstrated their reticence in the establishment of this protocol. It commended the Special Rapporteur on torture, Nigel Rodley, on his report and signalled the organization's agreement with his comments on impunity in Turkey regarding torture. The organization cited its disappointment also with the United States which had not accepted the control measures which would allow the presentation of individual communications before the Human Rights Committee nor had the United States signed the Statute of the International Criminal Court in Rome.

LAZARO PARY, of the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", said many indigenous peoples could not participate in international fora, as their organizations were not recognized. Accredited non-governmental organizations were asked to submit reports on their activities every four years, and not every year, but last year the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru" had been asked to submit an exceptional report because the Government of Colombia had complained that the Movement had accredited two Colombian nationals as members and participants. It was true that this had occurred.

Mr. Pary said that in this Commission a terrorist had spoken with great arrogance from the seat of a Government and no one had stopped him; this kind of political pressure and the allegations against the Movement were unfair; the two people accredited were legitimate human rights defenders; and it was especially unfair that the allegation

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came from the Government of Colombia, which was responsible for extremely brutal human rights violations. This kind of harassment of NGOs, if it continued, would greatly damage the credibility of the Commission.

CLAUDINE HAENNI, of the Association for the Prevention of Torture, spoke of two outstanding concerns on the issue of the prevention of torture. The draft optional protocol to the Convention on Torture was exemplary, since it prevented violations, rather than responding to them. It also promoted the implementation of standards to prohibit torture and provided states with free expertise and technical support. It fostered an ethos of co-operation and dialogue. There was hope for substantive progress, and that this Optional Protocol would soon be concluded, since its universal ratification was a necessary and important step towards the prevention of torture. The Commission was urged to encourage States to ratify the Convention on Torture and to withdraw their reservations, especially those concerning the substantive provisions.

CORRECTION

The statement by the Permanent Representative of El Salvador, Victor Manuel Lagos Pizzati, which appeared in press release HR/CN/901 of 8 April, should read as follows:

VICTOR MANUEL LAGOS PIZZATI (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Central American Group, said the members of the group had been working ardently toward the protection and promotion of all human rights during the last decade. The countries of Central America had been enjoying the fruits of peace and stability without precedent which had allowed considerable improvements toward modernization and democracy. Nevertheless, poverty and extreme poverty had remained as an obstacle toward the complete enjoyment of human rights in the region.

Mr. Lagos Pizzati said the Central American Group agreed with the Special Rapporteur on toxic wastes and would take every legal measure to prohibit the cross-border transportation of toxic wastes and dangerous products. The group also agreed with the Special Rapporteur's assessment that the national and international legal framework existed to thwart the transportation of these toxic products. Developing countries did not have the national capacity necessary to enforce legal agreements and the group called on the United Nations and the international community to adopt all necessary means to assure the control and enforcement of measures aimed at elimination of these dangerous abuses.

The statement by the representative of the Commission for the Defence of Human Rights in Central America, Celia Cristina Sanjur Palaoios in press release HR/CN/903 of 9 April 1999, should read as follows:

CELIA CRISTINA SANJUR PALAOIOS, of the Commission for the Defence of Human Rights in Central America, drew attention to the violation of human rights in the region. The damage done in Central America by El Nio and Hurricane Mitch had caused grave structural damage to the region. The deterioration of the quality of life was alarming. Globalization was also alarming, since it had negative effects on the independence of countries, their internal integrity, and upon their internal structures, such as educational institutions.

There was growth of fiscal deficits in the region. Women were often more affected by these worsening economic conditions than were men. There was a deterioration of primary care programmes and a growth in exploitation of workers. Care of the environment was rarely a consideration of Governments desperate for revenues. The massive violations of human rights in Central America could only be addressed by international intervention.

Load-Date: April 14, 1999

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

May 13, 2000; Saturday

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Section: International news

Length: 6746 words

Body

WORLD AT 1700 GMT:

NEW:

FREETOWN'S NEW HERO. Country looks to once-loathed leader for salvation.

PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. So-called third secret of Fatima revealed.

ETHIOPIA ELECTIONS. Elections overshadowed by war and famine.

YUGOSLAVIA-ATTACK. Top official of President Slobodan Milosevic's is killed

PHILIPPINES-MISSING JOURNALISTS. Nine journalists reported missing.

BOSNIA-ACCIDENT. Forty-three dead in bus accident.

PHILIPPINES-LOVE BUG PROBE. Philippine school acts against student.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Until recently, Johnny Paul Koroma was the loathed leader of an ex-junta whose forces helped rebels ravage Freetown, burning, looting, maiming and killing thousands. But today, he is hailed as the savior of this war-weary capital. FREETOWN'S NEW HERO. Expected by 1800 GMT. By Alexandra Zavis. With AP photos NY190.

WITH:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Rebels from the Revolutionary United Front attack the eastern city of Port Loko but are driven back by government forces, state-run radio reports Saturday. SIERRA LEONE. AP Photos LAB102-103.

FATIMA, Portugal Ending an enduring mystery that some had feared was apocalyptic, the Vatican on Saturday discloses the so-called third secret of Fatima and says it was related to the 1981 assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II. PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. Has moved. By Victor L. Simpson. AP Photos XDD103, XSL108, ROM1, PAR101, 105, 106.

KAKANJ, Bosnia-Herzegovina A bus carrying Muslim pilgrims to a religious site plunges off a bridge Saturday, killing 43 people. Investigators say the vehicle apparently went out of control, crossed into the left lane, crashed

AP News Digest

through a guardrail and fell into the river. BOSNIA-ACCIDENT Has moved. By Alexander S. Dragicevic. AP Photos SAR101-103.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia In another in a series of assassinations of prominent figures in Serbia, a top official of President Slobodan Milosevic's ruling Socialist Party is killed Saturday when an assailant shoots him in the head at an agricultural fair. YUGOSLAVIA-ATTACK. Has moved. By Misha Savic. AP Photos BEL106-108.

HOSSANA, Ethiopia A day after the two-year border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea flares up again, Ethiopian opposition activists prepare Saturday for regional and national elections. ETHIOPIA ELECTIONS. Has moved. By Andrew England. AP Photos ADD101.

JOLO, Philippines Muslim rebels continue holding 21 people hostage. Government negotiators say Saturday there was an "understanding" that a sick German woman and perhaps a French man would be freed, but so far rebels have refused to release them. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos BAS101, JOL101, 103-105.

WITH:

JOLO, Philippines Nine journalists, most of them from French television, are reported missing Saturday after moving into a mountainous area where Muslim extremists are holding 21 people hostage, police say. PHILIPPINES-MISSING JOURNALISTS. Has moved.

NEW DELHI, India Sri Lankan government forces briefly lift curfew in northern Jaffna Saturday to help nearly 50,000 residents stock food and other necessities. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Expected around 1500 GMT. By Ashok Sharma. AP Photos COL101,103.

HARARE, Zimbabwe Ruling party militants armed with clubs and iron bars chase away demonstrators at a peace rally called to protest the worsening political violence in Zimbabwe. Clashes have worsened since February when activists started occupying white farms. ZIMBABWE VIOLENCE. Expected by 1800 GMT. By Angus Shaw. AP Photos SVZ101, XJMB102.105.

WITH:

SOUTH AFRICA-MBEKI. To ensure that upcoming elections are free and fair, President Thabo Mbeki sends a delegation to Zimbabwe to talk to the opposition and ruling parties. AP Photos JOH101-102.

MANILA, Philippines The computer student at the center of the "Love Bug" computer virus investigation faces more trouble, after college officials say Saturday they are launching disciplinary proceedings that could ban him from school. PHILIPPINES-LOVE BUG PROBE. Has moved. By Dirk Beveridge.

HAVANA With folk dances and references to the beginning of Fidel Castro's revolutionary almost a half-century ago, tens of thousands of Cubans rallied on the Isle of Pines Saturday morning to press for the return of Elian Gonzalez to his communist homeland. CUBAN BOY-RALLY. By Vivian Sequera. Has moved.

CANNES, France It's shaping up to be a good year for U.S. films at Cannes. As the festival begins to hit its stride, two original works are taking an early lead in the quest for that elusive mantle of Best Buzz along the Croisette, the famed boardwalk by the sea. Both "Nurse Betty" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou" boast crowd-pleasing casts and scripts. CANNES-US FILMS. Expected by 1800 GMT. By Jocelyn Noveck. With AP Photos.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Monday, the 191-nation governing assembly of the World Health Organization meets in Geneva to discuss latest efforts to fight disease globally, including TB, polio and AIDS; Egyptian and Israeli aviation officials meet in Cairo, Egypt, to resolve differences over a route Egypt wants to fly to Gaza.

FEATURES:

FEA-FRANCE-ALGERIAN EXODUS. Has moved. By Marilyn August. AP Photo NY110.

AP News Digest

FEA-AUSTRALIA-LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE. Survivors of Legionnaires' outbreak describe close call with death. Has moved. By Mike Corder. NY107-108.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Paisley Dodds and Jean H. Lee. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

PHILIPPINES-ROOTS OF REBELLION. Roots of rebellion lie in religion, poverty.

NETHERLANDS-EXPLOSION. Blaze at fireworks factory kills 20, injures hundreds.

JAPAN-SMOKER'S HAVEN. Tobacco industry, politicians snuff out anti-smoking targets.

RWANDA-CONGO. Congan envoy brings rare message of peace to Rwanda.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines At the heart of the Philippine military's headquarters in the war against Islamic guerrillas is an open-air Christian chapel. Religion and poverty make for an explosive mix in the southern Philippines, where Muslim rebels are holding 21 hostages on the island of Jolo in Mindanao province as well as hostages on two other provinces. PHILIPPINES-ROOTS OF REBELLION. Expected by 0200 GMT. By J.L. Hazelton. AP Photos BAS103-105, Graphic MINDANAO.

WITH:

PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Muslim rebels fail to release two ailing hostages but offer more flexibility in negotiations. Recap upcoming. BAS101-102, JOL101-105.

PHILIPPINES-MISSING JOURNALISTS. Nine journalists are missing after moving into the region where the hostages are being held captive. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited.

PHILIPPINES-CHRONOLOGY. Upcoming.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Rebels from the Revolutionary United Front attack the eastern city of Port Loko but are driven back by government forces, state-run radio reports. Meanwhile, a senior government officials says the rebels' leader has been striking illegal deals with international diamond firms in return for military equipment. SIERRA LEONE. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Clarency Roy-Macaulay. AP Photos LAB101-103,105-107.

ALSO MOVED:

SIERRA LEONE-NEW HERO. The once-loathed leader of an ex-junta whose forces helped rebels ravage Freetown is hailed as the savior of this war-weary capital. NY190.

ENSCHADE, Netherlands Rescue workers search through the night for survivors and victims after a blaze rips through a fireworks depot and engulfs an entire neighborhood in billowing fireballs and a thick black pall of smoke. At least 20 people are killed and 230 injured. NETHERLANDS-EXPLOSION. Recap upcoming. By Anthony Deutsch. AP Photos, AP Graphic ENSCHADE EXPLOSION.

FATIMA, Portugal Ending an enduring mystery that some had feared was apocalyptic, the Vatican discloses the so-called third secret of Fatima and says it was related to the 1981 assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II. PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. Lead has moved. By Victor L. Simpson. AP Photos XDD103, XSL108, ROM1, PAR101, 105, 106.

AP News Digest

TOKYO When health officials drew up Japan's latest 10-year national fitness plan, they decided numerical targets were just what the doctor ordered except when it comes to smoking. That's hardly a surprise. The Finance Ministry owns 60 percent of Japan's largest tobacco company and is committed by law to "promote the health" of the tobacco industry. JAPAN-SMOKERS' HAVEN. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Gary Schaeffer. AP Graphic JPN SMOKERS.

HOSSANA, Ethiopia A day after the two-year border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea flares up again, Ethiopian opposition activists prepare for regional and national elections Sunday. HORN OF AFRICA-ELECTIONS. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Andrew England. AP Photo ADD101.

KIGALI, Rwanda A Congolese envoy brings a rare message of peace from President Laurent Kabila to Rwanda, Congo's principal enemy in 1 1/2-year civil war, Rwandan officials say. Kabila reportedly expresses his desire for a quick end to the war, officials say. RWANDA-CONGO. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia Yugoslavia's ruling party blames opposition politicians and Western nations for the killing of a top official of President Slobodan Milosevic's Socialists who was gunned down as he toured a trade fair in the country's second largest city. YUGOSLAVIA-ATTACK. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Misha Savic. AP Photos BEL104-108.

NEW DELHI, India Sri Lankan government forces briefly suspend a curfew in northern Jaffna to help nearly 500,000 residents stock food and other necessities. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Ashok Sharma. AP Photos COL101-103.

JERUSALEM Palestinian demonstrations are expected to continue Sunday, a day after Israeli soldiers clash with protesters demanding the release of some 1,600 jailed Palestinians. The fighting comes as a deadline for a framework on a final peace treaty passes with the sides still deeply divided. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Recap expected by 1200 GMT. By Laurie Copans. AP Photos JRL101-105.

BAGHDAD, Iraq Wails of sorrow mingle with calls for revenge after rockets shake Baghdad in the third bombardment in less than two months on the heart of the tightly policed Iraqi capital. IRAQ-BOMBING. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Waiel Faleh. AP Photos BAG101-103.

MANILA, Philippines The computer student at the center of the "Love Bug" computer virus investigation faces more trouble. College officials say they are launching disciplinary proceedings that could ban him from school. PHILIPPINES-LOVE BUG PROBE. Lead has moved. By Dirk Beveridge.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Monday, the 191-nation governing assembly of the World Health Organization meets in Geneva to discuss latest efforts to fight disease globally, including TB, polio and AIDS; Egyptian and Israeli aviation officials meet in Cairo, Egypt, to resolve differences over a route Egypt wants to fly to Gaza.

FEATURE MOVED:

CANNES, France It's shaping up to be a good year for U.S. films at Cannes. As the festival hits its stride, two highly original comedies have an early lead in the quest for that elusive mantle of Best Buzz along the Croisette, the famed boardwalk by the sea. ARTS-CANNES-US FILMS. Has moved. By Jocelyn Noveck. AP Photos CAN101-125.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Malcolm Foster. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Police clash with rock-throwing mob in Jakarta's Chinatown.

AP News Digest

CHINA-BANNED SECT. Falun Gong followers meet Chinese police beatings on sect's anniversary.

CYPRUS-MISS UNIVERSE. Indian woman is crowned Miss Universe 2000.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone More peacekeepers arrived in Sierra Leone's capital to reinforce against a possible rebel offensive on the capital, where as many as 30,000 refugees have gathered to escape guerrilla attacks. SIERRA LEONE. Recap has moved. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay. AP Photos LAB101-110, XBL101-105

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea return to open war with fighting reported on three fronts. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Recap has moved; developments will be expedited. By Andrew England. AP Photos.

ALSO MOVED:

UN-HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Hoping to contain Africa's newest war, the Security Council demanded that Eritrea and Ethiopia immediately stop fighting and hinted at a possible arms embargo if the conflict doesn't die down over the weekend. AP Photo NY123,125

NEW DELHI, India Terrified Sri Lankan residents continued their exodus from Jaffna amid a lull in fighting. Tamil guerrillas say Saturday they are consolidating gains before a final push toward the military-controlled city. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved. By Neelesh Misra. AP Photos COL101-103.

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia As thousands of people kneel and pray for peace in mosques across Aceh province, Indonesian government and separatist rebel negotiators meeting in Geneva sign the region's first formal cease-fire agreement in 25 years of fighting. ACEH PEACE TALKS. Recap has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photos JAK120-123, LON117.

ALSO:

JAKARTA, Indonesia Police fire tear gas and warning shots at an angry mob of people in Chinatown on Saturday in a clash that began when officials tried to remove street vendors from the area's crowded sidewalks, authorities say. INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Has moved. By Irwan Firdaus. JAK101-127.

JOLO, Philippines Muslim rebels holding 21 hostages in a remote Philippine jungle have agreed to consider releasing two ailing captives, a German woman and a French man, negotiators say Saturday. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Lead has moved. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos JOL101-114.

MANILA, Philippines A computer college says it will investigate all students named as potential suspects in the "Love Bug" computer virus case, and they could end up getting expelled. PHILIPPINES-LOVE BUG PROBE. Expected by 0800 GMT. By Dirk Beveridge.

BEIJING Followers of the Falun Gong sect hold yellow flowers and signs aloft in Tiananmen Square, defiantly celebrating their banned spiritual movement's eighth anniversary Saturday and drawing rough arrest by Chinese police. CHINA-BANNED SECT. Has moved.

FATIMA, Portugal Tens of thousands of pilgrims attend an emotional candlelight vigil in the main square of the Fatima shrine in anticipation of Pope John Paul II's beatification Saturday of two shepherd children who said they witnessed visions of the Virgin Mary. PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. Recap has moved. By Barry Hatton. AP Photos expected.

MOSCOW When Russian rulers from Ivan the Terrible to the Bolsheviks wanted to make major changes, they moved to a new capital a tradition that has some Russians asking if President Vladimir Putin wants to leave Moscow. Putin's decision to receive foreign leaders in his native St. Petersburg has prompted speculation that he wants to move the capital out of Moscow. RUSSIA-CAPITAL MOVE. Has moved. By Anna Dolgov. MOSB113.

AP News Digest

SEOUL, South Korea North and South Korean officials meet in a border village Saturday to arrange communications and media coverage of a summit of their leaders in June. The major unresolved point is the size of the South Korean press corps that will travel across the border in a rare trip to the isolated communist North. KOREAS-SUMMIT. Has moved.

WASHINGTON All gun sales is halted across the United States because an internal software problem in the FBI criminal history database has temporarily halted instant background checks of gun buyers, the FBI says. US-INSTANT GUN CHECKS. Has moved. By Michael J. Sniffen. AP Photos

NICOSIA, Cyprus A 21-year-old model from India who said beauty pageants give women a platform to "voice our choices and opinions" is named Miss Universe 2000. Lara Dutta succeeds Mpule Kwelagobe of Botswana to become the 49th winner of the pageant Saturday. CYPRUS-MISS UNIVERSE. Lead has moved. By Vijay Joshi.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden Eurovision song contest hosts Kattis Ahlstrom and Anders Lundin practice all week to say a few words of welcome, in 22 languages. If they get it wrong during Europe's biggest and hugely popular song contest Saturday night in the Globe Arena, a lot of people will notice. Approximately 100 million people are expected to follow the three-hour televised pop music extravaganza in 33 countries in Europe alone. SWEDEN-EUROVISION. Has moved. Contest begins at 1900 GMT. AP Photos planned.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Monday, the 191-nation governing assembly of the World Health Organization meets in Geneva to discuss latest efforts to fight disease globally, including TB, polio and AIDS; Egyptian and Israeli aviation officials meet in Cairo, Egypt, to resolve differences over a route Egypt wants to fly to Gaza.

FEATURES:

MELBOURNE, Australia Ingrid Rigby decided not to take her 4-year-old son, Anthony, to Melbourne's popular new aquarium last month. There would be too many people, too long a wait to get in. She let out a sigh of relief this week as she recalled the decision. Rigby's reluctance to wait outside the busy aquarium meant she was not among thousands of visitors exposed to a fine mist of microscopic water droplets tainted with the deadly legionella bacteria that drifted out of the tourist attraction's air conditioning cooling towers in mid-April. FEA-AUSTRALIA-LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE. Expected by 0800 GMT. By Mike Corder. NY107-108.

ALSO MOVED:

TRAV-IRAN-TEHRAN'S TREASURES. The unquestioned museum capital of the Mideast. Has moved. By Vijay Joshi. AP Photos NY411-414.

WITH:

TRAV-TEHRAN'S TREASURES-TIPS. Has moved.

TRAV-SINGAPORE-A TASTE OF ASIA. Sampling traditional Asian cuisine in modern Singapore. Has moved. By Anna Sathiah. AP Photo SIN101.

TRAV-ZAGAT TOKYO.

The first English-language guide to restaurants in Tokyo hits bookstores on both sides of the Pacific. Has moved. By Katherine Roth. AP Photos NY405-407.

TRAV-US-DISCOVERY TRAIL. Everything old is new again on this hike across America. Has moved. By David Dishneau. AP Graphic DISCOVERY TRAIL. AP Photo NY410.

ALSO:

TRAV-TRAVEL BRIEFS. Has moved.

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WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Tamil rebels mount dawn attack near Jaffna as residents flee.

IRAQ-BOMBING. Eight rockets explode in Baghdad, killing girl, wounding four people.

TAJIKISTAN-QUAKE. Earthquake in Tashkent rattles shelves and residents.

BOSNIA-ACCIDENT. More than 40 reported dead in Bosnian bus accident.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone More peacekeepers arrived in Sierra Leone's capital to reinforce against a possible rebel offensive on the capital, where as many as 30,000 refugees have gathered to escape guerrilla attacks. SIERRA LEONE. Recap has moved. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay. AP Photos LAB101-110, XBL101-105

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea return to open war with fighting reported on three fronts. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Recap has moved; developments will be expedited. By Andrew England. AP Photos.

ALSO:

HOSAINA, Ethiopia The two-year border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea may have resumed, but on Saturday in this southern town, opposition politicians gauge their chances of defeating the ruling party and winning control of their regional assembly. If Sunday's general elections are relatively free and fair, they figure they have a fighting chance. ETHIOPIA-ELECTIONS. Expected by 1300 GMT. The overall results are not expected to be announced until June 7. By Andrew England. With AP Photos.

NEW DELHI, India Terrified Sri Lankan residents continued their exodus from Jaffna amid a lull in fighting. Tamil guerrillas say Saturday they are consolidating gains before a final push toward the military-controlled city. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Lead has moved. By Neelesh Misra. AP Photos COL101-103.

JAKARTA, Indonesia Police fire tear gas and warning shots at an angry mob of people in Chinatown on Saturday in a clash that began when officials tried to remove street vendors from the area's crowded sidewalks, authorities say. INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Lead has moved. By Irwan Firdaus. JAK101-127.

ALSO:

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia In a surprise move in Aceh's landmark human rights trial, a state prosecutor tells the court Saturday that 24 soldiers who have admitted killing 57 college students should only be jailed for between six to 10 years, even if they are convicted of murder. INDONESIA-ACEH. Has moved. By Daniel Cooney. JAK111-112.

ACEH PEACE TALKS. Indonesian province of Aceh celebrates landmark peace agreement. Recap has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photos JAK120-123, LON117.

JOLO, Philippines Muslim rebels holding 21 hostages in a remote Philippine jungle are expected to release at least one ailing captive, negotiators say Saturday. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Lead has moved. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos JOL101-114.

AP News Digest

MANILA, Philippines A computer college says Saturday it will launch disciplinary proceedings against a student named as a potential suspect in the "Love Bug" computer virus case, and he and other hackers could get thrown out of school. PHILIPPINES-LOVE BUG PROBE. Has moved. By Dirk Beveridge.

BAGHDAD, Iraq Eight missiles explode in the Iraqi capital early Saturday, killing a girl and wounding four other civilians, the official Iraqi News Agency reports. The attack is the second bombardment of Baghdad this month and the third this year. IRAQ-BOMBING. Lead has moved.

BEIJING Members of the banned Falun Gong sect defiantly celebrate their spiritual movement's eighth birthday Saturday in Tiananmen Square as police beat followers, knocking them and their yellow banners and flowers to the ground. CHINA-BANNED SECT. Lead has moved. By Charles Hutzler. HK101-103. BEJ101-103.

KAKANJ, Bosnia-Herzegovina A bus carrying Muslim pilgrims to a religious site plunges off a bridge Saturday, killing more than 40 people, Bosnian radio said. BOSNIA-ACCIDENT. Lead has moved.

FATIMA, Portugal More than half a million pilgrims poured into Fatima to attend Pope John Paul II's beatification of a shepherd boy and girl Saturday in a sentimental pilgrimage to this rural settlement, which he credits with a miracle that saved his life in a 1981 assassination attempt. PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. Lead has moved. By Adam Brown. AP Photos expected.

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan Dishes and books fall from shelves and nervous residents run into the streets before dawn Saturday when an earthquake shakes the city. Police say there is no immediate reports of serious damage or injuries in the Uzbek capital. TAJIKISTAN-QUAKE. Has moved.

SEOUL, South Korea North and South Korean officials meet in a border village Saturday to arrange communications and media coverage of a summit of their leaders in June. The major unresolved point is the size of the South Korean press corps that will travel across the border in a rare trip to the isolated communist North. KOREAS-SUMMIT. Lead has moved. By Sang-Hun Choe. AP Photos.

WASHINGTON All gun sales is halted across the United States because an internal software problem in the FBI criminal history database has temporarily halted instant background checks of gun buyers, the FBI says. US-INSTANT GUN CHECKS. Has moved. By Michael J. Sniffen. AP Photos

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FEATURES:

PARIS The scenes are separated by more than three decades: the first French refugees departing aboard ship in 1962 as Algeria lurches violently toward independence from France, the second in 1994 as Muslim women march for peace to end nightly massacres amid a bitter Islamic insurgency. The powerful images evoking the torment of modern Algeria are brought to the screen in a new movie by French director Alexandre Arcady, 51, a pied-noir, or French colonial, who fled with his family in 1961. FEA-France-Algerian Exodus. Has moved. By Marilyn August. AP Photo NY110.

ALSO MOVED:

FEA-AUSTRALIA-LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE. Survivors of Legionnaires' outbreak describe close call with death. Has moved. By Mike Corder. NY107-108.

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AP News Digest

NEW DELHI, India Terrified Sri Lankan residents fled Jaffna and Tamil guerrillas attacked a military defense line at dawn Saturday in a push to capture the northern city, officials and aid workers said. "The combat units of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are consolidating their newly secured positions along the coastal belt of Jaffna city preparing for the final assault on the heart of the capital," said a rebel statement posted on their Web site. In a dawn attack, the rebels tried to breach the military defenses, killing three government soldiers and wounding 38 others, said Ariya Rubasinghe, the government spokesman and chief censor. "Troops repulsed this attack, causing terrorists to withdraw with their casualties," said Ariya Rubasinghe in a statement faxed to The Associated Press. Rubasinghe also said seven rebels were killed by army snipers on Saturday in Nagarkovil and Muhamalai, areas 15 to 25 kilometers (9-15 miles) east of Jaffna. (SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR).

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

Eight missiles exploded in the Iraqi capital early Saturday, killing a girl and wounding four other civilians, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. The attack is the second bombardment of Baghdad this month and the third this year. Iraq blamed the attack on Iran, as it had with the earlier ones. An Iraqi dissident group, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, issued a statement in London and Syria saying the attack was carried out by its affiliate, the Iraqi National Islamic Resistance. The missiles struck two houses in the Karadat Mariam district of west Baghdad, killing 3-year-old Zahra Mohammed Hammeed. "There was lightning first, then an explosion in the bedroom," said Hussein Mohammed, 50, Zahra's uncle, who lives next door. "Dust was all over and we could not see anything first. Then we found Zahra, who was already dead." The girl's parents and two aunts were injured, he said. They were treated in a hospital for moderate to light wounds and released. (IRAQ-BOMBING)

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

Police fired tear gas and warning shots at angry mobs of people in Chinatown on Saturday in clashes that began when officials tried to remove street vendors from the area's crowded sidewalks, authorities said. As the first mob fled the police assault, it threw rocks that broke the windows of a McDonald's restaurant and a BMW dealership, and set fire to at least one police motorcycle, authorities said. Dozens of people were taken away in police vans, and four arrested, said police officer Pramono, who like many Indonesians uses only one name. Twenty policemen were injured, said police chief Col. Guliansyah, and many of the shops in Chinatown closed to avoid the violence. Hundreds of police lined the streets after the mob fled. By midday, the area reopened to traffic and pedestrians, but police remained on the scene. About two hours later, another rock-throwing mob formed and police fired tear gas in violence that closed Chinatown again. At least six people were injured and seen being taken away in ambulances. (INDONESIA-VIOLENCE)

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Hoping to contain Africa's newest war, the Security Council demanded that Eritrea and Ethiopia immediately stop fighting and hinted at a possible arms embargo if the conflict doesn't die down over the weekend. In a resolution unanimously adopted Friday just hours after fighting along the Eritrean-Ethiopian border flared, the council demanded the Horn of Africa neighbors restart stalled peace talks that broke down last week. The resolution said the council would meet again on Monday "to take immediate steps to ensure compliance with this resolution" if fighting continues. British Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock, who drafted the resolution, said that was a clear threat of an arms embargo. He attributed the vague wording in the resolution more to bureaucratic problems than any lack of substance or resolve on the part of the council to actually impose the measures. (UN-HORN OF AFRICA)

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

Filipinos wonder whether they should be blushing with embarrassment or pride that investigators think the Love Bug virus that infected computers worldwide came from a shabby, lower middle-class Manila neighborhood. "Oh, my God, he's a genius," said Nida Serpion, a neighbor of a computer student suspected of creating the virus that struck May 4, penetrating e-mail systems from the Pentagon to the British Parliament, costing an estimated \$10 billion in damage. Computer experts were stunned by the speed with which the virus multiplied, but people in the Pandacan district seemed more awed at the idea that it could all have started here, in a ground-floor apartment shared by Onel A. de Guzman and two other possible suspects. "We thought, 'What's going on drugs?'" said

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another neighbor, Totoy Torres, of the horde of investigators who descended on the neighborhood. Many residents expressed regret at the massive damage caused by the virus something de Guzman did not do when he admitted he may have accidentally unleashed the virus but they also admired his technical prowess. (PHILIPPINES-COMPUTER LOVE BUG)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1300 GMT:

SOCCER:

PARIS Lyon and Bordeaux compete for a place in next season's European Champions League in the final round of the French first division. At the other end of the standings, crisis-ridden giant Marseille needs a point at Sedan to be sure of avoiding a disastrous slide into the second division.

Slug Sports-Soccer-French Roundup. Expected by 2100 GMT.

By Andreas Evagora.

LONDON Playoff promotion games begin in England's first, second and third divisions with the first-leg, first-division semifinal between Birmingham and Barnsley.

Slug Sports-Soccer-British Roundup. Expected by 1630 GMT.

ALSO:

LONDON Sports-Soccer-Weekend Roundup. Expected by 1800 GMT. By Stephen Wade.

ROME Following a referee controversy, tensions are already high heading into the final week of Serie A soccer. But adding to concerns about fan violence are a twist in the capital's sports scheduling, as the finals of the Italian Open coincides with the season-ending match of Lazio _ at home, just 200 meters away from the Foro Italico tennis stadium.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Violence-Tennis Troubles. Expected by 1400 GMT.

By Jeff Israely.

MADRID, Spain In Saturday's only game, Atletico de Madrid and Seville square off in a battle of teams doomed to demotion to the second division of the Spanish soccer league. Deportivo la Coruna can clinch the title on Sunday if it wins and FC Barcelona loses.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Spanish Roundup. Expected at 2130 GMT.

TENNIS:

ROME The Italian Open semifinals offer two intriguing rematches of recent showdowns. Lleyton Hewitt takes on Magnus Norman, who beat the Australian in January's Australian Open. Defending champion Gustavo Kuerten takes on Alex Corretja, who he beat last year in Rome on his march to the title.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Italian Open. First lede expected by 1500 GMT.

BERLIN Martina Hingis faces world No. 8 Conchita Martinez and Amanda Coetzer plays Joannette Kruger in an all South-African semifinal at the dlr\$ 1.08 million German Open.

Slug: Sports-Tennis-German Open. Expected 1600 GMT.

HAMBURG, Germany Andre Agassi makes a late withdrawal from next week's Hamburg Master Series tournament, organizers said Saturday.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Agassi Withdraws. Has moved.

RUGBY UNION

BRISBANE, Australia Queensland defeats Auckland 33-26 in a last-round Super 12 clash Saturday in Brisbane but a late penalty from Adrian Cashmore ensured the Blues stayed alive in the semifinal race.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Queensland-Auckland. Has moved.

GOLF:

IRVING, Texas Davis Love III knew the wind was dying when sweat dripped off his brow from the suffocating Texas heat. A better indication was how he began making birdies to take control of the Byron Nelson Classic.

Slug Sports-Golf-Nelson Classic. Has moved.

By Doug Ferguson.

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England Ireland's Padraig Harrington takes a one-stroke lead over Phillip Price of Wales into the third round of the Benson and Hedges International.

Slug Sports-Golf-Benson and Hedges. Expected by 1630 GMT.

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England Jean Van de Velde, the Gallic charmer and gallant loser of last year's British Open, has become a Ryder Cup radical and is criticizing Europe's past and present captains.

Slug Sports-Golf-Ryder Cup Dissent. Has moved.

By Brian Creighton.

MACAU England's Simon Dyson fires a 3-under-par 68 Saturday to extend his lead to three strokes after the third round of the U.S. dlr\$ 200,000 Macau Open.

Slug Sports-Golf-Macau Open. Has moved.

FRANKLIN, Tennessee Pat Hurst refuses to let a little wind bother her on, shooting a 4-under-par 68 and building her lead to six strokes after two rounds of the Electrolux USA Championship.

Sports-Golf-LPGA-Electrolux. Has moved.

By Teresa M. Walker.

ICE HOCKEY:

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia Reigning Olympic and world champions the Czech Republic and dark horse Slovakia, the two halves of the now-defunct Czechoslovakia, prepare for the final of the World Hockey Championships. Slovakia hopes to use the showdown to overcome its inferiority complex and show their rich cousins the Czechs they can play as equals.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Worlds. Expected by 1400 GMT.

By Andrew Kramer

OLYMPICS

SYDNEY, Australia Australian teenage swimming sensation Ian Thorpe admits he sneaked a grin to himself and had enough time to think about making his Olympic debut as he glided into the finish Saturday.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Swimming-Australian Trials. Has moved.

AP News Digest

By John Pye.

AUTO RACING:

MOTEGI, Japan Rain forces the postponement Saturday of the Firestone Firehawk 500, the 2000 FedEx Championship Series' fifth round. The race will be held on Sunday.

Sports-Auto Racing-CART-Japan GP. Has moved.

By K.P. Hong.

LE MANS, France - Sports-Motorcycling-French Grand Prix. Expected by 1700 GMT.

CYCLING:

ROME Last-minute entry Marco Pantani and defending champion Ivan Gotti are among 179 starters in Saturday's Giro d'Italia prologue, a 4.6-kilometer (2.8-mile) individual time trial deciding the cyclist wearing the pink jersey of overall leader going into Sunday's opening.

Slug Sports-Cycling-Giro. Expected by 1700 GMT.

ALSO MOVED:

NEW YORK. Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

SOCCER:

LONDON Bayer Leverkusen inches close to its first Bundesliga title, thrashing Eintracht Frankfurt. But time is running out for Munich, which defeated Arminia Bielefeld.

Sports-Soccer-Weekend Roundup. Has moved.

By Stephen Wade.

WITH:

LONDON Slug Sports-Soccer-British Roundup. Has moved.

PARIS Slug Sports-Soccer-French Roundup. Has moved. By Andreas Evagora.

MADRID, Spain Slug Sports-Soccer-Spanish Roundup. Has moved. By Daniel Woolls.

BERLIN Sports-Soccer-German Roundup. Has moved. By Roy Kammerer.

TOKYO Sports-Soccer-Japan Roundup. Has moved.

NASSAU, Bahamas Representatives of five countries Britain, South Africa, Brazil, Germany and Morocco present their bids to host the 2006 World Cup.

AP News Digest

Sports-Soccer-World Cup Bids. Has moved.

By Christopher Saunders.

OLYMPICS:

SYDNEY, Australia The Australian public and media condemn Kevan Gosper for letting his 11-year-old daughter replace another schoolgirl as the first Australian to carry the Olympic flame. But Greek-Australian student Yianna Souleles, who was to be the first in line for the torch relay, says she doesn't understand the fuss.

Sports-Olympics-Torch Flap. Has moved.

ALSO:

HOUSTON Sports-Olympics-USOC Funding. Has moved. By Tim Dahlberg.

HOUSTON Sports-Olympics-NBC-Videotape. Has moved. By Tim Dahlberg.

CRICKET:

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados Pakistan, led by a confident century by opener Mohammad Wasim, builds a formidable lead of 186 on the second of the four-day, first-class cricket tour match against the West Indies "A" team.

Sports-Cricket-WIndies-Pakistan. Has moved.

By Craig Cozier.

AUTO RACING:

MOTEGI, Japan The Firestone Firehawk 500, postponed because of rain Saturday, will be run Sunday with reigning CART FedEx Series champion Juan Montoya on the pole.

Sports-Auto Racing-CART-Japan GP. Expected by 0900 GMT.

By K.P. Hong.

ALSO:

LOUDON, New Hampshire Sports-Auto Racing-NASCAR-Petty Mourned. Has moved. By Jimmy Golen.

TRINITY, North Carolina Sports-Auto Racing-NASCAR-Petty Reax. Has moved. By Paul Nowell.

GOLF:

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England Ireland's Padraig Harrington takes a 5-shot lead over two players by firing an 8-under-par 64 in the third round of the Benson and Hedges International Open.

Sports-Golf-Benson and Hedges. Has moved.

By Brian Creighton.

IRVING, Texas The wind changed, and so did the fortunes of Davis Love III in the Byron Nelson Classic. Has moved.

Sports-Golf-Nelson Classic.

By Doug Ferguson.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

FRANKLIN, Tennessee Sports-Golf-LPGA-Electrolux. Has moved. By Teresa M. Walker.

ALPHARETTA, Georgia Sports-Golf-Seniors-Nationwide. Expected by 0100 GMT.

RUGBY UNION:

SYDNEY, Australia The ACT Brumbies lead the way into rugby union's Super 12 semifinals while Queensland and the Western Stormers see their chances evaporate on the final weekend of the first round.

Sports-RugbyU-Super 12-Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

ALSO:

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa Sports-RugbyU-Cats-Chiefs. Has moved.

DURBAN, South Africa Sports-RugbyU-Sharks-Stormers. Has moved.

TWICKENHAM, England Sports-RugbyU-Tetleys Cup. Has moved.

TENNIS:

ROME Sweden's Magnus Norman defeats Australia's Lleyton Hewitt to advance to the Italian Open finals and move past American Andre Agassi atop the ATP standings.

Sports-Tennis-Italian Open. Has moved.

By Jeff Israely.

HAMBURG, Germany Andre Agassi's withdrawal from the upcoming Hamburg Masters Series tournament could cost him substantial bonus money up to dlr 1.3 million.

Sports-Tennis-Agassi Withdraws. Has moved.

ALSO:

BERLIN Sports-Tennis-German Open. Has moved. By Roy Kammerer.

UNDATED Sports-Tennis-New Leaders. Has moved. By Bob Greene.

CYCLING:

ROME Czech Jan Hruska edges Paolo Savoldelli in a short individual time trial to claim the first pink jersey in the Tour of Italy.

Sports-Cycling-Giro. Has moved.

WITH:

ROME Sports-Cycling-Berzin. Has moved.

BASKETBALL:

PHILADELPHIA The Philadelphia 76ers haven't lost their fighting spirit. Unfortunately for the Indiana Pacers, neither has Reggie Miller.

Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Has moved.

By Rob Maaddi.

ALSO:

INDIANAPOLIS Sports-Basketball-Knight Investigation. Has moved. By Charles Hoskinson.

BOXING:

INDIANAPOLIS Roy Jones Jr. defends his world light heavyweight championship against Richard Hall.

Sports-Boxing-Jones-Hall. Expected by 0300 GMT.

By Hank Lowenkron.

ALSO:

DALLAS Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0200 GMT.

DESENZANO DEL GARDA, Italy Sports-Track-Multistars Meet. Has moved.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Sports-Badminton-Thomas Cup. Has moved. By Dhinnesh Kumaran.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Sports-Badminton-Uber Cup. Has moved. By Dhinnesh Kumaran.

LE MANS, France Sports-Motorcycle Racing-French GP. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Expected by 0200 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Expected by 0200 GMT.

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Load-Date: May 13, 2000

UN
Non-governmental organizations claim numerous violations of human rights around world

M2 PRESSWIRE

April 15, 1997

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Length: 14421 words

Body

The Commission on Human Rights heard this afternoon and evening from a long series of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) charging various Governments with offenses.

Over 100 NGOs had signed up to speak under the Commission's review of the question of human rights abuses anywhere in the world - annually one of its most contentious agenda items - and by the time the meeting concluded at midnight, dozens had spoken and had accused numerous countries of violations of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Mentioned repeatedly by NGOs and national delegations were human-rights problems caused by long-running conflicts or stalemates in the Great Lakes region of Africa, in Jammu and Kashmir, and in Sudan, Cyprus, and East Timor. Also cited in several statements were Turkey, China, Iran, Iraq, Colombia, Myanmar, the United States and Nigeria. Speakers repeatedly suggested that the Commission appoint a Special Rapporteur to investigate the situation in Nigeria.

Addressing the extended session were delegates or observers of the following countries: Cyprus, Chile, Sri Lanka, Japan, Iraq, Norway, Equatorial Guinea, Solomon Islands, Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, United States, Algeria and Argentina.

Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations delivered statements: Reporters without Borders; World Peace Council; Arab Lawyers Union; Centre Europe - Tiers Monde; International Commission of Jurists; Asian Cultural Forum on Development; Society for Threatened Peoples; International Educational Development; Pax Romana, International Association for Religious Freedom; Article XIX; International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development; International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty; Baha'i International Community; International Confederation of Free-Trade Unions; North-South XXI; Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees; Women's International Democratic Federation; International Association against Torture; Christian Solidarity International; Christian Democrat International; Transnational Radical Party; International Federation Terre des Hommes; Robert F. Kennedy Memorial; Catholic Institute for International Relations; General Arab Women Federation; Permanent Assembly for Human Rights; Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberania de los Pueblos; Andean Commission of Jurists; Franciscans International; World Christian Life Community; Centro de Estudios Europeos; International Federation of Human Rights; World Society of Victimology; International Indian Treaty Council; International Pen; Indian Council of Education; International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples; International League for Human Rights; Anglican Consultative Council; Freedom House; World Federation of Democratic Youth; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities; Commission of the Churches on World Affairs; International Association of Educators for

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World Peace; American Association of Jurists; International Human Rights Law Group; International Federation of Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture; Regional Council on Human Rights of Asia; International Federation of Journalists; Survival for Tribal Peoples; African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters; International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements; Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization; World Alliance of Reformed Churches; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; National Council of German Women's Organizations; Federation of Associations for Defense and Promotion of Human Rights; War Resisters' International; World Muslim Congress; Arab Organization for Human Rights; and International Peace Bureau.

And officials of China, Sudan, Mexico and Iraq spoke in exercise of the right of reply.

Statements in Debate LIESL GRAZ, of Reporters Without Borders, said it would point the finger at a number of countries that flouted press freedom with absolute impunity. In Algeria, journalists continued to be targets of violence from both the Government and the Islamic opposition. Press freedom did not exist in Cuba, while Ethiopia had jailed the most journalists in Africa - between 1992 and 1995 nearly 150 media professionals had found themselves in trouble with the law there. Because of time constraints, she could not elaborate on the situation in China and Turkey.

GENET SHIMOJI, of World Peace Council, said Pakistan's democracy had a somewhat different flavour than other democracies - it had itself set up a supra-Constitutional body of non-elected individuals to oversee the elected Government, and many of the faces of this Council for National Security and Defense were inheritors of the country's military legacy. Pakistan's Constitutional and legal systems also allowed those in power to rule by decree and declare others to be non-citizens or second-class citizens. A democratic State based on theocratic tenets seemed an anachronism, but it existed in Pakistan, and allowed the rights of minorities to be trampled upon, temples destroyed, Hindu women forced to change their religion, Christians killed ostensibly for blasphemy. Another site of concern was Okinawa, in Japan, where the presence of American military bases had been detrimental to Okinawans' enjoyment of fundamental human rights; It was crucial that efforts be made to reduce the excessive burden imposed upon the Okinawan people by these bases; unemployment on the island remained a difficult problem, especially for the younger generation; and the U.S. military bases also were a hindrance to sound and healthy development of the Okinawan economy.

FAROUK ABU EISSA, of the Arab Lawyers Union, said Israel's continued forcible settlement and blockade of the West Bank and Gaza was to blame for the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East. The stand taken by the United States in vetoing two resolutions against Israel in the Security Council was dismaying. The Arab Lawyers Union made a distinction between State violence as practised by Israel and legitimate armed struggle to stop aggression and achieve national independence. The Commission should condemn Israel's expansionist policies and its continuous violation of human rights of Arabs in the occupied territories. It should also affirm the rights of Palestinians to resort to armed struggle to liberate their land and obtain independence. The Arab Lawyers Union also differentiated between armed struggle for liberation and terrorism emanating from radical fundamentalism. The latter was a serious threat and a real challenge to human rights, as shown by the situations in Algeria and Upper Egypt. The situation of human rights in Sudan had also gone from bad to worse.

CYNTHIA NEURY, of Centre Europe - Tiers Monde, said the Rwandan genocide had been coldly planned; the killing had been foreseeable. The tasks Rwanda now faced were enormous and aid was needed. Rwanda had a huge debt burden: despite the structural adjustment programme of the International Monetary Fund, the country's external debt now stood at close to \$1 billion, around 90 per cent of gross national product. Servicing this debt absorbed \$55 million per year, or 46 per cent of the country's export revenues. The Rwandan people was paying the debts of its former executioners as the majority of these loans were contracted between 1990 and 1994, before the beginning of the war. The principle of the continuity of the State meant that the Government in power was obliged to honour the debts of previous Governments. However, there was a need to separate those parts of the external debt which had been legitimately contracted and that which the lending institutions should no longer reclaim.

UN Non-governmental organizations claim numerous violations of human rights around world

NATHALIE PROUVEZ, of International Commission of Jurists, said that Turkey had increased violations such as disappearances, extra-judicial killings, and torture in the past year, especially in the southeast of the country; abuses by the police and army were neither investigated nor punished; other violations included forcible displacements which affected some 3 million people. In Peru, the taking of hostages by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima must be condemned; other human-rights problems lay in the hands of the Government, such as the so-called system of "faceless judges", which had been strongly criticized by the relevant Special Rapporteur; even innocent persons set free by the Government had not received adequate compensation. In Nigeria, the military Government continued to violate rights, and the transition to democracy was being conducted amidst a wave of harassment, intimidation, and arbitrary arrests; a country-specific rapporteur should be assigned by the Commission to undertake a thorough study of the situation in Nigeria and propose measures to stop widespread ongoing violations.

XIAO QIANG, of the Asian Cultural Forum for Development, said Chinese people wanted, deserved and demanded human rights. But their voices were not heard because they had been totally suppressed by the Chinese authorities. China's human rights violations were well-documented and widely known. The Chinese Government said there were more than 2,000 "counter-revolutionaries" in prison. This figure grossly under-represented the true number of people imprisoned for the peaceful expression of their political ideas or religious beliefs. Human rights were a necessity for China and without them its future stability was in jeopardy. The transition currently taking place in China would be more difficult and violent unless fundamental political and civil liberties were available to the Chinese people. A China which respected human rights would have a stable and prosperous future and would become a responsible and valuable member of the world community. The Commission needed to continue directing its attention to the persistent, systematic, institutional violations of human rights in China.

LOBSANG NYANDAK, of the World Society for Threatened Peoples, said that, contrary to Chinese claims, it was a well-known fact that Wei Jingsheng, Maksum Abbas, Ngawang Choephel and Gedhun Choekyi Nyima were currently detained in prisons in China, Tibet and Eastern Turkestan. There were other facts demonstrating that the Chinese authorities had been involved in gross and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Tibet for the past four decades. Tibet had become a Chinese colony where the economic, social and cultural rights of the Tibetan people were violated on a daily basis, and in which the 6 million Tibetans had become a minority in their own land. What was taking place in Tibet encompassed the horror of the holocaust, the racial intolerance of apartheid and the inhumanity of racial cleansing. It was a racial, cultural and religious genocide which demanded the attention of the international community before it was too late.

ROSE PILEGGI, of International Educational Development, speaking on behalf of a number of NGOs, said grave concern was felt over continued armed conflict and human-rights violations in Sri Lanka, and the new military offensive in the Tamil homeland; the civilian Tamil population continued to be a target of military operations, disappearances, rape, torture, arbitrary arrest, and detention; there was still an embargo of food and medicine imposed on the northeast of the island; there were more than 825,000 displaced Tamil civilians. The Commission must adopt a resolution calling upon the Sri Lankan Government to cease all military operations against Tamil civilians, to withdraw occupying forces from the Tamil homeland, and lift the blockade on humanitarian aid, and calling on both parties to the conflict to secure a political solution that recognized the right of the Tamils to determine their political future. Great concern also was felt over brutal human-rights abuses in Iran, especially against women; and over the effects of war damage, depleted uranium, and the economic embargo against Iraq. The sanctions applied to Iraq, as they affected humanitarian aid to civilians, violated the Geneva Conventions and should be considered null and void.

SALVADOR MANEU, of Pax Romana, said that in Guatemala, even after the signing of peace accords there in December, the mandate of the independent expert should be extended for another year; to curtail it, as suggested by the Government, would be premature, and would prevent the Commission from having an exhaustive study on the situation of human rights there, and prevent it from exerting firm support for the peace process. Arbitrary detentions, and torture carried out by the Army in Peru against the population in general and indigenous peoples in particular were a great concern; the Commission should consider appointing an independent expert for the country. In Colombia, widespread human-rights abuses committed by Government forces and paramilitary groups were growing worse every day, and there was an atmosphere of widening violence and impunity; the Commission should

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follow the situation there closely. In Equatorial Guinea, conditions had not improved and there were grave and systematic human-rights abuses; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur should for the country should be extended.

MAURICE VERFAILLIE, of the International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, said the exercise of fundamental rights - and in particular the individual or collective rights related to freedom of religion, of belief and worship - was generally sound in those countries where democracy functioned properly. The Commission and Subcommission on human rights had contributed to this development. However, there were a number of countries where these rights were violated, either because a religious belief did not correspond to the dominant ideology, or because existing laws inadequately protected such rights. Fed by extremism and fanaticism, religious activity had sometimes resulted in incomprehensible dramas. The actions undertaken against sects occasionally resembled crusades. Fear had led to the adoption of legislation such as the recent amendment to a law submitted to the Knesset which would ban any change of religion. Sufficient international legal instruments existed to combat the new social problems arising from the activities of sects and new religious movements.

JANET BAUER, of Article XIX, said the system of government-by-decree in Nigeria was inimical to the promotion of human rights; information clearly revealed a pattern of systematic abuses and violations there. The Commission must appoint a Special Rapporteur for the country. Recent statements and actions by China suggested that rights and protections now in place in Hong Kong would be compromised; the Commission must make clear to the Government that existing standards must be maintained, and should incorporate that into a text on the situation of human rights in general in China. In Burma, the continuing deterioration in the human rights situation was of great concern; worry was felt over the well-being of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; the Commission must renew the appointment of the relevant Special Rapporteur for another year, and the military Government must ensure at least one in-country visit for the Rapporteur in the coming year.

MULOMBA MFUAMBA, of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, said the group had been following the serious situation of human rights in Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire for five years. The Commission should renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Rwanda and give him every assistance. Positive elements in Rwanda were overshadowed by the constant aggression and lack of respect for the status of refugees in camps in eastern Zaire. The trafficking of weapons and weakness in disarming criminals and in the elimination of racial discrimination were also problems. In Burundi, the democratization process had stopped with the assassination of the President in 1993, and armed conflict between two ideologically extreme camps prevented the development of an opening for moderates. The Special Rapporteur on Burundi had correctly analyzed the situation in sounding the alarm in his report. The presence of human-rights monitors there should be strengthened. Regarding Zaire, the group hoped that in the search for peace in a Zaire undergoing transition the criminal responsibility of the different parties would not be ignored and that the country could resume the democratization process that had been blocked for the last seven years.

GIANFRANCO ROSSI, of the International Association for Religious Freedom, said religious extremism was a phenomenon that was connected to all the major religions. However, in recent years, the most dangerous and terrifying manifestations of this phenomenon had been visible in Islamic movements. One only had to look at what was taking place in Algeria, where an estimated 50,000 innocent men, women and children had been killed in the name of God. Principles of equality, non-discrimination and religious liberty, which were compatible with Islamic teachings, were not applied in a good number of Islamic countries. In Iran, Baha'is were systematically persecuted because of their religious beliefs. In Pakistan, Shantinagar, a Christian village of 22,000 people, had been ransacked and burned to the ground because a page of the Koran had been profaned. Islamic extremism was alive in several other countries, notably in Sudan, Indonesia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

TECHESTE AHDEROM, of the Baha'i International Community, said the list of violations inflicted against the Baha'i community in Iran had not changed over the past 17 years. That community was still the target of executions, torture and imprisonment; it also suffered from subtler forms of discrimination, such as economic strangulation and denial of access to education. Contrary to the statement by the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, to the effect that the right to change one's religion was recognized within the framework of internationally established standards in the field of human rights, four of the 14 Baha'is currently detained in Iranian prisons had been

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sentenced to death, including two for apostasy. He wished to reiterate the call by the Special Rapporteur to the Iranian Government that it should review and set aside the death sentences; return community properties and pay compensation for the destruction of places of worship; ensure equal treatment of Baha'is by the judiciary, and re-establish Baha'i institutions.

DAN CUNNIAH, of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, said an increasing number of States were becoming gross violators of trade union rights. Despite the commitments undertaken at international conferences, many Governments still considered free and independent trade unions as obstacles, and not as partners in development. That retrograde attitude prevailed in countries such as the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, China, Sudan, Nigeria, Swaziland, Colombia, Costa Rica, Belarus, Lithuania and Kazakhstan, to name just a few. Because of the limited time, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions could not describe the situation in other countries where it had recorded strong evidence of gross violations of trade union rights. Iran, Morocco, Niger, Djibouti, Chad, Turkey and Myanmar were among that group of countries. The Commission should take strong measures against those countries violating the principles of freedom of association and the right to organize as embodied in international human rights instruments.

JOAQUIN MBOMIO ONDO BACHENG, of Nord-Sud XXI, said the humanitarian discourse of the great powers and the assistance they provided to African countries could not hide the fact that those same powers sought to distinguish between "interesting" parts - those rich in mineral resources - and "uninteresting" ones. The so-called interventions in favour of refugees in the Great Lakes region were but manoeuvres between rival Western powers to gain influence in the area, while the humanitarian activities they sponsored were only of secondary importance. Contrary to the situation in Rwanda, little had been done to absorb and reintegrate refugees in Zaire and Burundi. Meanwhile, in the United States, blacks and Latin-Americans had been the victims of an increase of attacks by police forces. Such aggressions very often remained unpunished. Immigrant populations in America were also subjected to racist and reactionary laws.

The representatives of the Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees said that in Mexico, arbitrary detention and torture affected a large part of the indigenous and peasant population. It was essential that the Special Rapporteurs on torture and on summary executions visited that country. In Colombia there were massive and systematic violations of the rights to life, to physical integrity, to liberty, to privacy and to a fair trial. There should be urgent visits by thematic rapporteurs and by the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances. An atmosphere of impunity led to further human rights violations, especially when laws were often enacted which pardoned persons responsible for abuses or postponed investigations indefinitely. The support of the international community was also needed in Guatemala, which had signed a peace agreement recently. The mandate of the independent expert on that country because of concern that despite the signing of the agreement, human rights continued to be violated.

MAYDA ALVAREZ SUAREZ, of the Women's International Democratic Federation, said that for almost 40 years the Cuban people had tried to persist on their own path toward independence, social justice, and sovereignty. But, apparently, the cold war still continued in the case of Cuba; the United States continued to punish Cuba with a genocidal blockade carried out since the 1960s. For Cuban women, the blockade meant constant aggression, violations of human rights and violations against their children and families. It was difficult to meet basic needs for food, personal hygiene, and housing; the most inhuman phase of the blockade was the impossibility of acquiring essential medicines for children. It was hard to see how Cuba could be accused of human-rights violations when the matters involved were part of the essential political process of the country. It was time to end the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Cuba. There were other violations of human rights affecting women throughout the Latin American continent and the world, including violence and sexual aggression against women migrant workers. In China, meanwhile, the country continued to pursue its own path to development and human rights, with the help of such NGOs as the All-China Women's Federation.

ROGER WAREHAM, of the International Association Against Torture, said the past year had seen the steady retreat on human rights which had characterized the South Korean regime in the recent past. A now infamous early morning December session of Parliament had passed several laws without the knowledge of the opposition. In Guinea, the present Government had come to power through a military coup and conducted an election in 1993.

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This so-called "democratic" poll had been characterized by the killing of some 24 people in Conakry alone during voting. And in the United States, actions of federal, state and local governments constituted a consistent pattern of gross violations of the human rights of the people, especially Blacks and Latinos.

The group called on the Commission to demand that compensation be paid to the descendants of enslaved Africans by the United States and European countries.

BARONESS COX, of Christian Solidarity International (CSI), said she and a colleague had on seven fact-finding missions visited "no-go" areas in Sudan, where the National Islamic Front regime was carrying out a wide variety of human-rights abuses, including aerial bombardment of villages, arbitrary arrests, torture, chattel slavery - especially child slavery

- hostage-taking, summary executions, abduction and brainwashing of children, and persecution of Christians, Animists, and Muslims who rejected the NIF's sectarian brand of Islam. She said she must fully endorse the conclusions of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. There were some rays of hope, to be found in the rapidly expanding areas of northern and southern Sudan under the administration of the democratic opposition. Full details of the fact-finding missions could be found in CSI's published field reports, which were available to members of the Commission. CSI appealed to the Secretary-General to intervene personally with the regime in Khartoum to secure immediate release of all hostages, and to convene a conference of Governmental and non-governmental organizations and relief agencies to establish a mechanism to deliver humanitarian relief to "no-go" areas.

AIRO DEL CASTILLO, of Christian Democrat International, said the group welcomed the work of the Special Rapporteur for Zaire, whose reports were worthy and objective. The regime of Zaire had brought the country to chaos. It should not be forgotten that democratic parties in Zaire had fought for long years to defend human rights. In Cuba, meanwhile, 96 foreign journalists had been arrested, harassed and expelled over the past year. The Cuban Government also internally banished dissidents, which went against human rights. The Government was asked to allow its citizens to form associations and to move around freely; and to allow journalists to carry out their work without interference.

MARINO BUSDACHIN, of Transnational Radical Party, said existing rights and freedoms in Hong Kong were threatened by the upcoming Chinese takeover of the territory, as China's policy could be summed up in the word "control" - press freedom was under siege, and Beijing would control all branches of the Hong Kong Government, including its legislature, which would be an appointed group that would rubber stamp the measures wanted by Chinese leaders; draconian laws restricting assembly and association were expected; the Commission must urge China to keep Hong Kong's current human-rights standards; further, the Commission should pass a strong resolution on China at this session, focusing, among other things, on widespread human-rights abuses in Tibet. Concern also was expressed about the increase in human-rights violations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), including Kosova, Sanjak, and Vojvodina; the Commission must adopt a strong resolution demanding that authorities stop violence and repression against non-Serb populations.

FERRAN ESTEVE, of International Federation - Terre des Hommes, said antipersonnel mines were cruel and had devastating effects. There were more than 110 million mines disseminated in more than 64 countries ready to explode under the foot of some unfortunate victim. Every month, more than 2,000 persons were killed or wounded by exploding mines, mostly civilian women and children. The countries that were the most affected by this scourge were Angola, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Bosnia and Iraqi Kurdistan. Fortunately, the international community had not remained inactive: the Canadian Government was to be commended for organizing the Ottawa Conference, the beginning of a process to conclude a global ban on anti-personnel land mines.

BEATRICE LAROCHE, of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, said the group hoped the Commission would pay serious attention to the people who lived in fear and faced imprisonment and death in Indonesia. These people had increased in number in 1997, with torture and detentions going up. The killings and disappearances destroyed not

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only the life and dignity of the victims but of all Indonesians. In this tragedy of human values, the army was the main actor in violating human rights. Those entrenched in power were most accountable for these incidents.

RUI XIMENES, of the Catholic Institute for International Relations, said the persistent violations of human rights in Colombia and the failure of the authorities to take the steps needed to end such abuses was a source of particular concern. Similar situations could be found in Guatemala and in Burma. In East Timor, the army had intensified its persecution of those suspected of organizing demonstrations. Indonesian military personnel, intelligence operatives and Gada Paksi militia forces had conducted street searches for suspects and had stormed into the homes of relatives and friends of the persons being sought. They lived in constant fear of being arrested or killed by those units. As an East Timorese, he was regarded as a suspect because he had already been arrested by Indonesian army commandos.

JULIETTE SAYEGH, of the General Arab Women Federation, said there were substantial achievements in the process of democratization in Arab countries. However, in some countries, there had been a degradation of the situation of human rights. Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine and Sudan were suffering from this phenomenon. The violation of human rights in the Arab world was not solely a country's own doing: it was also an imposed injustice where the future of each nation was at stake. Oil was one of the basic causes of the persistent conflictual situation. United Nations resolutions containing formulas like "land-for-peace" or "oil-for-food" had no meaning for people on the ground. They did not carry the essence of human rights nor did they permit countries to act independently in meeting the basic needs of their population. As long as unjust, inconsistent and violent practices continued, peace in the region would continue to be a dream. The Federation called on the Commission to reject the policy of sanctions as a means for solving conflicts; to promote disarmament in the Middle East region; to stop the expansion of settlements in the occupied territories; to work for the return the occupied territories in Lebanon and Syria, and to keep Jerusalem a sacred and holy city to the three religions.

HORACIO RAVENNA, of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, said neo-liberal policies had led to violations of human rights around the world. The transition to a market economy had led to increased social exclusion and poverty. Adjustment policies had contributed to the spread of corruption and impunity. In their efforts to align Argentina's economy with market forces, the country's authorities had violated key aspects of the Constitution and national covenants, including those touching on health and judicial issues.

BORIS CASTILLO BARROSCO, of Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberania de los Pueblos, said that since Cuba's independence, the United States had maintained a naval base at Guantanamo on Cuban territory. The confrontations and violations caused by the American presence had become a permanent danger to peace and stability in the region. This instability had led to an increase in the number of Cuban migrants to the United States. The report of the Special Rapporteur was biased as it did not address this issue. The closing of the base would go a long way to meeting the rights of Cubans to life and security. The Commission should look into this matter.

MARIE-NOELLE LITTLE, of the Andean Commission of Jurists, said that, despite encouraging advances on human rights in the Andean region, violations still occurred. Certain countries of the region practised policies or adopted measures which were contrary to the fundamental enjoyment of human rights. The prison situation in Venezuela, the anti-terrorism measures of Peru and the failure to bring to justice the perpetrators of violations during the Pinochet regime in Chile were examples of situations not in conformity with the enjoyment of human rights. Also, too many countries used states of emergency to violate human rights, thus going against international standards governing such exceptional measures. The international community was well aware of the situation in Colombia, where some 9 deaths occurred every day as a result of violence. Impunity was a constant given there - the recent murder of 70 peasants by a notorious para-military group had not lead to any prosecutions. A human-rights office had opened in Colombia recently, but only after many regrettable delays.

PHILIPPE LEBLANC, of Franciscans International, said he violations in Mexico, Colombia and the Great Lakes region of Africa demanded the constant attention and ongoing action of the Commission. There had been a general deterioration in Mexico's human rights situation. There was growing concern of a hidden civil war in Mexico, particularly in places such as the north of Chiapas. Impunity was another serious issue. The existence of para-military groups also threatened the population. It was imperative for the Mexican Government to continue to pursue

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peaceful negotiations in Chiapas and to take steps to reduce the level of military action in the state. In Colombia, the Government had carried out a systematic pattern of human-rights violations for years. Forced disappearances, in the majority of cases accompanied by torture and summary executions, were daily occurrences in many parts of the country. Arbitrary detentions were increasing in areas under military control; the situation had deteriorated considerably over the past year due to the offensive unleashed by paramilitary groups. On the Great Lakes region, the Special Rapporteurs on Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire had presented reports on the gravity of the situation in the region. The group urged the Commission to renew the mandates of the three Rapporteurs.

MARIA SOLEDAD REINA, of World Christian Life Community, said that while the Constitution of Colombia promoted human rights, in reality, an average of 10 Colombians died every day for political reasons. The army and paramilitary groups were responsible for 70 per cent of the violence. Impunity was a deliberate policy of various sectors of the Government, which used it to maintain social control. The Government continued to form paramilitary forces which spread terror through the country. In one instance, paramilitary groups had expelled 170 families from their land, an action which had been legalized by the Government. Paramilitary groups had taken over the land, and orders to arrest them had been ignored because they enjoyed police protection. Large areas of Colombia had become militarized, with the Government reduced social expenditures to invest it in the war machine. The murders and disappearances of Colombian human-rights activists, as well as all violations, should be condemned by the Commission.

LAZARO MORA SECADE, of the Centro de Estudios Europeos, said the discussion of human-rights issues was the subject of manipulation, which made it seem as if violations only occurred in developing countries. However, the treatment of migrants and minorities in developed countries, and the resurgence of xenophobia, proved the contrary. The United States had sought to isolate Cuba from the international community by means of an economic blockade, which violated the political and other fundamental rights of the Cuban people. In Cuba, people enjoyed the right to life, and torture and enforced disappearances did not exist. There were many more serious violations taking place in other parts of the world; on some continents, there had been ethnic cleansing and genocide. In Latin America, certain countries experienced acts of torture and enforced disappearances. The existence of a Special Rapporteur for Cuba was a waste of United Nations resources resulting in a loss of credibility for the Organization. The United Nations needed to base its actions on non-discrimination and objectivity.

GABRIELA GONZALEZ, of International Federation of Human Rights, said concern was felt over the deteriorating situation in Nigeria, where the military Government had shown an uncooperative attitude and the so-called transition programme to democracy was only a well-orchestrated campaign to keep the military dictator in power in civilian guise; the Commission should appoint a Special Rapporteur for Nigeria. In Chad, there was a deterioration of the situation, with the Government holding strong responsibility for massive and systematic human-rights violations; again the Commission was urged to appoint a Special Rapporteur. In Bahrain, there had been several extrajudicial executions in the first three months of 1997; torture and ill-treatment of detainees was systematic, and six persons had recently died under torture; the Commission must condemn such abuses and urge the Government to invite thematic Special Rapporteurs who had asked to visit. In Turkey, lack of respect of basic human rights continued, and the Commission must condemn the situation and appoint a monitoring mechanism to study it; in China, gross violations of human rights affected all aspects of life, whether political or economic; the Commission should adopt a resolution on the country; and in Colombia, for close to 10 years, an average of 10 persons a day had been assassinated for political or ideological reasons, and one person disappeared every two days; the Commission must intensify its inquiry into the crisis there.

SARDAR KHALID IBRAHIM KHAN, of the World Society of Victimology, said India had ceased to be a democracy when it deployed 42 per cent of its military strength in Kashmir against a defenceless people to silence their desire for self-determination. The military action, in addition to constituting violations of United Nations resolutions, had resulted in gross and systematic violations of human rights. India had acknowledged the death of over 20,000 Kashmiris, while local estimate puts the death toll at over 50,000. Torture, disappearances, unlawful imprisonment, gang rape of women of all ages and destruction of property, among other abuses, had become part of the daily life of the region. The cause of this massive abuse of human rights in Kashmir was none else than the fact that the United Nations had frozen its package on Kashmir. As long as the United Nations kept the case of the people of Kashmir on hold, Indian security forces would continue to remain engaged in war with the people of Kashmir.

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BILL SIMMONS, of the International Indian Treaty Council, said the Commission was well aware of the suppression of the indigenous peoples of Bougainville, who for almost a decade had been suffering blockades, extra-judicial assassination, disappearances, deaths in detention, and the outright starvation and murder of innocent civilians by the Papua New Guinea Defense Forces and para-military groups associated with them. In Burma, thousands of Karen Peoples had been driven out of their homes by the Burmese army. Hundreds of Karen Peoples had been murdered, raped and enslaved. Recently, the National Indigenous Congress of Mexico had repudiated the militarization of Chiapas and the escalating repression and impunity of the Mexican army. These were not isolated incident but police and para-military groups and federal military forces reportedly murdered, imprisoned and tortured indigenous peoples with impunity. The United States, with its military aid to Mexico and other countries in the name of war on drugs and or terrorism, continued to support the encroachment of brutal armed forces on indigenous lands and communities and the violent suppression of justified dissent. Indigenous peoples in Guatemala continued to die and impunity for the perpetrators of both past and ongoing abuses was still the norm.

ISOBEL HARRY, of International PEN - Writers in Prison Committee, said some countries had recently made changes to their legislation which affected writers sentenced to prison terms. Most notable among the countries which had made such cosmetic changes to their laws was Turkey. The majority of those in prison in Turkey were being held solely for having expressed their views about the situation of the Kurdish community. Present PEN records showed that at least 80 writers and journalists were being detained under the legislation in question. China had also recently changed laws on criminal procedures which had drawn international condemnation. At least 39 writers were currently serving long prison sentences in China. Another country subject to scrutiny for its record on freedom of expression was Nigeria. Plans to set up a press court to try journalists for "reporting untruths" were seen as an attempt to further stifle free expression; in Nigeria five dissident journalists were already in prison. Other countries with sizeable numbers of writers in prison in contravention of their right to freedom of expression included Ethiopia, Cuba, Indonesia, Myanmar, South Korea, Vietnam, Iran, Kuwait and Syria.

SOTOS ZACKHEOS (Cyprus) said that almost 23 years after the Turkish invasion and occupation of 37 per cent of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people in the occupied part of Cyprus continued to be flagrantly violated in disregard of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Commission and of other international organizations. Some 35,000 heavily armed troops prevented the return in safety of one-third of the population, who had been forcibly expelled from their homes in 1974. The report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Cyprus stated that, "key restrictions on the enslaved Greek Cypriots and Maronites continued to persist". After the invasion, more that 20,000 Greek Cypriots had remained in the occupied part; today, only 500 were left, the rest having left due to a persistent policy of harassment, racial discrimination and intimidation. These people were not allowed to bequeath immovable property to relatives, even to next of kin, so more and more property was being expropriated. Turkey had also applied a policy of "Turkification" of the occupied part of the island. Furthermore, invaluable archaeological treasures had been looted and smuggled out of the country.

V. K. GUPTA, of the Indian Council of Education, said that, in order to protect human life, it was necessary to stop the production and testing of nuclear bombs as well as of smaller types of armaments and explosives which had become available to many people in many countries of the world. The widespread access to weapons was feeding terrorism and creating opportunities for criminals to use them against opponents. Their availability, use and social consequences were threats to the right to life. The global community had an obligation to safeguard the right to life, and to save people from the danger of being killed, maimed or humiliated. Special measures aimed at preventing not only the spread of weapons of mass destruction but also weapons of a smaller kind should be taken.

VERENA GRAF, of the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, said the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Cyprus had to be respected and all foreign troops and settlers had to withdraw. All refugees had to be allowed to return. The basic human rights of the people of Cyprus had to be respected. The rights of the people of Colombia also had to be observed. In that country some 10 persons died daily for political or ideological reasons. In 1996, one person died every two days. Thirty per cent of the murders were blamed on guerilla forces, but the rest were blamed on State troops who enjoyed 100 percent impunity. Furthermore, over 1 million people had been internally displaced because of political violence. The paramilitary groups considered there

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was an undeclared war between the Government and democratic groups. The armed groups were tolerated by the Government, which had moved to legalize them. Last year, the Commission had recognised the human rights situation in Colombia had worsened. It had become even more serious this year. How, then, could it be considered objective and impartial that there be a Special Rapporteur for Cuba but not for Colombia?

SHIVA HARI DAHAL, of the International League for Human Rights, said the government of Nepal had increasingly failed to respect the fundamental human rights of its citizens, particularly in areas under the influence of the Communist Party of Nepal. The Government had used the threat of violence by the Community Party to take on arbitrary powers, thus violating citizens' rights. The Government had itself become an outlaw, escalating the level of violence in the country. The lack of a human rights culture within the Government and the political parties undermined accountability. There were reports of torture, extra-judicial killings, rape, arbitrary detention, death in police custody and trafficking of human beings. The Government could not ignore fundamental human rights even in a situation of emergency.

JOHNCY ITTY, of the Anglican Consultative Council, said the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region was deeply disturbing, especially as there now were obstacles to efforts to provide humanitarian relief; the Government of Zaire must agree to participate in a regional plan which called for immediate cessation of all fighting and a complete cease-fire, and calling on all principals to negotiate in good faith; the Commission and other UN agencies must work to preserve the territorial integrity of countries participating in the cease-fire; the Government of Zaire must agree to unhindered transport of food and humanitarian aid; must guarantee peaceful, voluntary repatriation of refugees; the Commission must strongly urge all neighbouring Governments and those with ties to the region to desist from training soldiers and selling or transporting weapons to the parties to the conflict. The pursuit of peace demanded that the courage to broker a political settlement to disputes there be favoured even when military options seemed, in the short-term, to be more readily attainable.

FRANK CALZON, of Freedom House, said the group's report listed 17 countries and six territories with a combined population of 1.5 billion human beings who were denied fundamental human rights. The most repressive regimes in 1996 had been Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, North Korea, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Vietnam and the territories of East Timor, Kashmir, Kosovo, Tibet and West Papua. Of the worst violators, Cuba was the only one in the Western Hemisphere. Statements from dissident leaders in Cuba provided a glimpse of life there today. Their courage ought to strengthen the determination of democrats everywhere to help Cuba and to oppose the policies of the current dictatorship.

ABDELBAGI GEBRIEL, of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, said the war between Rwandan-backed rebels in eastern Zaire and the Zairean army threatened to further undermine political stability and security in the Great Lakes region. As a result of the fighting, large numbers of Rwandan refugees and Zairean people in the eastern part of the country had been killed, either directly by the warring factions or as a result of war-induced causes; some 120 Rwandan refugees were dying every day from hunger and disease in the region. The situation called for a disciplined, well-funded and well equipped pan-African military intervention force to help stabilize the region and prevent further acts of opportunistic behaviour on the part of those contesting power. It was characteristic of certain Governments in Africa to blame everyone but themselves for their dramatic failure to meet the legitimate aspirations of their own peoples for democracy and development; Nigeria, Zaire and Sudan were good examples of such countries. He called on those African member countries of the Commission to assume their responsibilities towards their fellow Africans who were victims of Government repression.

CARMEN HERTZ (Chile) said that this was the most sensitive of the Commission's agenda items; inevitably there were charges of selectivity, as some countries criticized others, and as the Commission chose to take action against some countries; it was important to ask if human rights were a pretext to justify action based rather on ideological confrontation. For the most part, Chile felt the Commission's actions were well-motivated, but in some cases political objectives could be discerned; those situations diluted the moral force of the Commission, even if the countries cited did, in fact, commit human-rights violations. Other States, also because of ideology, constantly tried to undermine the standards for protecting human rights; an example was the frequent claim that internal legislation took precedence over the Commission's acts; and that acts of the Commission were unlawful because politically motivated. Either approach caused problems and created a negative atmosphere. The Commission's past actions

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in regard to Chile had played a great role in helping human-rights in the country; it was important that whatever divisive actions States took, they should not diverge the Commission from carrying out its important tasks.

BERNARD GOONETILLEKE (Sri Lanka) said far-reaching changes were to be implemented next year which would introduce constitutional reform and find political solutions to ethnic issues. The constitutional changes proposed the creation of structures based on devolution of power, so that all people in the country would enjoy legislative and executive power. Existing guarantees and safeguards on fundamental freedoms and human rights had been further strengthened in the proposed changes. In addition, a number of national and international mechanisms to promote and protect human rights had been adopted by Sri Lanka, and a Human Rights Commission had been established in March 1997. The transition towards an orderly civil administration in the Jaffna peninsula was now taking place. Local institutions were now functioning once more after years of repression by the LTTE. Over 400,000 internally displaced persons had voluntarily returned to Jaffna defying an LTTE diktat.

MASAKI KONISHI (Japan) said it endorsed the view that States, regardless of their political, economic, or cultural systems, had a duty to protect human rights. The country was concerned about situations in Afghanistan, where it urged all parties to agree on an immediate cease-fire and work closely with the UN to achieve a political solution to the conflict; in Burundi, where it called upon all parties to the conflict to initiate a substantive dialogue as soon as possible; in China, which had pushed forward various reforms and greater openness, and where Japan welcomed indications that China was, indeed, prepared for dialogue on human-rights issues; in Colombia, where the human-rights situation had not improved in the last year; and in Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, East Timor, former Yugoslavia, and Zaire. It was the delegations hope that, as it was incumbent on all member States of the United Nations to respect and promote human rights, those countries in which grave violations were reported would make further efforts to bring such practices to an end.

BARZAN AL-TIKRITI (Iraq) said those involved in implementing United Nations mechanisms should tackle human rights issues in a neutral and objective manner. Those who bemoaned conditions in Iraq had sought to veil the reasons which prevented the Government taking measures to overcome the harsh conditions Iraqis were suffering from as a result of the embargo. The ban on civilian aviation in Iraq violated the right to life, as old and sick Iraqis were forced to take an arduous road route to Jordan to seek medical treatment. Did human rights conventions allow such violations, which were almost an act of revenge against an entire people. The human rights card was being brandished as a pretext to achieve the objectives of destabilizing the country, fragmenting its people and infringing upon Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. And yet, in Iraq, a number of measures had been introduced in the past few years to reenforce civil society.

PER HAUGESTAD (Norway) said all authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina had responsibility for preventing human-rights violations and for bringing war criminals to trial; in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, there was a disquieting lack of progress in the human-rights situation in Kosovo; in Croatia, authorities must protect the human rights of the local Serb population returning to Eastern Slavonia; serious abuses still took place in Turkey, and authorities there must make every effort to end them; it was regrettable that the conflict in Algeria continued, causing the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent civilians. Norway also was concerned over human-rights situations in Nigeria, the Great Lakes region of Africa, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, East Timor, China, Burma, and Colombia.

RUBEN MAYE NASUE MANGUE (Equatorial Guinea) said the situation in the country had made some progress in terms of human rights; in his professional capacity at the prosecutor's office, as diplomatic advisor on human rights, he was obliged to report that the problem of human rights could not be solved only through political pressure - or by radio programmes from abroad, or when the situation where they occurred had not been properly understood. He said this with a sense of responsibility to the international community: Governments should be given the international assistance needed to overcome the situations they faced. The Special Rapporteur in his visits to the country had been well-treated by national authorities; the system of administration of justice was inherited from former colonizers; in 1961, when independence was achieved, there had been only one lawyer, and only a few doctors; since, citizens had been fighting to improve the situation in the country; administration of justice had to be improved, but it was a struggle, and resources and manpower were still lacking; when a soldier violated military law, meanwhile, he was tried by military courts. The Government was grateful to the Special Rapporteur for recognizing the reality of the situation in the country; there had been progress, but a great difficulty remained in terms of

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changing long-entrenched mindsets; the best course to follow now was to give technical assistance to Equatorial Guinea.

BERAKI JINO (Solomon Islands) said a great number of human rights violations had occurred in Bougainville. Men, women and children had been tortured, maimed, raped and killed for reasons most would never understand, let alone accept. Sanitary conditions had also suffered, with thousands of people dying from otherwise preventable and curable diseases. The ongoing conflict in Bougainville had forced schools to be closed. As neighbouring islands to Bougainville, the Solomon Islanders feared a spread of that conflict into its territory. Providing humanitarian assistance and other services to Bougainvillean refugees had stretched the country's resources to the limit. The recent plan by the Government of Papua New Guinea to engage mercenaries to serve in Bougainville had been a stunning revelation; fortunately this plan had failed. Dialogue was the only way forward, even if negotiations had failed in the past.

MUHAMMAD SHOAIB, of International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, said that despite the existence of many resolutions, deplorable human-rights abuses, including torture, genocide, rape, and political suppression were prevalent in many countries which were members of the Commission; it was simply outrageous. In India, torture was a daily routine and there was brutal repression of the population in Jammu and Kashmir through murder, torture, arbitrary arrests, and lack of fair trials; clearly India was in direct contravention of many Commission resolutions. At this point Kashmiris did not enjoy any economic, social, or cultural rights, either. It was worth noting that Ghulam Rasool Dar, of Kashmir, who had testified before the Commission last year on enforced and involuntary disappearances, had returned to India in February 1997 and according to Amnesty International had been beaten by Indian security forces and had to recover in a hospital in New Delhi; reportedly the security forces beat his wife and two sons as well. Despite the widespread offenses against human rights, Kashmiris had confidence in the Commission and believed India would not be left free to continue to abuse human rights in Kashmir with impunity.

CLEMENT JOHN, of the World Council of Churches, said arbitrary detections, torture, and extrajudicial killings had become routine in Nigeria, and particularly in Ogoniland. Ever since the present regime came to power, there had been an ongoing disintegration of the rule of law in the country. The regime had consistently persecuted and silenced all dissent; human-rights activists, journalists and trade-union leaders had been held incommunicado with no formal charges being brought against them. A report on the situation in Ogoniland by the World Council of Churches documented the cries and sufferings of the Ogoni people, whose land and environment had been plundered and polluted by transnational oil companies. In Sri Lanka, meanwhile, the continuing civil war had been caused by the unresolved ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and had resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 people from both sides of the ethnic divide. The continued application of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and emergency regulations allowed the Sri Lankan security forces to hold people for indefinite periods of time. In the meantime, perpetrators of human rights violations had continued to operate with complete impunity.

ANA ALEJANDRE, of the International Association of Educators for World Peace, said truth was the most important spur for justice; on 24 February 1996, two unarmed civilian aircraft on a humanitarian search-and-rescue mission over the Straits of Florida had been downed by two Cuban Air Force MIGs, resulting in the deaths of Armando Alejandro, Carlos Costa, Mario de la Pena and Pablo Morales. Mr. Alejandro had been flying to supply Cuban rafters stranded in the Bahamas, Mr. Costa had saved more than 400 rafters on hundreds of missions, Mr. de la Pena had spotted and aided many persons lost at sea, and Mr. Morales had been a rafter rescued in the Straits in 1992. The incident had been verified by the International Civil Aviation Organization, the European Union, the United Nations Security Council, and the Special Rapporteur on Cuba. As Armando Alejandro's sister, representing her family and those of the others killed, she came to the Commission convinced that there was no excuse for this premeditated violation of the right to life and asked for the condemnation that the crime demanded.

CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ BERRIO, of the American Association of Jurists, said the armed forces in Colombia would go to any length to render the new human-rights office in Bogota inoperative. The Commission should make a strong statement on the subject, or appoint a Special Representative to make it clear to the authorities in Colombia that human rights were important. As for the mandate of the independent expert on Guatemala, it should be extended for a further year even though progress had been achieved in the situation. In Africa, a note available

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to the Commission referred to the gross violation of the human rights of the President of the National Assembly of Burundi. In neighbouring Zaire, meanwhile, the disappearance from the political scene of Mobutu Sese Seko would herald an era of peaceful cooperation and coexistence in the Great Lakes region.

CHRIS MBURU, of the International Human Rights Law Group, said the Nigerian Government, despite earlier commitments, had refused to cooperate with the Commission. The Government's systematic disregard for human rights was continuing, accompanied by orchestrated attempts aimed at completely exterminating the opposition. The Commission should appoint a Special Rapporteur for Nigeria. The Commission should also endorse the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan regarding women's human rights. In addition, the Commission should call on all the parties in the armed conflict in Zaire to respect international human rights and to end hostilities.

FRANCOISE NDUWIMANA, of the International Federation of Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture, said the world had been watching for several years now the horrifying developments in the Great Lakes region of Africa; despite United Nations efforts, there had been continuing problems of grave concern, especially with women and children refugees, who bore the brunt of human-rights violations. Impunity did not seem to have provoked a real reaction from the international community; if these countries were transformed into wastelands there would be no winners or losers. Theoretical action in the form of resolutions and international discussions was fine, but must be backed up with practical action; arms sales and shipments to the region must be ended; humanitarian personnel must be protected. Inquiries should be carried out by Special Rapporteurs on torture, extrajudicial executions, and violence against women; international observers must be sent to the region to help establish the rule of law and monitor elections; and greater assistance must be provided to help rebuild the countries of the region after the ravages of war.

ROBERTUS ROBET, of Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia, said that as a human-rights defender from the field, she carried and wished to express the great hope that this meeting of civilized nations would pay serious attention to those people living in fear and facing threats of imprisonment and death in Indonesia; the systematic violations committed by the 30-year-old Government had transformed into more sophisticated offenses over time; currently the police and attorney's offices were used to repress political opposition, while the military actually held power and control. The National Commission on Human Rights was used to show the international community that improvement in the human-rights situation was occurring, but in fact the Commission was reluctant to act on matters, such as recommendations of Special Rapporteurs, that would result in genuine progress. Freedom of religion had been consistently violated; the workings of the courts and the system of justice were dedicated solely to shackling those considered to be opponents of the Government; other offenses included violations of civil and political rights, rights to a fair trial, attacks, beatings, and arbitrary imprisonment. The Commission must urge the Indonesian Government to collaborate with the UN mechanisms by inviting Special Rapporteurs on independence of the judiciary and religious intolerance to visit Indonesia.

GING GINANJAR, of the International Federation of Journalists, said he had first experienced suppression of the press in 1994 when the weekly which he worked for, "DeTik", together with two other magazines, "Tempo" and "Editor", had been banned because they had published articles critical of the Government of Indonesia. Five months later, the Government banned "Simponi", another weekly for which he worked. In March 1995, the third magazine on which he worked "Independent" had been banned, and four journalists had been put in jail. During the 30 years of Suharto rule control, restriction, repression and threats had become commonplace for the Indonesian press. The Government had imposed such obstacles in the name of "Pancasila", the State ideology. The Indonesian press had been used by the Government to channel one-sided and manipulated information.

TREVOR TRUEMAN, of Survival for Tribal Peoples, said the Oromo, who constituted half the population of Ethiopia, had been denied an effective voice in the governing of the country for the last century. The Oromo Liberation Front was recognized as the legitimate voice of the Oromo people. Reports of human-rights violations against Oromos by Ethiopian Government forces - including extrajudicial killing, disappearance, torture, arbitrary detention and rape

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- had started in 1991. The Oromia Support Group had now received reports of 1,683 extrajudicial killings and 527 disappearances of civilians suspected of supporting groups opposing the Government, most of them Oromo people. Diplomatic efforts had failed to improve the human rights situation in Ethiopia; a Special Rapporteur for that country should be appointed to investigate reports of human rights violations.

CHARLES GRAVES, of the African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters, said the human rights situation in Bahrain was a source of concern. The Bahraini authorities persisted in not facing the whole range of needs of the people; they had not responded to the desire of the Bahrainis for the restoration of the democratic Constitution abolished in 1975. In order to solve its problems, Bahrain argued that the repression was justified because the regime was under threat from a fictitious foreign-backed organization which sought to overthrow the political establishment by force. Such allegations were pure fantasy used in order to avoid the real problems, which were a result of the lack of democracy. The Commission should request the Government of Bahrain to stop the repression, release the detainees and enter into a dialogue with the people.

PIERRE MIOT, of the International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements, said his group, which brought together 61 movements and organizations of rural peoples, wished to draw the attention of the Commission to grave violations of fundamental rights against peasants. International conventions called for the protection of workers and rural peasants. People in rural areas were increasingly aware of the need to create new peasant associations, although the exodus of young people to the cities was making it harder to keep rural areas alive. Various development programmes imposed from the outside did not conform to the needs of the peasants. Peasants felt their only real chance to survive was to organize peasant associations directed and managed by themselves.

MARIN RAYKOV (Bulgaria) said Special Rapporteur Elisabeth Rehn had mentioned in her report the situation of the Bulgarian national minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Bulgaria highly appreciated her commitment in accomplishing her mandate. The establishment of the Special Rapporteur's office in Belgrade was a positive and constructive step by the authorities to enable her to be personally acquainted with information related to human-rights abuses. Complaints brought by representatives of the Bulgarian minority concerning, among other things, violation of educational rights and the obliteration of Bulgarian ethnic culture had been reported. The human rights situation of Bulgarians in Serbia was of particular interest to Bulgaria, which would have preferred to see the issue resolved through bilateral efforts. That expectation had failed to materialize, however. Two other issues of concern to Bulgaria were the continuing instability in Albania and the Cypriot question. In the latter, the status quo was unacceptable.

G. HELMIS (Greece) said gross violations of human rights in Cyprus continued and Turkey still occupied 37 per cent of the island; the situation still remained a source of potential destabilization; and in the course of 1996 there had been a flare-up of violence along the buffer zone, caused by the deliberate attempt of the Turkish side to substantiate their claim that coexistence between the two communities of the island was no longer possible. Turkey still refused to allow 200,000 Greek Cypriots forcibly evicted by its troops to return to their homes and properties; in breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the occupying power had transferred and continued to transfer settlers from mainland Turkey to Cyprus, in an attempt to alter its demographic structure and influence the political process; the few remaining Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the occupied area, the enslaved persons, continued to be subjected to all kinds of harassment, intimidation, and deprivation; the question of Greek-Cypriot missing persons continued to be unresolved; and plundering continued of the centuries-old cultures religious heritage of the occupied part of Cyprus. The international community should cease to passively observe the situation in Cyprus and take concrete action, as, laudably, the European Court of Justice had done recently in issuing a judgment.

GONçALO DE SANTA CLARA GOMES (Portugal) said serious and systematic abuses of fundamental human rights had continued in East Timor, a territory for which Portugal had special responsibility. Inside East Timor, arbitrary detentions, torture, disappearances and even extrajudicial executions were reported by various reliable sources. East Timorese continued to live in fear and to remain at the mercy of security forces that perpetrated abuses with impunity. The Indonesian Government had failed to implement most of the undertakings contained in the Chairman's statements adopted by the Commission in previous years. Among the root causes of tension in East Timor was the massive migration of Indonesians to East Timor. The Indonesian Government also continued to

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maintain an excessive military presence on the island. The Commission should encourage the renewed efforts of the Secretary-General and his Representative by taking a firm position on the human-rights situation in East Timor.

KEITH BENNETT, of Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, said there was a ray of hope for the long, sad conflict in Jammu and Kashmir; India and Pakistan had newly elected democratic Governments, and the tenor of statements emanating from the two countries suggested a resolution of the issue was possible; however, it was imperative that the process be allowed to follow its natural course and not be derailed by outside influences seeking to impose their own agendas. The mood in Kashmir had changed after seven years of violence - there was fatigue and disillusionment with militancy, and several Kashmiri leaders had returned disillusioned from Pakistan; India had held elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and voters had flocked to the polls. Violence had not yet disappeared, but it was, hopefully, residual militancy. The encouragement of the Commission for the reconciliation process, without interference or advice, was essential.

CARMELO MOCONG ONGUENE, of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, said successive Governments in Equatorial Guinea had not contributed to human rights and fundamental freedoms. As a result of their lack of political will, human rights were not observed. The Governments of Equatorial Guinea had enjoyed 18 years of assistance from the Commission and Special Rapporteurs to end violations, but the situation had actually deteriorated. The impunity of those who committed violations continued, and there was no sign of any desire to limit the scope of military jurisdiction. Meanwhile, members of legal opposition groups were interrogated, harassed and tortured. The Government had to end acting arbitrarily and recognize that negative signs could not be dealt with by force but through dialogue and negotiations. The opposition political parties were willing to seek a peaceful solution. The World Alliance hoped the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Equatorial Guinea would be renewed.

LIVIA CORDERO, of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, said a delegation of the organization had visited Bogota and Apartado in Colombia, met with Government officials and local authorities, and members of NGOs, and found massive, continuing violations of human rights, including many forced disappearances; chasing of peasants from small pieces of land; death threats, torture, and murder; killing of democratically elected officials; and institution of fake trials by "faceless judges". The situation in the country had deteriorated, and at the moment paramilitary forces were forcibly displacing whole civilian settlements; the Commission must manifest its solidarity with victims of human rights in Colombia; reaffirm the mandate given to the recently opened office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia; and appoint an independent expert to prepare an analytical report for the office; other States must call on Colombia to establish a peace policy to facilitate a negotiated solution for the conflict there.

ELKE KESSLER, of National Council of German Women's Organizations, speaking on behalf of several NGOs, said more attention must be paid to the situation of women in Afghanistan, where women could not go to school; facilities for women's health services were quickly eroding, and where bathhouses had been closed, directly affecting women's ability to achieve hygiene and health. Obtaining medical care and health services was difficult for women; the Taliban also severely restricted women's rights to employment outside the home, even as poverty was widespread, and the war had created many female-headed households, where women were the only possible breadwinners. The Commission must adopt a resolution underlining Afghanistan's responsibilities to women under international standards for human rights; and the Special Rapporteur must continue his important work and investigate the situation of women's rights in Afghanistan.

HELENA TORROJA, of the Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, said that in the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, a poll for the people to decide on self-determination would not be free. Saharawis were not allowed to express their ideas without persecution from the Moroccan Government. A referendum was also not possible after the breakdown in negotiations. An international conference needed to be held with the Spanish State as a main actor to set the rules of the referendum. In Israel, the security forces tortured Palestinians and the Government pursued its settlement policy. The recent closure of borders of the West Bank and Gaza prevented Palestinians from working, which affected their economic and social rights. Such actions were obstacles to fundamental rights in the region, especially the right to peace. In East Timor, the group was concerned with the suffering of both East Timorese and Indonesians. Extrajudicial executions and torture continued there.

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Indonesia was urged to follow proposals to allow a representative Commission to visit East Timor. And as for Guatemala, the work of the Independent Expert on the country should continue.

DAVID ARNOTT, of War Resisters' International, said there had been confusion recently about Thailand's treatment of Karen refugees from Burma and the Burmese Army; a recent statement by the Royal Thai Government that such asylum-seekers would be accepted and well-treated was a relief to hear. A genuine peace settlement was needed in Burma which addressed the political concerns of the Karen and other groups, since a mere cease-fire did not prevent persecution of them by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) now operating as the country's Government. The Commission should stress in a resolution that the Government must conclude a genuine peace settlement with the Karen National Union and other ethnic nationalities; the international community should provide further assistance to Thailand to help ease the burden of the large-scale influx of Burmese into Thailand; Thailand must continue to extend hospitality and protection to Burmese seeking refuge; and SLORC must recognize that national reconciliation and economic prosperity could not be achieved by force, and therefore honour its commitment to transfer its power to the victors of the 1990 elections.

MUSHTAQ AHMAD WANJ, of World Muslim Congress, said the United Nations must firmly proceed against those countries which committed acts of terror, human-rights violations, and disregarded Security Council resolutions; in India, democracy meant ballots for Indians and bullets for Kashmiris; the insensitivity of the civilized world to the outrageous Indian behaviour in Kashmir exposed those powers which seldom tired of claiming to be champions of human rights; as many as 700,000 Indian soldiers deployed in Kashmir made it the most heavily militarized region in the world; custodial killings had reached dangerous proportions; the world silently witnessed the communal cleansing of Kashmir because India was too large an economic market to be ignored. The war crimes committed by state authorities and Indian military forces should be investigated by a neutral body, as war crimes in Bosnia were being investigated; thousands of Indian military forces in Kashmir boasted of their crimes against women in Kashmir. The people of the region were deeply dismayed by the statement made by the European Union on the situation; in fact the elections in Jammu and Kashmir last year were not only rigged but held through coercion and under the direct supervision of Indian troops. The Commission must provide a ray of hope for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

NAZAR ABDELGADIR SALIH, of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, said the human rights situation in the Arab world had seen some improvement, but severe violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms persisted. Some of these were caused by foreign aggression and by armed conflicts between Governments and rebels. Abuses continued in Iraq as a result of the economic embargo. The rights of Palestinians were being violated by Israel; the Palestinian Authority also violated human rights. Lebanon was also a victim of violations caused by repeated Israeli military attacks. Algeria remained the most dangerous conflict situation, while Sudan had witnessed some deterioration following the spread of the civil war to the east of the country. There had also been serious violations of Arabs' rights to personal security and liberty, with journalists and newspapers being particularly targeted.

SEIN WIN, of the International Peace Bureau, said he was disappointed that the Special Rapporteur on Burma had not been allowed to visit the country. At every United Nations session, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) authorities appeared to be very defensive about resolutions on Burma. SLORC mistakenly claimed that the right of non-interference in internal affairs had primacy over all other articles in the United Nations Charter. National sovereignty must come from the people and should not be used as a veil to hide human rights abuses. The situation of human rights in Burma was going from bad to worse. The rights of the people, especially elected representatives and supporters of the National League for Democracy, to participate in the political process had been severely restricted by unjust laws and orders. SLORC resorted to violence suppression, arbitrary arrests, unfair trials and harsh prison sentences. The Commission should extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for another year and pass a resolution on Burma that reflected the appalling human rights situation there.

NANCY RUBIN (United States) said the Government worked hard at gathering reliable information on the extent to which human rights were respected or abused around the world; Cuba remained the hemisphere's only dictatorship, and continued to arrest, detain, threaten, and harass human rights and pro-democracy activists it considered a threat; no political opening apparently would accompany limited economic liberalization there. By

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contrast, the final peace accord signed in Guatemala closed out a year of significant improvement there; there was preoccupation, however, over human-rights problems in Colombia, where the Government must continue to show political will by arresting and prosecuting human-rights abusers in the security forces, and identifying and penalizing illegal collaboration between the military and paramilitary units. The United States also felt concern over situations in Albania, former Yugoslavia, Belarus, Cyprus, Nigeria, the Great Lakes region of Africa, Iraq, Iran, Sri Lanka, and in China, which had undergone significant reforms but continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses. Satisfaction was expressed by the United States over significant progress made in human rights by Ghana, Mali, Liberia, and South Africa.

MOHAMED HASSAINE (Algeria) said the country's priority objective was the building of a state of law and democracy with full respect for human rights; a new Constitution had enshrined political pluralism, and freedoms of expression, assembly, and other rights; there had been substantial risks of disruption by obstructionist forces, but the country continued to strengthen respect for human rights and establish a market economy in the face of terrorism in religious guise. An independent National Human Rights Observatory, and a mediator had been appointed; freedom of the press and expression had been augmented, and political pluralism promoted; pluralistic, internationally monitored democratic elections had been held in 1995; and a platform of national understanding had been approved in 1996 to strengthen support for democratic principles. Moreover, the Constitution had been modified to improve democracy. The use of violence in exercise of political activities had been prohibited; proportionality for elections had been established; local elections would soon be held in an atmosphere of transparency. In its battle against terrorism, Algeria appealed for international cooperation and mobilization, and regretted the refusal of some countries to condemn groups which carried out acts all the world deplored.

HERNAN FLORUTTI (Argentina) said the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report on human rights in Cyprus, calling for a return of human rights to the people of the island and for the return of refugees, were the best way to achieve a solution to the problem there. The report hoped the leaders of the conflict would hold direct negotiations to achieve a solution. The human-rights situation should find a just solution without further delay based on international law and international human rights instruments. This solution must imply that the Cypriot State's sovereignty was unitary; that its territorial integrity should not be jeopardized, and that the two communities lived equally in a federation made up of two zones. A settlement had to be reached based on the guidelines set by the Security Council.

Right of Reply Representative of China said the statement of the European Union yesterday, and those of certain NGOs, had failed to mention the substantial progress in the human rights situation in China. These accusations were no more than clichés and not worth refuting. The issue should be judged by the Chinese people itself. As for comments on Hong Kong, the basic rights of the residents of the territory would be safeguarded; China would be implementing a policy of "one country, two systems" according to which Hong Kong's way of life would remain unchanged for 50 years. The Basic Law of Hong Kong guaranteed the rights and privileges of Hong Kong residents. The British authorities had created obstacles: the territory had never had a bill of rights in 100 years of British rule, yet on the eve of their departure the British had introduced a bill of rights. That constituted a gross violation of the Basic Law agreement.

ALI A. GLNASRI (Sudan) said the allegations made against Sudan by the Union of Arab Lawyers this morning were all lies. The representative of that group was in fact a member of the Sudanese rebel movement and an opponent of the Government. The international community had done nothing to stop the foreign aggression against Sudan and this had had bad effects on the people of Sudan. The Union, which made false allegations against the Government, was trying to use the Commission to advance allegations against all Arab countries.

ANTONIO DE ICAZA (Mexico) said the allegations made by four non-governmental organizations regarding an alleged massacre in a rural area of the north of the state of Chiapas were inaccurate. The so-called "massacre" had actually involved a personal conflict resulting in the deaths of five people. The killings had been common crimes and not gross violations of human rights. Mexico had issued invitations to visit the country to the Special Rapporteurs on torture and on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions. The Government fully cooperated with international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights.

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BARZAN AL-TIKRITI (Iraq) said it deeply regretted what Japan had said about Iraq. Japan sought to become a permanent member of the Security Council, a position of great responsibility calling for objectivity. The delegation of Iraq had yet to see that Japan was in fact objective; asking Iraq to abide by the Security Council resolution on oil-for-food was irresponsible; the United States was responsible for that resolution and for its failures. The Japanese representative should have addressed his statement to those who were stopping the release of medicine to people in Iraq who needed it greatly; why, furthermore, had Japan not raised the issue of the cruel economic embargo imposed upon Iraq, or was that of no importance? Was Japan behaving this way to pay favours in order to gain access to a permanent post on the Security Council? It continued to adopt the attitudes and information of those who were opposed to Iraq.

Load-Date: May 23, 1997

End of Document

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

May 1, 2000; Monday

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Section: International news

Length: 6973 words

Body

WORLD AT 1700 GMT:

NEW:

UN-NUCLEAR TREATY. Five nuclear powers pledge to completely eliminate weapons.

CUBA-MAY DAY. Thousands demand Elian's return at rally led by Fidel Castro.

US-TERRORISM REPORT. Focus of terrorism shifts from Middle East to South Asia.

ZIMBABWE-VIOLENCE. Thousands of opposition supporters rally outside Harare.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

SHIRAZ, Iran One of 13 Iranian Jews on trial admits on state television Monday that he did spy for Israel. Dani Tefilin says he was trained to spy during a trip to Israel in 1994. IRAN-JEWS. Developing. By Afshin Valinejad. AP Photos TEH101-102.

ALSO MOVED:

IRAN-POWER STRUGGLE. Three Iranian reformists including the wife of the culture minister are questioned in court Monday in a continuing crackdown by hard-liners who have already shut down 16 pro-democracy newspapers.

UNITED NATIONS Five nuclear powers pledge Monday to completely eliminate their nuclear weapons in a bid to deflect criticism of their nuclear disarmament records. But arms control agencies say the promise won't appease non-nuclear weapon states. UN-NUCLEAR TREATY. Developing. By Nicole Winfield.

WITH:

UN-IRAQ-NUCLEAR. Iraq on Monday castigates Israel as the destabilizing atomic power in the Middle East. Expected by 1900 GMT.

BERLIN Labor's traditional May Day holiday takes a back seat Monday to protests around the world from neo-Nazis in Germany to anti-capitalists in Britain and thousands in Cuba demanding the return of 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez. MAY DAY. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Burt Herman. AP Photos, AP Graphic MAY DAY ROUNDUP.

WITH:

CUBA-MAY DAY. President Fidel Castro gives his first May Day speech in years. Developing; photos planned.

MEXICO-DONKEY DAY. This 16th-century way station salutes international workers' day with its annual homage to the hardest worker of all: Mexico's prized burro. There are donkey races, the donkey that can drink the most beer and, of course, the crowning of Miss Donkey. Expected by 1900 GMT.

EILAT, Israel Trying to improve the climate in peace treaty talks, Israel says Monday that it has already resigned itself to Palestinian statehood, and the Palestinians acknowledge Israel's pain on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Despite such goodwill gestures, negotiators report no progress and await the arrival of a U.S. mediator. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead expected by 1800 GMT. By Dana Budeiri. AP Photos JRL101,103,105

ANKARA, Turkey Turkey's fractured parliament fails Monday in its second try to elect a president, despite lobbying from coalition leaders on behalf of the government's nominee. TURKEY-ELECTION. Lead has moved to some points; upcoming to others. By Louis Meixler. AP Photos ANK104-105,107.

WASHINGTON The focus of terrorism has shifted from the Middle East to South Asia, where Afghanistan serves as the primary safe haven for terrorists and Pakistan has supported groups that engage in violence in Kashmir, the U.S.State Department says Monday. US-TERRORISM REPORT. Lead has moved. By George Gedda.

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico A U.S. warship slips into the waters off Vieques before dawn Monday, rattling nerves of protesters bracing for the arrival of federal agents to evict them from a disputed Navy bombing range. PUERTO RICO-NAVY BOMBING. Lead has moved to some points; upcoming to others. By Ricardo Figueroa. AP Photos VIQ101-103.

ALSO MOVED:

PUERTO RICO-VIEQUES TOURISM. U.S. bombing range controversy in Vieques scaring away tourists. NY110.

BANDANG, Philippines Twenty-one hostages abducted from a Malaysian resort complain Monday of infections and hunger after a week's confinement in a bamboo hut. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Lead has moved. By Aaron Favila. AP Photos BAS102, JOL102-104, MLA112.

WASHINGTON China should be denied permanent normal trade status until it makes "substantial improvement" in allowing its people the freedom to worship, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom says Monday. Sudan and Russia are also accused of hindering religious practices. US-RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Lead has moved. By David Briscoe.

KUWADZANA, Zimbabwe An opposition leader advises hundreds of supporters gathered Monday at a rally Monday to maintain a low profile and even pretend to support the ruling party if necessary to guarantee their safety. ZIMBABWE-VIOLENCE. Lead has moved to some points; upcoming to others. By Susanna Loof. AP Photos HRE101,103,105,107-108.

MOSCOW Russian forces on Monday find the bodies of nine soldiers allegedly captured and executed by Chechen rebels in an ambush that undercut Moscow's claims that Chechnya's insurgents are close to defeat. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB108-109.

VIENNA, Austria Joerg Haider officially resigns Monday as head of the far-right Freedom Party in the same confrontational way that he's led it for the past 14 years with a speech lashing out at his critics. AUSTRIA-HAIDER. Lead has moved. AP Photos KLA104,106,117,123.

KAEHWASAN, South Korea South Korean and U.S. officials begin digging up two sites in a search Monday for the remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. SKOREA-WAR REMAINS. Lead has moved. By Kyong-hwa Seok. AP Photos SEL101-103.

AP News Digest

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, the British and Irish governments hold talks in London with three key Northern Ireland parties in hopes of salvaging 1998's Good Friday peace accord.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-US-COMING TO AMERICA. With FEA-US-COMING TO AMERICA-GLANCE.

FEA-SOMALIA-GOING HOME. NY360-361.

FEA-HEALING GHANA. NY350-NY356.

FEA-BRITAIN-ASYLUM FEARS. LMN101; AP Graphic Logo WORLD ON THE MOVE.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Ian Mader. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

London British and Irish governments hold talks with three key Northern Ireland parties in hopes of salvaging 1998's Good Friday peace accord.

Stockholm, Sweden Finnish President Tarja Halonen makes her first state visit abroad. Through May 3.

Stockholm, Sweden U.N. global forum on local governance and social services for all. Through May 5.

Bombay, India Workers at 11 state-run Indian ports are threatening to launch an indefinite strike to demand more frequent pay raises.

Washington Free Congress Foundation and the American University of Moscow host seminar on the prospects of reintegrating Russia into the West, with U.S. lawmakers and a Russian delegation.

Jerusalem Last day of Australian Prime Minister John Howard's visit to Israel and Palestinian territories.

Yangon, Myanmar Last day of ASEAN economic and trade ministers' meeting.

Wednesday, May 3:

Camp Zeist, Netherlands Trial expected to begin for two Libyans charged in the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

Kuwait Criminal Court expected to rule on treason charges against a Kuwaiti man who was appointed prime minister of a puppet Cabinet formed after Iraq invaded in 1990.

Goteborg, Sweden Trial begins for four men accused of aggravated arson in fatal disco fire.

Tokyo Constitution Day, national holiday.

Washington The Secretary's Open Forum Conversation Series hosts U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Pete Peterson and former U.S. Ambassador to Thailand William Itoh in a discussion of "U.S.-Vietnam Relations: 25 Years After the Fall of Saigon."

Seoul, South Korea North Korea and South Korea will hold a third round of talks to prepare for the first-ever summit in June of their leaders.

Rome Last day of Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's visit.

Thursday, May 4:

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New Delhi, India Colette Mathur, director of World Economic Forum, based in Switzerland, visits to prepare for this year's India Economic Summit.

London Balloting for London's first elected mayor and a 25-member London assembly.

Tokyo People's Holiday, national holiday.

Chicago Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan speech to conference on bank structure and competition on banking evolution.

Washington House Transportation and Infrastructure hearing on federal efforts to prepare for terrorist attacks.

Friday, May 5:

Mexico Cinco de Mayo commemorations of 1862 victory of Mexico over French invaders at Battle of Puebla.

Tehran, Iran Runoffs for 66 seats that were not decided in the February elections for Iran's 290-member parliament.

Tokyo Children's Day, national holiday.

Saturday, May 6:

Chiang Mai, Thailand Asian Development Bank brings together central bankers and development officials from around world for annual meeting. Through May 9.

Tokyo Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori returns from eight-day visit to Russia, Italy, France, Germany, Britain, Canada and the United States to discuss the Group of 8 summit in Okinawa in July.

Sunday, May 7:

Amman, Jordan Second hearing in trial of 28 men, allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden, on charges of plotting terrorist attacks on U.S. and Israeli tourists in Jordan.

Rome Pope John Paul II participates in ceremony paying tribute to defenders of faith at the Colosseum.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

GERMANY-DOPING TRIAL. Prosecutors aim at men responsible for doping program.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

UNITED NATIONS Disarmament groups are criticizing a new pledge by the five key nuclear powers to work to rid the world of their nuclear arsenals, saying it isn't enough after 30 years of similar promises that haven't been kept. UN-NUCLEAR TREATY. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Nicole Winfield.

WITH:

UN-IRAQ-NUCLEAR. Iraq castigates Israel as the destabilizing atomic power in the Middle East. Moved.

TALIPAO, Philippines The 21 hostages suffered from hunger and diarrhea, and some pleaded for water. One said she could not walk and wept in a bamboo hut where she and the others are being held by Muslim rebels. The hostages, including 10 foreign tourists, received a welcome visit from a doctor eight days after being abducted. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Lead expected by 1000 GMT. By Aaron Favila. AP Photos.

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands More than 11 years after the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, victims' families were heading toward a former U.S. Air Force base to witness the trial of two Libyan suspects. Scottish court authorities

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said they were trying to keep the trial, opening Wednesday, as routine as possible. LOCKERBIE TRIAL. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Jerome Socolovsky. AMS101-102.

BERLIN After convicting East German coaches, doctors and other sports functionaries of systematically doping athletes for the glory of communism, prosecutors are aiming their sights at the men allegedly responsible for the top-secret program. GERMANY-DOPING TRIAL. Expected by 0200 GMT; trial scheduled to begin 0700 GMT. By Paul Geitner. FRA501.

EILAT, Israel Israel and the Palestinians were taking a day-long break Tuesday from negotiations that have made little progress and awaiting the arrival of a U.S. envoy to help bridge the gaps. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Dana Budeiri. XED101-103, JRL101-103, 105.

SHIRAZ, Iran In a case that has raised Western concerns, one of 13 Iranian Jews on trial for espionage appeared on state television and confessed to spying for Israel. IRAN-JEWS. Lead has moved. by Afshin Valinejad. TEH101-104.

WASHINGTON The United States announced it is planning to file World Trade Organization cases against Brazil, Romania, India, Philippines, Argentina and Denmark, accusing the countries of unfair trade practices that are hurting American businesses. US-TRADE FIGHTS. Has moved. By Martin Crutsinger.

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico A U.S. warship slips into the waters off Vieques, rattling nerves of protesters bracing for the arrival of federal agents to evict them from a disputed Navy bombing range. PUERTO RICO-NAVY BOMBING. Lead has moved. By Ricardo Figueroa. VIQ101-105, 107.

WASHINGTON China should be denied permanent normal trade status until it makes "substantial improvement" in allowing its people the freedom to worship, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom says Monday. US-RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Lead has moved. By David Briscoe.

MOSCOW Russian forces on Monday find the bodies of nine soldiers allegedly captured and executed by Chechen rebels in an ambush that undercut Moscow's claims that Chechnya's insurgents are close to defeat. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Yuri Bagrov. MOSB108-109.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, the British and Irish governments hold talks in London with three key Northern Ireland parties in hopes of salvaging 1998's Good Friday peace accord. On Wednesday, the trial is expected to begin in Camp Zeist, Netherlands, for two Libyans charged in the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

FEATURES: Business and Finance

CAIRO, Egypt The start of private mobile phone operators has enlivened the communications market in Egypt, vastly improving service and attracting the attention of foreign investors. FEA-EGYPT-CALLS. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Hamza Hendawi. AP Photo NY196.

With: FEA-EGYPT CALLS-GLANCE.

LONDON In a sprawling brick Tesco supermarket in London's gritty Surrey Quays district, "pickers" for online shoppers cruise the aisles guided by on-cart monitors that tell them where to find customers' choices. Vans then whisk the goods to homes and businesses. FEA-BRITAIN-E-GROCERIES. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Brian Brumley. AP Photo NY321.

MEXICO CITY Night is falling in a posh Mexico City neighborhood, and the most powerful triumvirate in Latin American business is chumming it up. The managers of Mexico's sprawling Slim empire swap compliments on leadership skills while lounging shoulder-to-shoulder. They insist they get along great running everything from music stores to restaurants to copper-fitting factories. FEA-MEXICO-NOT-SO-SLIM BUSINESS. Expected by 0300 GMT. By David E. Kalish. AP Photos NY303-304.

AP News Digest

REDMOND, Washington Computers and the Internet are still a wonder to many adults, but to teen-agers, they're simply a part of life. And so the world's largest software maker is turning to a pair of teens to tell it how to run the company. FEA-US-NET GENERATION. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Michael J. Martinez. AP Photos NY110-111.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Ian Mader and Charles Gans. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

IRAN-JEWS. Trial reconvenes for 13 Jews charged with spying for U.S. and Israel.

LOCKERBIE MYSTERS. A trial at last, but is the Lockerbie mystery solved?

ISRAEL-HOLOCAUST MEMORY. New museum to launch Israel into next century of Holocaust remembrance.

VIETNAM-WAR ANNIVERSARY. Vietnam must now confront sagging economy and rampant corruption.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

ISABELA, Philippines Two multiple kidnappings have put the country's 30-year Muslim rebellion on front pages around the world, dragged down Philippine markets, and instilled a new urgency in the government's peace process. PHILIPPINES-SIMMERING REBELLION. Has moved. By Oliver Teves.

WITH:

PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. A South African woman who was abducted along with 20 other people last week from a Malaysian resort has collapsed and several others are suffering from fevers, a kidnapper says Monday. The hostages being held by Muslim extremists are asking for food and clean water, the kidnapper, Abu Issa, said in an interview with a local radio station. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Oliver Teves.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Retaking Jaffna from the government would be a huge morale boost for ethnic Tamil rebels who have mounted an advance toward the city that in four months has so far left more than 1,380 dead. However, if the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam win back their former capital after five years of government control, it could wreck chances for peace talks and an autonomy proposal put forward by Sri Lanka's president. SRI LANKA-WHY JAFFNA. Has moved. By Dilip Ganguly.

WITH:

SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Tamil Tiger rebels claim to have captured a key northern military base in their offensive to retake Jaffna, their former capital. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved. By Dilshika Jayamaha. AP Photo NY197.

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam After an invitation-only 25th anniversary celebration of its victory over the United States, Vietnam's communist government now must confront the cold realities of a sagging economy, rampant corruption and rising drug addiction. VIETNAM-WAR ANNIVERSARY. Has moved. By Edith M. Lederer. AP Photos; AP Graphic VIETNAM WAR.

ALSO MOVED:

VIETNAM-NOT OVER YET. With unhealed wounds, unsettled scores, some stay away from victory celebrations. AP Photos NY192,193.

US-VIETNAM-TRADE. Some American political leaders who served during the Vietnam War say that, 25 years after the war's end, Vietnam has not flourished economically in part because Vietnamese leaders have hindered free trade with the United States.

AP News Digest

WASHINGTON A federal advisory panel created to promote religious rights declares Monday that China should be denied permanent normal trade status until it makes "substantial improvement" in allowing its people the freedom to worship. US-RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Expected by 0700 GMT; embargoed for release at 1400 GMT. Will be led after 1400 GMT news conference. By David Briscoe.

ANKARA, Turkey After suffering an embarrassing blow, leaders of Turkey's governing coalition are apparently pressing independent-minded lawmakers to back their candidate in a second round of voting for president on Monday. TURKEY-ELECTION. Developing. Voting scheduled for 1200 GMT, results expected by 1400 GMT. By Suzan Fraser.

EILAT, Israel Squabbling in Israel's ruling coalition and Palestinian protests over the planned expansion of a Jewish West Bank settlement are overshadowing the latest round of negotiations for a final peace treaty. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dana Budeiri. AP Photos ISR101-105.

TEHRAN, Iran The head of Iran's largest reformist student group is jailed in a widening hard-line crackdown that has already closed 16 pro-democracy publications in a bid to silence the supporters of popular President Mohammad Khatami. IRAN-POWER STRUGGLE. Has moved. By Ali Akbar Dareini. AP Photos TEH101-102.

SHIRAZ, Iran The trial of 13 Jews charged with spying for the United States and Israel reconvenes Monday in southern Iran. The trial, which is not open to the public, comes amid a serious power struggle between anti-American Islamic hard-liners and President Mohammad Khatami's reformist wing. IRAN-JEWS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Afshin Valinejad.

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands After interviewing 15,000 witnesses and collecting 180,000 pieces of evidence in the biggest murder investigation in history, prosecutors are convinced they have the culprits in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The long-awaited trial begins Wednesday at a Scottish court on Dutch soil. But doubts about the case against the two Libyan defendants have been widespread, even before the prosecution's failed bid to delay the trial. LOCKERBIE MYSTERY. Has moved. AP Photos AMS104,110,113,114;AMS9. Graphic LOCKERBIE TRIAL.

ALSO MOVED:

LOCKERBIE-CULPRITS? Unanswered questions spawn alternative theories.

LOCKERBIE-THUMBNAILS. Profiles of key figures in the Lockerbie trial.

LOCKERBIE-BOMB. Alleged trail of the suitcase bomb that blew up Flight 103.

LOCKERBIE-CHRONOLOGY. Key dates in the case against Pan AM103 bombing suspects.

JERUSALEM As the Jewish state enters a new century, Israel grapples with what to remember. This week, immediately after Tuesday's Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, will break ground for a new \$25 million museum that will reflect some of the changes in how the story of the Holocaust is being told. ISRAEL-HOLOCAUST MEMORY. Has moved. By Dina Kraft. AP Photos JRL108-110 of April 28.

GUATEMALA CITY A mob in northern Guatemala stones to death a Japanese tourist and his tour's bus driver, believing the group had come to the village to steal children. GUATEMALA-TOURIST LYNCHED. Has moved.

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia The Russian air force steps up its campaign in Chechnya, delivering a series of missile and bomb strikes against rebel groups attempting to leave the mountains for the flatlands, the military says. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. New story expected by 0700 GMT. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB106-108, 114-115.

JERUSALEM As the Jewish state enters a new century, Israel grapples with what to remember. This week, immediately after Tuesday's Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, will break ground for a new \$25 million museum that will reflect some of the changes in how the story of the Holocaust is being told. ISRAEL-HOLOCAUST MEMORY. Has moved. By Dina Kraft. AP Photos JRL108-110 of April 28.

AP News Digest

BANGKOK, Thailand A third round of voting to elect Thailand's first democratically chosen Senate appears likely Monday following allegations of fraud. THAILAND-ELECTION RERUN. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Patrick McDowell.

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic Bodyguards of the leading presidential candidate shoot and kill a governing party official and another man in what the opposition claimed was a response to an assassination attempt. DOMINICAN-ELECTIONS-SHOOTING. Has moved. By Susannah Nesmith.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, the British and Irish governments hold talks in London with three key Northern Ireland parties in hopes of salvaging 1998's Good Friday peace accord.

FEATURES:

NEW:

SAN FRANCISCO Anfisa Luopajarvi's room is cluttered but cozy, filled with furniture, stuffed animals and knickknacks. Anfisa is not your average American teen-ager, though. The 16-year-old with a troubled past was born in Karelia, a northwest territory of Russia. She was adopted in a foreign country, suffers from culture shock and a sense of conflicting identities. She is not alone. Each year more and more Americans single and married are traveling to places like Russia, China, Guatemala and Romania to add to their families. FEA-US-Coming to America. Expected by 0700 GMT. By Cadonna M. Peyton.

WITH:

FEA-US-COMING TO AMERICA-GLANCE.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-SOMALIA-GOING HOME. Somali refugees head home to escape insecurity in Kenyan camps. AP Photos NY360-361.

FEA-HEALING GHANA. Doctors have decided to work with traditional healers in an effort to improve basic health care. AP Photos NY350-NY356.

FEA-BRITAIN-ASYLUM FEARS. Britain joins other European countries in growing resentment over asylum seekers. AP Photo LMN101; AP Graphic Logo WORLD ON THE MOVE.

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WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

PUERTO RICO-NAVY BOMBING. Anti-Navy protest leader ready to be arrested in Vieques.

SKOREA-WAR REMAINS. South Korea searches for remains of soldiers killed in Korean War

MAY DAY. May Day celebrated with ceremony, confrontation.

MYANMAR-ASEAN TRADE. ASEAN economic ministers meeting a boost for Myanmar.

TAIWAN-POLITICS. President-elect announces Taiwan's new cabinet.

AUSTRIA-HAIDER. Haider officially to step down as head of Freedom Party.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

AP News Digest

SHIRAZ, Iran The closed-door trial of 13 Jews charged with spying for Israel reconvenes Monday in southern Iran. The trial, which is being closely followed by Western governments concerned about its fairness, comes amid a power struggle between anti-American Islamic hard-liners and President Mohammad Khatami's reformist wing, which favors better ties with the United States. IRAN-JEWS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Afshin Valinejad.

ALSO MOVED:

IRAN-POWER STRUGGLE Another outspoken journalist is questioned Monday by a hard-line court in Iran in a crackdown by Islamic radicals who have closed down 16 pro-democracy publications and arrested six reformist activists.

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines A South African woman who was abducted along with 20 other people last week from a Malaysian resort has collapsed and several others are suffering from fevers, a kidnapper says Monday. The hostages being held by Muslim extremists are asking for food and clean water, the kidnapper, Abu Issa, says in an interview with a local radio station. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Oliver Teves. .

ALSO MOVED:

PHILIPPINES-SIMMERING REBELLION. Two multiple kidnappings have brought new attention to Philippines' long-simmering Muslim separatist rebellion. AP Photos NY108-109.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Tamil Tiger rebels overrun another town in their march toward their former capital, Jaffna, bringing worry to some of the city's 500,000 residents. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dilip Ganguly.

ALSO MOVED:

SRI LANKA-WHY JAFFNA. Retaking their former capital Jaffna from the government would be a huge morale boost for Tamil Tiger rebels, but it could wreck chances for peace talks and an autonomy proposal put forward by Sri Lanka's president. AP Photo NY197.

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TOKYO Celebrations of the May Day holiday range from the ceremonial to the confrontational around Asia on Monday. MAY DAY. Developing. Story will be preceded with LONDON dateline to update with May Day activities in Europe, Latin America. By Gary Schaefer. AP Photos.

VIENNA, Austria Joerg Haider, the controversial leader of Austria's far-right Freedom Party is officially stepping down Monday after 14 years as party head and several months of international and domestic protest against his party's inclusion in government. AUSTRIA-HAIDER. Has moved; developments will be expedited. AP Photos KLA102,104,106.

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam After an invitation-only 25th anniversary celebration of its victory over the United States, Vietnam's communist government now must confront the cold realities of a sagging economy, rampant

AP News Digest

corruption and rising drug addiction. VIETNAM-WAR ANNIVERSARY. Has moved. By Edith M. Lederer. AP Photos; AP Graphic VIETNAM WAR.

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VIETNAM-NOT OVER YET. With unhealed wounds, unsettled scores, some stay away from victory celebrations. AP Photos NY192,193.

KAEHWASAN, South Korea Armed with picks and shovels, South Korean troops begin digging up an old battlefield Monday in a search for the remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. The project on Kaehwasan mountain on the outskirts of Seoul is part of a government plan to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the war. SKOREA-WAR REMAINS. Has moved. By Kyong-Hwa Seok. AP Photos SEL101-103.

BANGKOK, Thailand A third round of voting to elect Thailand's first democratically chosen Senate appears likely Monday following allegations of fraud. THAILAND-ELECTION RERUN. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Patrick McDowell.

TAIPEI, Taiwan Taiwan's newly elected president names his top economic planner and representative to Japan on Monday, rounding out his Cabinet about a month after his stunning election victory. TAIWAN-POLITICS. Has moved. By Marcos Calo Medina. AP Photos TPE101-102.

YANGON, Myanmar Southeast Asian economic ministers come together Monday for discussions on trade issues and economic relations with China, Japan and South Korea in a meeting that should give a boost to Myanmar's military regime no matter what the results. MYANMAR-ASEAN TRADE. Has moved. By Grant Peck. AP Photos JAN101-102.

WASHINGTON A federal advisory panel created to promote religious rights declares Monday that China should be denied permanent normal trade status until it makes "substantial improvement" in allowing its people the freedom to worship. US-RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Has moved; embargoed for release at 1400 GMT. Will be led after 1400 GMT news conference. By David Briscoe.

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LOCKERBIE-THUMBNAILS. Profiles of key figures in the Lockerbie trial.

LOCKERBIE-BOMB. Alleged trail of the suitcase bomb that blew up Flight 103.

LOCKERBIE-CHRONOLOGY. Key dates in the case against Pan AM103 bombing suspects.

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico Puerto Rico's pro-independence leader says he and many other protesters camped on a prime U.S. Navy bombing range will not resist arrest if federal agents arrive as expected this week. PUERTO RICO-NAVY BOMBING. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Ricardo Figueroa. AP Photos VIE101-103.

ALSO MOVED:

PUERTO RICO-VIEQUES TOURISM. U.S. bombing range controversy in Vieques scaring away tourists. AP Photo NY110.

AP News Digest

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, the British and Irish governments hold talks in London with three key Northern Ireland parties in hopes of salvaging 1998's Good Friday peace accord.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-US-COMING TO AMERICA. International adoptees struggle with their identities.

With: FEA-US-COMING TO AMERICA-GLANCE.

FEA-SOMALIA-GOING HOME. Somali refugees head home to escape insecurity in Kenyan camps. AP Photos NY360-361.

FEA-HEALING GHANA. Doctors have decided to work with traditional healers in an effort to improve basic health care. AP Photos NY350-NY356.

FEA-BRITAIN-ASYLUM FEARS. Britain joins other European countries in growing resentment over asylum seekers. AP Photo LMN101; AP Graphic Logo WORLD ON THE MOVE.

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A closed-door trial reconvened Monday for 13 Iranian Jews charged with spying for Israel in a country where any contact with the Jewish state is forbidden. The trial, which is being closely followed by Western governments concerned about its fairness, comes amid a power struggle between anti-American Islamic hard-liners and President Mohammad Khatami's reformist wing. Iranian officials had initially said that the suspects were accused of spying for the United States as well as Israel. But when the trial opened, the judge and other judiciary officials said they were only charged with spying for Israel. Both the United States and Israel have said that the espionage charges are baseless. (IRAN-JEWS)

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)

A South African woman who was abducted along with 20 other people last week from a Malaysian resort has collapsed and several others are suffering from fevers, a kidnapper said Monday. The hostages being held by Muslim extremists are asking for food and clean water, the kidnapper, Abu Issa, said in an interview with a local radio station. They include tourists from Germany, France, South Africa, Finland and Lebanon, and resort workers from the Philippines and Malaysia. Officials from the French, German and Finnish embassies also delivered 11 boxes of medicine, clothes and food on Monday to a Muslim official who is serving as a go-between with the kidnappers. (PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES)

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

Tamil Tiger rebels overran another town in their march toward their former capital, Jaffna, bringing worry to some of the city's 500,000 residents. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, said in a statement from their London office that they took over Pallai, a town located between the recently captured Elephant Pass and Jaffna. With the capture of Pallai on Sunday, the rebels are now 25 kilometers (15 miles) south of Jaffna. The Defense Ministry admitted it lost Pallai but said troops were holding on around a main defense line to the north. Jaffna has been under government rule for the last five years. Although many Tamils back the rebel quest for a homeland for them, many also have been siding with the government after living conditions improved in Jaffna. (SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR)

EILAT, Israel (AP)

Squabbling in Israel's ruling coalition and Palestinian protests over the planned expansion of a Jewish West Bank settlement overshadowed the latest round of negotiations for a final peace treaty. Negotiators began a second day of talks Monday in this Red Sea resort after a strained opening round. The Palestinians were angered by the news

AP News Digest

that Israel plans to build 174 new homes in the West Bank settlement of Maale Adumim. The negotiations are aimed at achieving a framework for a permanent peace between Israel and the Palestinians, along with agreement on the scale and location of the last interim troop withdrawal that Israel has promised to make before final borders are drawn. (ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS)

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)

Leaders of Turkey's governing coalition were looking for support Monday to ensure their candidate's win in a second round parliamentary vote for president. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, a top judge and advocate of reforms, captured a majority of votes in a first round of balloting last week, but failed to get the 367 votes needed for an outright victory. Sezer lost despite receiving the endorsement of the leaders of all of the parties in parliament. A second round of voting was expected Monday. Two candidates withdrew from the presidential race Monday, leaving Sezer with seven other candidates to beat. (TURKEY-ELECTION)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1300 GMT:

SOCCER:

MADRID, Spain Spanish soccer has a virtual monopoly on European Champions League play this week with three of the country's teams in the semifinals, guaranteeing that at least on Spanish side will be in the final.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Champions Preview. Expected by 1400 GMT.

GOLF:

GIRONA, Spain England's' Brian Davis leads by one, with Colin Montgomerie three back and Sergio Garcia trailing by five, going into Monday's final round of the dlr\$ 938,000 Spanish Open golf tournament.

Slug Sports-Golf-Spanish Open. Expected by 1500 GMT.

By Alan Page.

THE WOODLANDS, Texas Australian Robert Allenby wins his first PGA Tour event and it's far from easy. In a four-hole playoff, Allenby goes in the water once and behind a grandstand before finally beating Craig Stadler and his erratic putter in the Houston Open.

Slug Sports-Golf-Shell Houston Open. Has moved.

By Michael A. Lutz.

ALSO:

HOOVER, Alabama Slug Sports-Golf-Bruno's Senior. Has moved.

TENNIS:

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands First-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov plays Italian Davide Sanguinetti and second-seeded Chilean Marcelon Rios faces Alberto Martin in the opening round Monday of the Mallorca Open ATP Tour clay-court tournament.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Mallorca Open. Expected by 1500 GMT.

BOL, Croatia No. 33-ranked Corina Morariu of the United States faces Petra Mandula of Hungary in the first round Monday of the dlr\$ 170,000 WTA tennis tournament Croatian Bol Ladies Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Bol Ladies Open. Expected by 2000 GMT.

RUGBY:

AP News Digest

DURBAN, South Africa Fullback Adrian Cashmore almost single-handedly helps the Auckland Blues beat the Sharks 30-19 in a Super 12 match.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Super 12-Sharks-Blues. Has moved.

ALSO:

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-RugbyL-Origin. Has moved.

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-RugbyU-Lomu. Has moved.

OLYMPICS:

SYDNEY, Australia Protesters demonstrating against the construction of the Olympic beach volleyball stadium at Bondi Beach say the postponement of the scheduled building works is a victory for their cause.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Bondi Protest. Has moved.

SYDNEY, Australia In the most varied route ever leading into an Olympic Games opening ceremony, travel plans for the Sydney 2000 Olympic torch are expected to include underwater travel and even time travel.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Torch Travel. Has moved.

ALSO:

BRISBANE, Australia Sports-Australia-Spoof Olympics. Has moved.

ATHLETICS:

PERTH, Australia An International Triathlon Union investigation into a race-distance mix up at the World Cup meet in Perth has blamed the error on an incorrect transcription of the course map that had been downloaded from a computer disk.

Slug Sports-Triathlon-Race Blunder. Has moved.

CRICKET:

BRISBANE, Australia Steve Waugh earns a financial windfall for leading Australia to its most successful summer ever, gaining an upgraded contract Monday with the Australian Cricket Board.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Australia-Contracts. Has moved.

AUTO RACING:

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil Mexico's Adrian Fernandez is the tortoise, winning the Rio 200 at the Emerson Fittipaldi raceway. Canada's Alex Tagliani is the hare.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-CART-Brazil 200. Has moved.

By Michael Astor.

ALSO:

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Has moved.

AP News Digest

DALLAS Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Playoff Roundup. Has moved.

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-Boxing-Oceania. Has moved.

TOKYO Sports-U.S.-Japan Women Baseball. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

SOCCER:

MADRID, Spain Spanish soccer has a near monopoly on this week's European Champions Cup with three of the country's teams in the semifinals, guaranteeing that at least one Spanish side will be in the May 24 final at Saint-Denis.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Champions Preview. Has moved.

By Ciaran Giles.

LONDON Wimbledon fires Norwegian manager Egil Olsen with the Premier League club on the verge of being relegated to England's first division.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Egil Olsen Fired. Has moved.

ICE HOCKEY:

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia In a pair of stunning upsets, the United States gets 44 saves from minor leaguer Robert Esche to blank Russia 3-0 while Canada racks up 36 penalty minutes and loses to Norway 4-3 at the World Ice Hockey Championships.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Worlds. Has moved.

By Stephan Nasstrom.

ALSO:

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

CRICKET:

LONDON South African fast bowler Allan Donald is taken off the pitch on a stretcher with a suspected broken rib after colliding with an advertising board in an English national league cricket match.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Donald Injury. Has moved.

TENNIS:

UNDATED Martina Navratilova will end her 5 1/2-year retirement when she plays doubles at the Madrid Open in Spain with partner Mariaan de Swardt of South Africa in the first step in her belated bid for a record-tying 20th Wimbledon title.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Navratilova-Doubles. Has moved.

By Bob Greene.

AP News Digest

BOL, Croatia Fifth-seed and defending champion Corina Morariu advances to the second round of the Croatia Bol Ladies Open with a straight-set victory over unseeded Petra Mandula of Hungary.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Bol Ladies Open. Has moved.

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands Top-seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia struggles but beats Italy's Davide Sanguinetti to move on to the second round of the dlr\$ 500,000 Mallorca Open ATP Tour tournament.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Mallorca Open. Has moved.

GOLF:

GIRONA, Spain England's Brian Davis collects his first career title on the European Tour on Monday by shooting a final-round 3-under-par 69 to win the dlr\$ 938,000 Spanish Open.

Slug Sports-Golf-Spanish Open. Has moved.

By Alan Page.

STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia Sophie Gustafson can sing in a clear, uncluttered voice, which she proved by belting out a few rock lyrics. But for the most part, just a few simple words are a burden for Gustafson, who won her first LPGA title Sunday, a one-shot victory at the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship near Atlanta.

Slug Sports-Golf-Sophie's Struggle. Has moved.

By Paul Newberry.

HORSE RACING:

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky Harold Rose and Roger Velez might appear to be taking a sentimental journey with Hal's Hope in the Kentucky Derby. The 88-year-old owner-trainer and 43-year-old jockey have different views.

Slug Sports-Horse Racing-Kentucky Derby. Has moved.

By Ed Schuyler Jr.

WITH:

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky Slug Sports-Horse Racing-Derby-Anees. Has moved. By Richard Rosenblatt.

ALSO:

NEW YORK Slug Sports-Media-Time Warner-ABC. Has moved. By Howard Fendrich.

ATLANTA Slug Sports-Football-Lewis-Killings. Has moved. By Patricia M. LaHay.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

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Load-Date: May 1, 2000

End of Document

AP Top News at Midnight EST Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999

Associated Press Online

December 19, 1999; Sunday 23:00 Eastern Time

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 21855 words

Byline: BRAD FOSS

Body

Louisiana Hostage Standoff Ends

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (AP)

The Cuban inmates who took a jail warden and six others hostage to demand their release ended their six-day standoff Saturday night with an apparent agreement to be sent back to Cuba. "They surrendered because they are going to Cuba," said Mercedes Villar, mother of one of the hostage-takers who was outside the prison as people, including the warden, were being brought out on stretchers. Officials refused to discuss the settlement. But the FBI credited Ms. Villar and a chaplain with being instrumental in helping to resolve the standoff.

Chechens Resist Russian Attacks

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

The sound of heavy explosions and the rattle of automatic gunfire filled the air as Russian infantry, backed by armored vehicles, attacked Grozny from the south, trying to capture a hill overlooking the capital. Chechen militants fought off Russian attempts to take strategic heights on the edge of Grozny on Saturday, while Russian generals reportedly pressed rebels for their surrender. Russian troops also attacked from the northwest and the east, but apparently failed to seize ground anywhere, facing fierce resistance from the several thousand rebels entrenched in Grozny.

Sri Lankan President Hurt in Blast

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

Sri Lankan president Chandrika Kumaratunga was slightly injured Saturday after an assassin detonated explosives strapped to his body at an election rally in downtown Colombo. The blast occurred as the president's guards dragged away the suicide bomber. Fourteen people were killed, including a top police officer in charge of her security, and 110 others were injured. The president was admitted to a private hospital immediately after the blast. Doctors operated to remove shrapnel from her face, according to Hemasiri Fernando, the president's secretary.

New Year Terrorist Attacks Feared

SEATTLE (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999

Fear of millennial terrorist attacks has caused Federal Authorities to increase security along U.S. borders. Officials believe reputed terrorist Osama bin Laden is linked to an Algerian man who allegedly transported bomb-making materials aboard a ferryboat into Washington state. Officials say domestic terrorism is a possibility though no domestic attacks have been recorded in the last two years.

Report Documents Medical Errors

NEW YORK (AP)

Almost 3,000 medical mistakes and mishaps have been documented by Federal investigators in less than two years at veterans hospitals around the country, and more than 700 patients have died in those cases, The New York Times reports. The problems include medication errors, like prescribing or dispensing the wrong drugs, the failure of medical devices, abuse of patients, errors in blood transfusions and surgery on the wrong body part or the wrong patient, the Times reported on its Web site today.

Italian Leader Steps Down

ROME (AP)

Italian Premier Massimo D'Alema resigned Saturday night after contending that he has enough parliamentary support to put together a new, stronger government. President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the head of state, asked D'Alema to stay on in a caretaker role to run the government while consultations are held to find a political consensus to forge a new coalition. Italian political reporters have calculated that D'Alema can count on support from 318 of the 630 members in the Chamber of Deputies, allowing him to squeak by in the required confidence vote, which calls for a simple majority.

Flu Strain Hits Calif. Hospitals

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Southern California is being hit with a nasty strain of the flu is flooding hospitals with haggard patients, straining emergency rooms and forcing some medical centers to send the sick elsewhere. The crush of flu-suffering patients forced dozens of hospitals in Los Angeles and Orange counties to close their emergency rooms temporarily Friday and route patients elsewhere. One culprit may be a summer virus that has lingered because of a warm fall, said Dr. Steven Larson, an infectious disease specialist at Riverside Medical Clinic. Allergies fed by Santa Ana winds also have contributed.

Suns Beat Kings 119-103

PHOENIX (AP)

Jason Kidd had his second triple-double in as many nights and Scott Skiles stayed unbeaten as Phoenix's coach as the short-handed Suns beat the Sacramento Kings 119-103 Saturday night. Kidd had 27 points, 14 assists and 14 rebounds, along with four steals, one night after getting 32 points, 10 assists and 12 rebounds in the Suns' 110-102 victory at Portland. Cliff Robinson scored a season-high 33 points for the Suns, who are 3-0 since Danny Ainge resigned as coach and Skiles replaced him. Rex Chapman added 15, while Rodney Rogers had 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Venezuela Flooding Death Toll Rises

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela (AP)

President Hugo Chavez announced on national television Sunday morning that the official death toll from torrential rains in Venezuela surpassed 500. With an estimated 6,000 people missing, nations from around the world rushed to send emergency aid. With the death toll still expected to rise significantly, authorities conceded that the disaster was much greater than previously thought and had become one of the worst natural calamities in the South

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American nation's history. Foreign Minister Jose Vicente Rangel said 6,000 people were reported missing and 150,000 were homeless. Chavez acknowledged that entire coastal regions had been turned into cemeteries.

La. Inmates End Standoff With Apparent Deal

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (AP)

The Cuban inmates who took a jail warden and six others hostage to demand their release ended their six-day standoff Saturday night with an apparent agreement to be sent back to Cuba. Charles Mathews, head of the New Orleans FBI office, refused to talk about the negotiations at a news conference announcing that the hostages had been freed and appeared unharmed. The uprising began Monday when the inmates, being held for deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, armed themselves with homemade knives and took the warden and three guards hostage while being escorted to an exercise area.

Chechens Resist Russian Attacks

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

The sound of heavy explosions and the rattle of automatic gunfire filled the air as Russian infantry, backed by armored vehicles, attacked Grozny from the south, trying to capture a hill overlooking the capital. Chechen militants fought off Russian attempts to take strategic heights on the edge of Grozny on Saturday, while Russian generals reportedly pressed rebels for their surrender. Russian troops also attacked from the northwest and the east, but apparently failed to seize ground anywhere, facing fierce resistance from the several thousand rebels entrenched in Grozny.

Tree Sitter Comes Down After 2 Years

STAFFORD, Calif. (AP)

After living in an ancient redwood for two years, environmental activist Julia "Butterfly" Hill came back to Earth Saturday, her legs wobbly after her sojourn in the towering tree she called "Luna." The 25-year-old woman, who has lived in the tree since Dec. 10, 1997 to protest logging, reached an agreement Friday with Pacific Lumber Co. and promised to climb down from her 18-story-high perch, which is on company property. In the agreement, Hill and her supporters pledged to pay \$50,000 to Pacific Lumber to make up for lost logging revenue. The company agreed to spare Hill's redwood and a 2.9-acre buffer zone around it.

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Report: Kids in Back Seat Dangerous

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Children riding in the back seat of a car risk severe injury and death from front seats that may snap backward in rear-end collisions, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday. The danger is documented in government files, industry crash tests and lawsuits, but federal authorities have not alerted consumers about the potential hazard, the newspaper said. According to the Times, most vehicles driven in the United States are designed with front seats that may be too weak to support the weight of adults in rear-end crashes.

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AP Top News at Midnight EST Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999

least seven people and injuring 40 others, police said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts, but suspicion fell on the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, who are fighting for a homeland and are opposed to Mrs. Kumaratunga.

School Religious Group Rules Issued

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton issued new guidelines Saturday clarifying how public schools can work with religious groups without violating the constitutional separation of church and state. The revised Education guidelines say that students have the right to express their religious beliefs in such things as homework and artwork, "free of discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions." But school officials "may not endorse or favor religious activity or doctrine, coerce participation in religious activity or seek to impose their religious beliefs on impressionable children," Education Secretary Dick Riley wrote.

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SuperSonics Defeat Grizzlies 112-89

SEATTLE (AP) - Gary Payton scored 26 points as the Seattle SuperSonics ruined the head coaching debut of Lionel Hollins Saturday night with a 112-89 victory over the Vancouver Grizzlies. Hollins was named interim head coach by Grizzlies president Stu Jackson earlier this week replacing Brian Hill. The Sonics beat the Grizzlies for the eighth straight time on their homecourt as Vancouver lost for the 16th time in its last 17 games.

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Portugal Prepares Macau Handover to China

MACAU (AP)

Preparing to hand Portugal's last Asian possession back to China, President Jorge Sampaio said Saturday that the gambling enclave is ready for a bright future. Sampaio defended Lisbon's legacy, rejecting suggestions that years of neglect had allowed Macau to deteriorate into a notorious casino center where gangland assassinations are commonplace. He pointed instead to a new airport, bridges and other infrastructure the Portuguese have built on their way out. "We leave behind a reality which is well-equipped to deal with future problems," Sampaio said on the eve of the handover that will end 442 years of Portuguese governance.

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Stars Defeat Canucks 4-2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)

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Kirk Muller, playing his first game of the season, scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period as the Dallas Stars beat Vancouver 4-2 on Saturday night. Mike Modano had two goals and two assists, including an empty-net goal with 40 seconds left, to help the Stars improve to 8-2-1 in their last 11 games.

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Security Breach Causes Flight Delays

LOS ANGELES (AP)

A terminal was closed and almost 70 flights were delayed yesterday after a man ran away during a security check at Los Angeles International Airport. The man was not found and there were no reports of damage or injury related to the incident, airport spokeswoman Angela Franklin said. Airport police evacuated and closed the terminal for about three hours and searched bathrooms, restaurants and airplanes for the man. About 66 flights were delayed because of the incident, affecting about 9,000 passengers, Franklin said.

NASA Calls Off Shuttle Launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

Lousy weather once again forced NASA to delay Discovery's flight to the Hubble Space Telescope yesterday, and shuttle managers considered making one last shot at launch before giving up for the year. It was the ninth postponement for the Hubble repair mission and the third in as many days. NASA called off last night's launch attempt before fueling had even begun. Dark rain clouds hovered over the Kennedy Space Center as the announcement boomed over radios. Liftoff tentatively was rescheduled for 7:50 p.m. today.

Iraq Rejects U.N. Inspection Plan

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999

Iraq rejected a new U.N. policy that would return weapons inspectors to Baghdad after a yearlong absence, saying yesterday that it is prepared to face the consequences. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said the policy does not meet Baghdad's "legitimate demand for the lifting of the sanctions." In Washington, State Department spokesman James Foley said the United States was not surprised by Aziz's statement, but added that under international law Iraq must comply with the resolution, which passed 11-0. "It has the force of law internationally, having been passed with a large majority and no votes against it," Foley said.

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Experts Fear New Year Terrorist Attacks

SEATTLE (AP)

The arrest of an Algerian who allegedly drove a trunkful of bomb-making materials aboard a ferryboat into Washington state has raised fears that terrorists may be planning to strike in the United States during millennial New Year celebrations. Ahmed Ressay was arrested Tuesday after taking a ferry to Port Angeles from Victoria, British Columbia. Two security experts believe reputed terrorist leader Osama bin Laden is behind the Port Angeles incident. Ressay's arrest was the latest event some people say point to planned terrorism during year 2000 celebrations.

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Bradley Attacks Gore's Health Plan

HUDSON, N.H. (AP)

Presidential candidate Bill Bradley ticked off a list yesterday of Americans he says are ignored by Vice President Al Gore's health care plan. The former New Jersey senator told about 200 supporters at a post-debate rally that Gore's plan leaves out part-time workers, small business employees and people who live in poverty and are not covered by Medicare. Bradley was drawing a contrast between his universal plan for health care coverage and Gore's less costly, more incremental approach. The candidates meet again today, on NBC's "Meet The Press."

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Xavier Defeats No. 1 Cincinnati 66-64

CINCINNATI (AP)

Kevin Frey hit an inside bank shot and then a pair of free throws with 8.9 seconds left last night as underdog Xavier upset No. 1 Cincinnati 66-64, setting off a wild on-court celebration. Cincinnati (8-1) trailed for most of the game as Xavier forced the action and hit the free throws 23-of-30 in all.

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The Russians had eased their airstrikes and artillery barrages earlier in the week, and said civilians should leave or risk being killed. But they have resumed the attacks in recent days, trying to soften the rebels' resistance.

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Venezuela Receives Emergency Aid

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela (AP)

With an estimated 6,000 people missing and more than 500 killed from torrential rains in Venezuela, nations from around the world rushed to send emergency aid to the South American country. Elite soldiers rappelled from helicopters yesterday to help flood survivors stranded on buildings enveloped in up to three stories of mud and water. Rains continued today, but were light enough to allow rescue teams to clear debris, recover bodies and ferry thousands of stranded victims from submerged towns to Simon Bolivar International Airport in La Guaira.

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Time Honors Amazon.com Founder

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999

Jeff Bezos, the Amazon.com founder whose company while losing millions of dollars has helped foster the point-and-click revolution that is changing the way Americans shop, was named Time magazine's person of the year today. "This year it was easier than most," said managing editor Walter Isaacson. "Because there were two great themes of the year online shopping and dot-com mania. The minute we thought of Bezos it was obvious that he embodied both." Time dubbed Bezos, 35, the "king of cybercommerce" and said his ambitious, ever-expanding online venture has "helped build the foundation of our future."

Bodies of Servicemen Found in Ocean

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)

The bodies of three servicemen who were killed when their helicopter crashed in the Pacific Ocean 15 miles off the coast of San Diego were retrieved yesterday. The Navy and Marines will continue efforts to find the remains of four other servicemen who also died in the Dec. 9 accident, said 1st Lt. Chris Logan, a Marine Corps spokesman at Camp Pendleton. The twin-rotor CH-46E Sea Knight crashed as the Marines trained for deployment to the Persian Gulf. The crash remains under investigation.

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Chiefs Defeat Steelers 35-19

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

Tony Gonzalez, the AFC's top tight end, caught six passes for 93 yards and two touchdowns yesterday as the Kansas City Chiefs won their fourth straight game, 35-19 over the reeling Pittsburgh Steelers. The win pushed the Chiefs (9-5) into a half-game lead in the AFC West over Seattle, which plays at Denver today. Kansas City visits Seattle next week. It was the sixth straight loss for the troubled Steelers (5-9) their longest skid since 1988.

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MACAU (AP)

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Venezuela Receives Emergency Aid

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela (AP)

President Hugo Chavez announced on national television this morning that the official death toll from torrential rains had surpassed 500. With an estimated 6,000 people missing, nations from around the world rushed to send emergency aid. "Today I was informed that we already have more than 500 bodies in a collection point that is being coordinated" by authorities, Chavez said. The 500 were all believed to be in the coastal state of Vargas, he said, adding that officials were looking for places to bury the dead since the cemeteries in Caracas were covered in mud.

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Bodies of Servicemen Found in Ocean

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)

The bodies of three servicemen who were killed when their helicopter crashed in the Pacific Ocean 15 miles off the coast of San Diego were retrieved yesterday. The Navy and Marines will continue efforts to find the remains of four other servicemen who also died in the Dec. 9 accident, said 1st Lt. Chris Logan, a Marine Corps spokesman at Camp Pendleton. The twin-rotor CH-46E Sea Knight crashed as the Marines trained for deployment to the Persian Gulf.

Cuban Inmates in La. Surrender

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999

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Sudan Hospitals Can't Afford Surgery

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)

Government hospitals in the Sudanese capital have stopped performing major surgeries because the central laboratory can't afford chemicals needed to test blood for hepatitis and HIV, a newspaper reported today. The central laboratory, known as Stack Laboratory, has been "unable to carry out these tests since Thursday," a spokesman for the lab told The Associated Press. Private hospitals in Khartoum have their own labs and were not affected by Stack Laboratory's troubles.

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L.A. Times Prints Front-Page Apology

LOS ANGELES (AP)

The Los Angeles Times ran a front-page apology to readers today for failing to disclose that Staples Center and the newspaper shared advertising revenue from a special magazine it published devoted to the new downtown arena. On Oct. 10, the Times published a special edition of its Sunday magazine entirely on the new sports and entertainment complex. The paper didn't disclose until it was reported elsewhere that it had agreed to split approximately \$2 million in advertising revenue from the magazine with owners of Staples Center.

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Berger Urges Caution Over Holidays

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton's national security adviser is urging Americans to be "vigilant" against potential terrorist attacks at home and abroad over the holidays. Sandy Berger, head of the National Security Council, said today that authorities are still seeking to determine whether an Algerian arrested for allegedly bringing a trunkful of bomb-making explosives into Washington state was part of a terrorist network. "We're not aware of any other specific threat against particular targets in the United States," Berger told CBS.

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Floods and mudslides in Venezuela have claimed at least 1,000 lives and the death toll could go much higher, authorities said today. There are about 6,000 people missing and 150,000 homeless. Authorities believe hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people are also buried beneath mud, boulders and debris in Caracas and nearby areas.

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Sri Lanka Leader Calls for Unity

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

Speaking from her hospital bed, President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed to Sri Lanka's minority Tamils today to join her in fighting terrorism, just hours after surgeons operated on her right eye to remove shrapnel from a suicide bombing attack. Mrs. Kumaratunga was wounded last night at her final rally before Tuesday's presidential election. Twenty-two people were killed, and 11 others died in another bombing at an opposition party rally. Police believe the bombings were carried out by the separatist **Tamil Tigers**.

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700,000 Infant Car Seats Recalled

WASHINGTON (AP)

Three-quarters of a million infant car seats are being recalled for repair because of a potentially fatal flaw, the government announced. When used as an infant carrier, the handle of these seats made by Kolcraft Enterprises unexpectedly can change position, causing the seat to rotate and the baby to fall to the ground. At least one infant has suffered a skull fracture, and two have suffered concussions. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that 42 infants have been injured as a result of this defect.

Mugabe: I'll Take Land From Whites

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

President Robert Mugabe is vowing to seize land from whites and not pay them anything for it as the government had previously promised. "We have waited long enough and now is the time to take back our land," Mugabe said last night at a ruling party convention. He said his party will scrap the constitution's "stupid clause" that guarantees compensation to landowners. Mugabe's new position is likely to estrange his government further from investors and Western donor nations. Under the plan, landless blacks would be settled on the seized farms

Report: Ravens Get \$250M Investor

BALTIMORE (AP)

The Baltimore Ravens have reportedly reached a tentative agreement with a minority investor to pay more than \$250 million and get an option eventually to buy the team. Citing unidentified sources, The (Baltimore) Sun reported that the investor is Stephen Bisciotti, who is a principal in Aerotek, an employment service company. Ravens owner Art Modell had been seeking one or more partners to buy a minority share of the team and wanted at least \$150 million.

Polls: Centrists Gain in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)

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Centrist parties made major gains today in Russian parliamentary elections in an apparent breakthrough for pro-reform groups that could change the face of national politics, according to an exit poll. The NTV television network poll showed the Communists are still the largest party with 28 percent, but four centrist parties between them claimed 54 percent of the vote. The nationwide poll showed the newly formed pro-Kremlin Unity Party in second place with 24 percent of the vote. If confirmed, Unity's performance would be an astonishing feat.

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Vice President Al Gore challenged Bill Bradley in a nationally televised debate today to cancel all broadcast advertising in their campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, an idea the former New Jersey senator dismissed as a ridiculous ploy. Gore and Bradley also clashed over health care and education, charging that one another's proposals would hurt the poor and fail to help many of the nation's 44 million uninsured get health insurance. Bradley challenged Gore's refusal to consider education vouchers, but Gore said his opposition is firm.

NASA To Make Another Shuttle Try

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

With the clock counting down and anxiety running high, NASA hopes to seize its last chance to send space shuttle Discovery to the Hubble Space Telescope this year, fueling the ship for a liftoff tonight. After nine frustrating delays, NASA is trying to end the year with a successful repair mission. Another postponement would bump the flight to mid-January and push back another mission. Shuttle managers decided this morning to take advantage of the vastly improved weather. Air Force weathermen put the odds of favorable conditions at 80 percent.

Venezuela Death Toll Passes 1,000

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela (AP)

With the death toll from Venezuela's worst natural disaster this century surpassing 1,000, trained rescue dogs scoured the debris today and searched for survivors as widespread looting broke out across a coastline devastated by mudslides and flooding. Disaster relief workers scurried across the tarmac with the wounded at Caracas international airport, which a week ago was bustling with travelers and duty-free shoppers. Some 150,000 people have been rendered homeless and 6,000 are still missing.

Berger Urges Caution Over Holidays

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President Clinton's national security adviser is urging Americans to be "vigilant" against potential terrorist attacks at home and abroad over the holidays. Sandy Berger, head of the National Security Council, said today that authorities are still seeking to determine whether an Algerian arrested for allegedly bringing a trunkful of bomb-making explosives into Washington state was part of a terrorist network. "We're not aware of any other specific threat against particular targets in the United States," Berger told CBS.

Sri Lanka Leader Calls for Unity

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

Speaking from her hospital bed, President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed to Sri Lanka's minority Tamils today to join her in fighting terrorism, just hours after surgeons operated on her right eye to remove shrapnel from a suicide bombing attack. Mrs. Kumaratunga was wounded last night at her final rally before Tuesday's presidential election. Twenty-two people were killed, and 11 others died in another bombing at an opposition party rally. Police believe the bombings were carried out by the separatist **Tamil Tigers**.

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Gugliotta To Undergo More Tests

PHOENIX (AP)

Tom Gugliotta is back home today, celebrating his 30th birthday after his frightening seizure on the Phoenix Suns' team bus in Portland. "Man, this really puts life in perspective," Gugliotta told The Arizona Republic on his flight to Phoenix last night. Gugliotta said he remembers nothing of the seizure Friday night, only that he woke up in Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Team doctor Richard Emerson said the cause of such episodes sometimes are never discovered, and the seizures never occur again.

Poll: Centrists Gain in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)

Centrist parties made major gains today in parliamentary elections in an apparent breakthrough that could boost hopes for economic reform, according to an exit poll. The election for the lower chamber of parliament, also appears to be a major step forward for Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's hopes of succeeding President Boris Yeltsin. The Communists appear likely to remain the largest party in the new Duma with 28 percent of the vote, but four centrist parties look set to take 54 percent of the vote, according to the NTV television network.

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NASA Fueling Discovery for Liftoff

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Pakistan Detains 200 Terror Suspects

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)

Pakistani authorities arrested more than 200 people they fear may try to attack U.S. citizens in Pakistan, an intelligence official said today. Security at Pakistan's international airports has been tightened to try to track

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followers of Saudi suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden, the official said. The arrests were made during a series of overnight raids in northwestern Peshawar, which borders Afghanistan, and in the federal capital of Islamabad. Most of the detained are Afghan nationals.

Actor Who Played 'Q' on Bond Dies

FIRLE, England (AP)

Desmond Llewelyn, who starred as the scientist Q in a string of James Bond movies, was killed in a head-on car crash today, police said. He was 85. The collision came as Llewelyn was returning alone from a book signing. The three occupants of the second car were believed to be in stable condition. The actor was best-known for his role of Q the gadget expert who equipped 007 with the latest spy tool from toxic fountain pens to deadly umbrellas in 17 Bond movies.

As Holiday Looms, Stores Boom

NEW YORK (AP)

Americans flooded the nation's stores over the weekend to finish or in some cases start their holiday gift buying. But many scaled back their online shopping fearing their purchases would not be delivered in time for Christmas. For many bricks-and-mortar merchants, yesterday was the busiest day of the holiday season, while sales at most e-retailers peaked early last week and have since tapered off. Analysts project holiday sales at traditional stores will rise 5 percent to 6 percent to more than \$180 billion, while online sales are expected to at least double to \$6 billion.

Iverson: Maybe 76ers Should Deal Me

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Philadelphia 76ers star Allen Iverson did not attend an optional practice today, the morning after saying he should be traded if coach Larry Brown is unhappy with his play. Iverson lashed out at his coach last night after being benched for the final 20 minutes of Philadelphia's 104-91 loss at Detroit. Though he has disagreed with Brown many times, it was the first time Iverson mentioned a trade. Brown benched Iverson and three other starters with Philadelphia trailing 73-50.

Venezuela Death Toll Surpasses 5,000

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Portugal Hands Over Macau to China

MACAU (AP)

Jubilant Chinese lighted fireworks and partied in the streets as Portugal handed this tiny gambling enclave back to China today, bringing Western colonialism in Asia to a close. Many Portuguese were weeping as Chinese President Jiang Zemin extended "our cordial greetings and good wishes to the Macau compatriots who are returning to the embrace of the motherland." Jiang's next target is Taiwan, which for 50 years has been governed separately although Beijing still claims sovereignty over the island.

Lawmakers Say Kohl Could Be Jailed

BERLIN (AP)

Former chancellor Helmut Kohl could be jailed if he refuses to reveal who made covert donations to his party, leaders of a parliamentary inquiry were quoted today as saying. Kohl acknowledged in a television interview last week that he received up to \$1 million in secret funds for his conservative Christian Democrats between 1993 and 1998, but said he would not reveal the donors. In reply, legislators examining whether payoffs influenced decisions by Kohl's government threatened the former leader with sanctions to make him talk.

Poll: Centrists Gain in Russia

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'Stuart Little' Tops Box Office

LOS ANGELES (AP)

"Stuart Little," the film version of the E.B. White children's book about a talking mouse adopted by a human family scampered to No. 1 at the weekend box office, taking in an estimated \$15.4 million, according to studio figures released today. "The Green Mile" was second with \$12.6 million and "Toy Story 2" third, taking in \$12.1 million. Annual box office receipts are expected to top \$7.5 billion, smashing last year's record \$6.9 billion.

No. 11 Duke 101, N.C. A&T 60

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)

Freshman Jason Williams rebounded from a nasty first-half collision for a season-high 22 points as No. 11 Duke won its seventh straight, beating North Carolina A&T 101-60 today. All but two of Williams' points came in the second half as the Blue Devils (7-2) won their 40th straight home game. Duke also got a season-high 19 points from freshman Mike Dunleavy, while Chris Carrawell had 15 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

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Thai Gov't Faces No-Confidence Vote

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)

Thailand's government said it was confident of winning a no-confidence vote Monday, despite opposition claims that ministers had failed during a five-day censure debate to address allegations of corruption and economic mismanagement. The government is generally credited with pulling Thailand out of the worst of an economic recession that struck in 1997 during the premiership of the current opposition leader, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh. Still, opposition leader Chavalit Yongchaiyudh accused major figures in the prime minister's Democrat Party of being corrupt in office and evasive under scrutiny.

Portugal Hands Over Macau to China

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Portugal handed the tiny gambling enclave of Macau back to China at midnight Sunday, bringing Western colonialism in Asia to a close. Chinese President Jiang Zemin made it clear an ascendent China is not through regaining old territory. His next target is Taiwan, which for 50 years has been governed separately although Beijing still claims sovereignty over the island. A translucent building constructed just for the handover lighted the skies with shades of green as Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio bid farewell to Macau after 442 years under Lisbon's control. It then turned bright red as China took over.

Loggers Sue Over Timber Appeals

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

The feud between environmentalists and loggers over commercial tree-cutting in Minnesota's forests is being transformed into a fight over the separation of church and state. A group of loggers has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service and two environmental groups, claiming the Forest Service has buckled to the groups' philosophy of "deep ecology," which regards the natural world as sacred. That philosophy, the lawsuit maintains, amounts to a religion. And that means the Forest Service has violated the First Amendment prohibition on government favoring or endorsing one religion over another, it claims.

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Candidates Dodge Social Security Query

WASHINGTON (AP)

In their latest debate, both Al Gore and Bill Bradley showed they have one thing in common: a determination to dodge politically difficult questions about Social Security's future. Both Democratic presidential candidates said

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Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" they would depend on Social Security's current surpluses and a strong economy to help make up for a cash shortfall expected to hit the nation's retirement program as baby boomers age. Gore and Bradley also were willing to say what they would not do: raise the retirement age beyond a scheduled increase from 65 to 67. Polls have found that to be among the least popular options.

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Colts Beat Redskins 24-21

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

Peyton Manning passed for 298 yards and two touchdowns and Edgerrin James scored twice as the Indianapolis Colts beat the Washington Redskins 24-21 today. It was the 10th straight victory for the Colts (12-2), who clinched their first AFC East championship since 1987. They earned a bye into the second round of playoffs next month in the RCA Dome, regardless of what happens in their final two regular-season games. The Redskins (8-6) remained no worse than tied for the lead in the NFC East.

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Internet Fuels Christmas Tree Sales

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP)

For the nation's Christmas tree growers, the end of the millennium and a new sales method the Internet have combined to make this season unique. About 33 million trees are expected to be sold this holiday season nearly 1 million more than a year ago but still short of the all-time record, said Laura Belger, a spokeswoman for the National Christmas Tree Association.

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promise to restore national pride. With 10 percent of votes counted, Unity was ahead with 28 percent, followed by the Communists with 25 percent, election officials said.

Cuban Inmates Heading Home

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (AP)

The Cuban inmates who held hostages at the St. Martin Parish jail for nearly a week to demand their release will be sent back to Cuba, the State Department said today. Five Cubans and one Bahamian surrendered peacefully late yesterday, freeing the warden, a **female** guard and five **female** inmates. It was unclear if the Bahamian would be going to Cuba. Meantime, Cuban president Fidel Castro continues to pressure the U.S. government to return a 6-year-old Cuban refugee, who was rescued off the Florida coast last month.

S. Korean Leader Sorry for Scandals

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

President Kim Dae-jung said he anticipates improvement in relations with North Korea next year, citing the northern neighbor's willingness to open up its closed society and negotiate with the United States and Japan. The president also called on people across the country to cease emphasizing regional loyalties, which stem from the fact that South Korea's three main political parties are based on regional support. Kim's approval rate has dropped recently because of an alleged influence-peddling scandal. He has promised thorough investigations.

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Smuggler's Alleged Accomplice Sought

SEATTLE (AP)

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Titans Clinch Playoff Berth

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

The Tennessee Titans are in the NFL playoffs for the first time since 1993, when they were the Houston Oilers. Steve McNair threw for one touchdown and ran for a second, and Al Del Greco kicked three field goals as the Titans beat the Atlanta Falcons 30-17. The Titans still have a shot at their first AFC Central title since 1991. They remain two games behind Jacksonville with two games left and play host to the Jaguars next week.

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Pro-Putin Party Gains in Russia

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Discovery Blasts off To Help Hubble

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

After an unprecedented nine delays, space shuttle Discovery blasted off tonight to put the Hubble Space Telescope back in working order. It was NASA's last chance this year to send the shuttle and seven astronauts to Hubble's rescue. One more postponement would have bumped the flight into January. Everything finally came together, and Discovery soared at 7:50 p.m., lighting up the sky for miles around. Hubble was passing more than 370 miles above Africa when Discovery took off. The shuttle should catch up with the \$3 billion telescope on Tuesday.

Texaco Greece Office Bombed

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

In the latest in a string of attacks against U.S. firms, a bomb exploded late Sunday at the Athens offices of the Texaco oil company, causing minor damage, police said. There were no reported injuries. A group called Revolutionary Cells claimed responsibility for the attack in a warning telephone call to an Athens newspaper. American businesses have been targeted in a spate of firebombings before and since President Clinton's trip to Athens last month. Other targets have included clothing stores, car dealerships and a U.S. cultural institute.

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UAW Workers OK New Saturn Contract

SPRING HILL, Tenn. (AP)

Auto workers today overwhelmingly approved a new contract with Saturn Corp. that would alter the risk-reward arrangement that helped make Saturn "a different kind of car company." Under a "risk-and-reward" pay program, Saturn employees earn less in salary than General Motors' other workers but receive bonuses for reaching productivity and quality goals. For years, that arrangement produced a harmonious relationship between

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management and union rank-and-file at Saturn. But as the demand for small cars waned, Saturn's sales fell and worker bonuses shriveled.

Raiders Maraud Buccaneers 45-0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers regressed today in a 45-0 loss to the Oakland Raiders that prevented Tampa Bay (9-5) from clinching a playoff spot. It was the worst loss in Bucs history and the biggest margin of victory for the Raiders since they joined the NFL in 1970. Oakland won by stealing Tampa Bay's recipe for success: a solid ground game complementing an opportunistic defense.

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Police in the United States and Canada searched today for a suspected accomplice to an Algerian man who is charged with trying to smuggle explosives into the United States. Ahmed Ressam, 32, was apprehended last week trying to smuggle nitroglycerin and other explosives through Port Angeles, Wash., in his car aboard a ferryboat from Victoria, British Columbia. Montreal Police Spokesman Andre Poirer said a Newsweek magazine report that Ressam is tie to the Montreal cell of an Algerian radical group was a rumor not yet confirmed. But, Poirer did say a massive manhunt was underway in Canada and the United States for a suspected accomplice.

Discovery Takes Off To Rescue Hubble

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

After an unprecedented nine delays, space shuttle Discovery blasted off tonight to put the Hubble Space Telescope back in working order. It was NASA's last chance this year to send the shuttle and seven astronauts to Hubble's rescue. One more postponement would have bumped the flight into January. Everything finally came together, and Discovery soared at 7:50 p.m., lighting up the sky for miles around. Hubble was passing more than 370 miles above Africa when Discovery took off. The shuttle should catch up with the \$3 billion telescope on Tuesday.

Indicted Physicist Lee To Sue FBI

WASHINGTON (AP)

Alleging his privacy was violated and that he has been wrongly portrayed as a Chinese spy, former Los Alamos laboratory scientist Wen Ho Lee has decided to sue the FBI, Justice Department and Energy Department. Lee, who was indicted Dec. 10 on charges he improperly removed nuclear secrets from Los Alamos, plans to file the lawsuit tomorrow in U.S. District Court in Washington, according to people familiar with Lee's plans.

Pro-Putin Party Gains in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)

An exit poll showing gains by centrist parties in parliamentary elections appeared to be a major step forward for Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who hopes to succeed President Boris Yeltsin. A pro-Putin party soared in the election, benefiting from his handling of the war in Chechnya and his promise to give the country strong leadership and restore national pride. Election officials said the Unity party, which is allied with Putin and the Kremlin, was ahead of the Communists with one-tenth of the vote counted.

Texaco Greece Office Bombed

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999

In the latest in a string of attacks against U.S. firms, a bomb exploded late Sunday at the Athens offices of the Texaco oil company, causing minor damage, police said. There were no reported injuries. A group called Revolutionary Cells claimed responsibility for the attack in a warning telephone call to an Athens newspaper. American businesses have been targeted in a spate of firebombings before and since President Clinton's trip to Athens last month.

Cuban Inmates Heading Home

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (AP)

The Cuban detainees who surrendered peacefully after holding hostages at a jail for nearly a week will be sent back to Cuba, the State Department said today. Five Cubans and one Bahamian gave up late yesterday at the St. Martin Parish jail, freeing the warden, a **female** guard and five **female** inmates. The standoff began Dec. 13 by inmates who demanded to be released from the south-central Louisiana jail and sent to another country.

Zimbabwe Head Vows To Seize Land

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

President Robert Mugabe vowed to seize land from whites without pay, as the government had previously promised. Mugabe's new position, announced at a ruling party convention, is likely to estrange his government further from international investors, Western donor nations and financial institutions supporting market-led reforms in the ailing economy of this southern African country. Mugabe said Zimbabwe's 12.5 million blacks could not achieve economic goals as long as the 60,000-strong white community controlled large tracts of land and dominated the nation's industry and commerce. Under the plan, landless blacks would be settled on the seized farms.

Jets Beat Cowboys 22-21

IRVING, Texas (AP)

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5,000 Said Dead in Venezuela Floods

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela (AP)

Survivors wandered through streets covered with rocks and mud in search of food and water today as the death toll from massive mudslides and flooding in Venezuela surpassed an estimated 5,000, making it the worst natural disaster to strike the nation this century. Nearby Caribbean beaches, devastated by landslides and floods from last week's torrential rains, were turned into cemeteries, and widespread looting broke out across the northern coastline.

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At least five people were killed in the latest outbreak of Christian-Muslim violence in the eastern Indonesian province of Maluku, reports said Monday. Ten other people were injured when a mob attacked a civilian vehicle prompting security forces to open fire in the provincial capital Ambon, 1,500 miles east of Jakarta, the official Antara news agency said.

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Japan Stocks Rise in Early Trading

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo stocks rose in early trading Monday after government data showed a decline in the nation's trade surplus. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average gained 145.96 points to 18,241.08 in the first 30 minutes of trading. On Friday, the average closed down 16.19 points. Japan has been under heavy pressure from the United States and other trading partners to rein in the surplus by bolstering its weak economy to spark demand for imports.

Colts Beat Redskins, Clinch AFC East

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

Peyton Manning passed for 298 yards and two touchdowns and Edgerrin James scored twice as the Indianapolis Colts survived three early turnovers and one huge mistake at the end to beat the Redskins 24-21 today. It was the 10th straight victory for the Colts (12-2), who clinched their first AFC East title since 1987. The Redskins (8-6), who had won three of four in trying for their first playoff spot since 1992, remained in first place in the NFC East when the Dallas Cowboys lost to the New York Jets.

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 12376 words

Byline: ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY

Body

Red Cross Seeks Kosovo Missing

GENEVA (AP)

The international Red Cross published the names of more than 3,300 people missing from the conflict in Kosovo and appealed today for information of their fate. The 200-page "Book of the Missing" lists the names, date and place of last sighting of 3,368 people who disappeared, some as far back as January 1998. "According to our experience ... it is the unfortunate fact that at a certain stage most of the people who are reported missing are most probably dead," said Andreas Wigger, who heads operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Balkans.

House GOP May Use Surplus for Debt

WASHINGTON (AP)

House Republicans are proposing that any additional budget surplus be earmarked exclusively to pay down the public debt, preventing the money from being used for spending or tax cuts. "Debt relief should be a top priority, not an afterthought," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Under the plan released today, any fiscal 2000 surplus above the \$24.4 billion estimated in March by the Congressional Budget Office would be set aside in a new Treasury Department account.

Columbine Autopsies Hearing Ordered

DENVER (AP)

A newspaper wants to review 13 autopsies from the Columbine High School shootings to find out, among other things, whether police shot one of the victims and whether one gunman shot the other. District Court Judge R. Brooke Jackson set a June 20 hearing and ordered The Denver Post's attorneys to send copies of their complaint to the victims' families, according to court documents filed Friday. The Post argued it needs the autopsies to judge law enforcement response to the shooting and "to better understand and come to grips with that tragedy."

Judge To Rule Today on Microsoft

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

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Clinton Expands Medicare Coverage

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton today directed Medicare to begin covering costs of routine patient care associated with clinical tests of new drugs and medical treatments. Clinton is concerned that too few older Americans take part in such trials. "As America ages, we must provide all our seniors affordable, quality health care, and we should be using our cutting-edge science to meet that challenge," Clinton said before leaving for a 36-hour trip to Japan to attend memorial services for Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi.

Israel May Hold Early Elections

JERUSALEM (AP)

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British Airways Confirms KLM Talks

LONDON (AP)

British Airways and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines confirmed today that they have begun talks that could lead to a merger. If successful, an alliance would create the world's third-largest airline, behind United Airlines and American Airlines. Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal reported today that AMR Corp.'s American Airlines and Delta Air Lines touched on merger discussions during preliminary talks about industry consolidation this week.

Dow Dips 9; Nasdaq Off 12

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks were mostly lower this morning as investors awaited further clues on the Federal Reserve's future course on interest rates. Analysts said interest rate worries haven't truly left the market. Just before 11 a.m. EDT, the Dow industrials were down 9.05 at 10,726.52. On the NYSE, decliners led advancers 1,237-1,118. The Nasdaq was down 12.04 at 3,744.33.

Unseeded Squillari Moves Into Semis

PARIS (AP)

Unseeded Franco Squillari became the first Argentine since 1982 to reach a Grand Slam men's semifinal when he beat Albert Costa 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 today at the French Open. Squillari will next play the winner of today's quarterfinal between third-seeded Magnus Norman and No. 12 Marat Safin. Top-seeded Martina Hingis will play her doubles partner, sixth-seeded Frenchwoman Mary Pierce, in the women's semifinals tomorrow.

Microsoft Ruling at 4:30 EDT Today

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Gore Discusses Prescriptions in TV Ads

WASHINGTON (AP)

Ads featuring Al Gore and the issue of prescription drugs for senior citizens will hit TV airwaves in more than a dozen states tomorrow as the Democratic National Committee launches a multimillion-dollar campaign to boost its presidential candidate. The ads will feature Gore discussing drug coverage and will outline differences in how the two political parties approach the issue, Democrats said. Prescription drugs are not covered under Medicare. The Clinton administration has proposed a plan for drug coverage, but congressional Republicans have been slow to embrace the issue.

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Israel-Lebanon Village Draws Protest

GHAJAR, Israel-Lebanon Border (AP)

Burning tires and blocking roads, hundreds of residents protested today against U.N. mapmakers trying to draw the Lebanese-Israeli border through the middle of their village. At the entrance of Ghajar, protesters carried banners reading "One Village, One Fate." About 400 villagers blocked a road junction with rocks and barbed wire, which was later cleared.

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Miami Coach To Go to Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)

Leonard Hamilton, the basketball coach at the University of Miami, has agreed to a four-year deal to become the Washington Wizards' next coach, the Washington Post reported today. Citing a league source it did not identify, the Post said Hamilton had agreed in principle on the deal, which could pay him an average of \$2 million a season. Hamilton had been negotiating with Michael Jordan, the Wizards' president of basketball operations.

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Albright Invites Syria to Talks

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, already bogged down in tough negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, today invited Syria to jump back into the peace process. She made little headway. Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa told her Syria "would like very much to find a way" to reopen negotiations with Israel, a senior State Department official said. But, the official said, "It is going to take some time before we get a resumption of talks."

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U.S.-North Korea Talks Begin

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)

U.S. and North Korean defense officials began new efforts today to resume the search for more than 8,000 U.S. soldiers missing in action from the Korean War. "Our desired outcome is to get a schedule for our team to go back into North Korea as soon as possible," said Larry Greer, a spokesman for the U.S. Defense Department's Prisoner of War and Missing in Action office. The talks between the U.S. Defense Department and the North Korean People's Liberation Army are expected to last until Friday or Saturday.

Labor Group Warns About AIDS

GENEVA (AP)

The spread of the AIDS virus is likely to curb the size and quality of the labor force, increase employers' costs and reverse economic progress in the worst-hit countries, according to a study released today by the International Labor Organization. The U.N. agency said sub-Saharan African nations where an estimated 23 million people carried HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, at the end of last year would take the brunt of the crisis.

27 Countries OK Child Labor Treaty

GENEVA (AP)

Twenty-seven countries ratified a treaty banning the worst forms of child labor, making it the largest number of signatories for any labor agreement in a single year, the U.N. labor agency said today. Signers of the treaty, approved during the International Labor Organization's annual conference last June, include the United States, Canada, Indonesia, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico.

Dow Slips 3; Nasdaq Climbs 10

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average is down 3.13 at 10,732.44. The Nasdaq Composite Index is up 10.38 at 3,766.75.

Report: Hamilton To Coach Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)

Leonard Hamilton of the University of Miami has agreed to a four-year deal to coach the Washington Wizards, the Washington Post reported today. The Post, citing an unidentified league source, said Hamilton could receive an average of \$2 million a season. Hamilton had been negotiating with Michael Jordan, the Wizards' president of basketball operations. Miami athletic director Paul Dee confirmed today that Hamilton is considering the Wizards' offer. But he said Hamilton has not made a decision and he is trying to persuade the coach to stay.

Microsoft Ruling Expected at 4:30 EDT

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

The judge overseeing the Microsoft Corp. antitrust lawsuit said he would rule today in the historic case that could lead to a breakup of the software giant. U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson moved swiftly after Microsoft filed a fresh response yesterday to the Justice Department's plan to divide the corporation into two companies. He announced his final judgment would be made public at 4:30 p.m. EDT. Microsoft's stock has barely changed in trading this afternoon, and broad stock market indicators also showed little movement, as uncertain investors awaited the ruling.

Mourners Head to Obuchi Funeral

TOKYO (AP)

Government figures from around the world are heading to Tokyo for the funeral tomorrow of former Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. But behind the scenes will be a buzz of diplomatic talk. Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori has lined up 15 meetings this week, including talks with President Clinton, South Korean leader Kim Dae-jung and Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid. Clinton, who will be in town for less than nine hours, will also have a full day, including a meeting with Kim. At the top of the agenda will be the June 12-14 summit between North and South Korea in Pyongyang, the capital of reclusive North Korea.

Clinton Expands Medicare Coverage

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President Clinton today directed Medicare to begin covering costs of routine patient care associated with clinical tests of new drugs and medical treatments. Clinton is concerned that too few older Americans take part in such trials. "As America ages, we must provide all our seniors affordable, quality health care, and we should be using our cutting-edge science to meet that challenge," Clinton said before leaving for Japan.

Albright Invites Syria to Talks

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, already bogged down in tough negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, today invited Syria to jump back into the peace process. She made little headway. Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa told her Syria "would like very much to find a way" to reopen negotiations with Israel, a senior State Department official said. But, the official said, "It is going to take some time before we get a resumption of talks."

Israel Fortifies Lebanon Border

JERUSALEM (AP)

Israel is equipping its Lebanon border with an electronic fence, beefed-up army outposts and high-tech detection devices to stop infiltrations, to replace its abandoned presence inside Lebanon. Bulldozers, tractors and construction workers are hurriedly building fortifications along the border, following Israel's surprise, hasty pullout May 24 from the area it called its "security zone" in Lebanon, where soldiers patrolled for 15 years to keep Hezbollah guerrillas away.

Expert Testifies on Tobacco's Worth

MIAMI (AP)

Tobacco companies are "cash cows" that pride themselves on their ability to generate money, a finance expert testified today in a landmark case seeking punitive damages from the industry. University of Miami law school finance professor George Mundstock was asked how Philip Morris, based on its half of the domestic cigarette market, could afford to pay half of the industry's settlement of state lawsuits, valued at \$254 billion over 25 years. A

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lawsuit on behalf of about 300,000 to 500,000 sick Florida smokers seeks a multibillion-dollar award from the cigarette makers as punishment for decades of misconduct.

AT&T Boosts Some Per-Minute Charges

WASHINGTON (AP)

AT&T is raising many per-minute rates for tens of millions of customers, but federal regulators say they will hold the company to a pledge to pass on billions of dollars in savings to consumers. Just last week, the Federal Communications Commission announced that it would cut by \$3.2 billion the "access fees" that local phone companies charge long-distance carriers to connect calls costs that typically are paid by phone users.

Dow Dips 5; Nasdaq Gains 6

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks were narrowly mixed today in generally quiet trading, with market averages changing course several times. Just before 2 p.m. EDT, the Dow industrials were down 4.87 at 10,730.70. On the NYSE, advancers led decliners 1,413-1,354. The Nasdaq was up 5.79 at 3,762.16.

Squillari Advances at French Open

PARIS (AP)

Unseeded Franco Squillari became the first Argentine since 1982 to reach a Grand Slam men's semifinal when he beat Albert Costa 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 today at the French Open. Squillari will next play third-seeded Magnus Norman, who beat No. 12 Marat Safin in three hours, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5. Martina Navratilova, playing in a Grand Slam for the first time since 1996, lost in the third round of doubles. She and Mariaan de Swardt were eliminated by Alexandra Fusai and Nathalie Tauziat 2-6, 6-2, 7-5.

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India's Population May Surpass China's

WASHINGTON (AP)

How successful the Indian government is in boosting literacy rates and sexual education among **females** in the next several decades will be critical in determining just how quickly the population there increases, the author of a new report on world population says. Currently, India is home to one-sixth of the world's 6 billion people. By mid-century,

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India's population could reach 1.6 billion people, helping to swell the world population to 9 billion, according to the report by the Population Reference Bureau scheduled for release tomorrow.

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Dow Gains 99; Nasdaq Up 60

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks turned higher in a quiet session today as investors awaited word on Microsoft's antitrust case and looked for new ways to buy into the technology sector. Just before 3 p.m. EDT, the Dow industrials were up 98.53 at 10,834.10. On the NYSE, advancers led decliners. The Nasdaq was up 59.64 at 3,816.01.

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Dow Jumps 109; Nasdaq Gains 64

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks turned mostly higher this afternoon after market averages broke out of a tight trading range as investors bought a wide variety of technology stocks. Just before the close on Wall Street, the Dow industrials were up 108.63 at 10,844.20. On the NYSE, advancers led decliners 1,521-1,383. The Nasdaq was up 63.92 at 3,820.29.

Sosa Shoots Back at Cubs Manager

CHICAGO (AP)

Sammy Sosa, angry over what he perceived as unfair criticism, lashed out at Chicago Cubs manager Don Baylor today. "I've been playing here eight, nine years and I've been playing hard every day," Sosa said before Wednesday's game against Arizona. "I've been carrying baseball the last two years. Everything I've been doing in baseball in the city of Chicago I don't deserve this." Baylor denied he made any comments.

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Gore Plans \$30B for Elder Care

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)

Al Gore, a member of the "sandwich generation" caring both for children and elderly parents, is proposing a \$30 billion, 10-year program of tax credits, Medicaid coverage and other help for family caregivers. The Democratic presidential candidate promoted his "eldercare" initiative today at a Palm Springs senior citizens center at the start of a three-day campaigning and fund-raising sweep up the West Coast.

AT&T Fees Raising Concerns

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Norwegians Goof Off for an Hour

OSLO, Norway (AP)

Hundreds of Norwegians goofed off during working hours today with the government's blessing in a campaign to remind people about the value of time. Throughout the country, people left their offices and other workplaces, switched off their cellular phones and just enjoyed life for an hour from noon to 1 p.m., in addition to their regular lunchtime.

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Golfer Stadler Makes U.S. Open

SUMMIT, N.J. (AP)

Craig Stadler qualified today for his first U.S. Open since 1994, while former PGA champion Bob Tway and two-time Masters champion Ben Crenshaw failed to make it to Pebble Beach for the second time. Stadler was among 20 players who advanced from the last sectional qualifier that finalized the 156-man field for the 100th U.S. Open, which starts next week.

Microsoft: We'll Appeal Breakup

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Microsoft is promising to appeal the decision by a federal judge today to split the software giant into two companies. The case could go to the U.S. Court of Appeals or directly to the Supreme Court. Microsoft chairman Bill Gates said today's decision was only "the beginning of a new chapter" in the case. Today's decision by U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson is the biggest corporate breakup since AT&T. The split would separate Microsoft's Windows operating system from all of the firm's other software.

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Gore Discusses Prescriptions on TV

WASHINGTON (AP)

Ads featuring Al Gore and the issue of prescription drugs for senior citizens will hit TV airwaves in more than a dozen states today as the Democratic National Committee launches a multimillion-dollar campaign to boost its presidential candidate. The ads will feature Gore discussing drug coverage and will outline differences in how the two political parties approach the issue, Democrats said. Prescription drugs are not covered under Medicare.

Bomb Kills Sri Lankan Official, Others

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Policy Said To Spur Teacher Scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)

In less than a week, the principal of a high-scoring Maryland elementary school has quit and two teachers _ one from the Potomac, Md., school and another from Reston, Va. _ were suspended after pupils told their parents that adults gave them test questions or guided them to correct answers. Critics say these test scandals following others in New York, Texas, and Ohio will only increase as more states link scores to a school's reputation, teachers raises or a superintendent's job.

Study: Surgery Can Help Parkinson's

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

TORONTO (AP)

Burning a tiny hole deep in the brain can relieve some symptoms of Parkinson's disease for more than five years, a study has found. But some major improvements, including the ability to live unassisted, wear off. Still, the surgery can be useful when medicine alone cannot control the progressive neurological disorder, doctors in Toronto concluded. The surgery is called pallidotomy and involves the removal of a part of the brain that controls movement.

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Cubs Beat Diamondbacks 9-4

CHICAGO (AP)

Sammy Sosa and Eric Young each hit solo homers, and Brian Anderson lost for the first time in 19 starts in the Chicago Cubs' 9-4 victory over the slumping Arizona Diamondbacks today. Glenallen Hill, Damon Buford and Mark Grace each added two RBIs for the Cubs, whose three-game sweep was their first against the Diamondbacks.

Judge Orders Breakup of Microsoft

WASHINGTON (AP)

A federal judge ordered the breakup of Microsoft today, declaring the software giant that spurred an explosion in home computing should be split into two because it proved untrustworthy in the past. "Microsoft, as it is presently organized and led, is unwilling to accept the notion that it broke the law," U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson wrote as he ordered the most dramatic antitrust breakup since AT&T in 1984. An unrepentant Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates vowed to appeal.

AT&T Defers Plan To Raise Many Rates

WASHINGTON (AP)

After being sharply rebuked by federal regulators, AT&T said today it will defer its plan to raise many per-minute rates for tens of millions of customers. The nation's largest long-distance carrier said it will study ways to restructure its rates, focusing on basic rate consumers who make few calls. The company will freeze its current per-minute basic rates until it has completed its review and has informed customers of any changes and available options.

Israeli Vote Could Delay Talks

JERUSALEM (AP)

Rebellious coalition parties joined with the Israeli opposition Wednesday in a first vote calling for early elections a move that if carried out could freeze Middle East peacemaking for weeks or even months. The crisis might spell the end of Prime Minister Ehud Barak's one-year-old coalition, or begin a period of intensive maneuvering for its survival. In either case, Middle East peacemaking would not top Israel's agenda for weeks, possibly months.

Clinton Expands Medicare Coverage

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Elderly and disabled Americans who want to participate in clinical trials of new drugs or medical treatments can now be certain Medicare will help pay the bill, after a change ordered by President Clinton. "Simply put, the more seniors we enroll in trials, the faster we'll be able to use these advances to save American lives," Clinton said today, making the announcement before leaving the White House for a trip to Japan.

Taiwan Buying U.S. Weapons Systems

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Pentagon announced today sales of two weapons systems to Taiwan designed to improve the defensive and navigation capabilities of its F-16 fighters. Taiwan will pay \$122 million for 48 electronic countermeasures pods, which are designed for use on F-16s to jam or interfere with enemy anti-aircraft radar signals. Taiwan also will pay \$234 million for 39 sets of Pathfinder/Sharpshooter pods, which provide low-altitude navigation and defensive capability.

Tamil Tigers Well-Equipped for War

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

Separatist rebels say a corp of suicide bombers, known as the Black Tigers, are playing a vital role in their 17-year war of independence in Sri Lanka. Although there was no claim of responsibility in Wednesday's suicide bombing that killed a Cabinet minister and 20 others, the attack was similar to others carried out by the ultra-secret assassination squad. "Black Tigers are the self protective armor of our race," Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, has said.

White Man Indicted in 1966 Slaying

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)

A white man was arrested today on charges that he killed a black farm worker in 1966 in what might have been a plot to lure the Rev. Martin Luther King to Mississippi so he could be assassinated. Ernest Henry Avants, 69, was acquitted of the killing in a Mississippi court in 1967. But federal prosecutors said the jury in that trial was never informed that Avants had confessed.

Real McCoys, Hatfields To Reunite

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP)

A hundred years after the end of their legendary feud, the Hatfields and the McCoys are getting together this weekend for their first reunion and they will be leaving the shotguns behind. "We are going to be on our best behavior," said reunion chairman Bo McCoy, a Waycross, Ga., minister whose ancestors took part in the 19th century shooting war between the two families that left 12 people dead and cemented the image of Appalachia as a place full of hillbillies with guns.

Dow Ends Up 77; Nasdaq Rises 83

NEW YORK (AP)

Technology stocks shook off early losses to close higher today after a Goldman Sachs analyst said IBM is expected to have a strong year. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 77.29 to 10,812.86 while the Nasdaq composite index rose 82.89 to 3,839.26. On the NYSE, gainers led losers 1,610-1,301.

Ill. Pursues Okla. Basketball Coach

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Illinois is pursuing Oklahoma basketball coach Kelvin Sampson for the Illini job vacated two weeks ago by Lon Kruger, who left to coach the Atlanta Hawks. Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione confirmed that Illinois athletic director Ron Guenther had contacted him to speak with Sampson.

U.S. Sees Quick Microsoft Hearing

WASHINGTON (AP)

Victorious in federal district court, the Justice Department will seek an expedited hearing in the Supreme Court for Microsoft's promised appeal of today's decision to split the giant computer software maker into two companies. "A matter of this consequence, involving serious market implications and a major company, should, one, benefit from Supreme Court review and, two, should benefit quickly so that the expectations can be settled, the remedy can go forward and the industry can move on," Assistant Attorney General Joel I. Klein said.

Businessmen Calm on Microsoft Ruling

ATLANTA (AP)

Even as a federal judge ordered Microsoft split in two today, there was little worry among customers, investors and business partners visiting the software behemoth's pavilion at a major telecommunications industry show. Most were confident that Windows, the Microsoft operating system family that runs on some 90 percent of the world's personal computers, will continue to dominate the computer world for some time.

Turmoil in Israeli Politics May Hurt Talks

JERUSALEM (AP)

An early election is being called for by a coalition of parties in Israel, and the crisis may very well delay peace talks and end Prime Minister Ehud Barak's one-year-old coalition. Early elections, if carried out, could freeze Middle East peacemaking for weeks or even months. The parliament voted 61-48 Wednesday to approve an opposition bill to call elections. To take effect, the legislation would have to survive three more votes.

Judge Makes Ruling on Tobacco Damages

MIAMI (AP)

In a victory for the tobacco industry, the judge hearing a Florida smokers' case ordered jurors today to assess the industry's ability to pay punitive damages based on the money the companies' have now rather than what they could pay over several years. A lawsuit, filed on behalf of 300,000 to 700,000 sick Florida smokers, seeks a multibillion-dollar award from the industry as punishment for decades of misconduct.

FBI Opens Probe of eBay Art Auction

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

The FBI is investigating whether people are driving up prices at online auctioneer eBay by bidding on each others' items. The probe was launched after lawyer Kenneth A. Walton tried to auction an abstract painting bidders believed was by Richard Diebenkorn, whose work has sold for millions. "We can confirm that there is an investigation and we're assisting in any way possible," an eBay spokesman said.

Study: U.S. Health Plans 'Average'

WASHINGTON (AP)

Americans generally give their health insurance plans good marks, even though about half report problems ranging from minor billing difficulties to being denied treatment, a new survey showed. More people in managed care plans

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with lots of restrictions reported problems than people with traditional health insurance, according to a survey of 2,500 people released today by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Gore Highlights His Role in Economy

WASHINGTON (AP)

Vice President Al Gore is making a "prosperity tour" through battleground states to spotlight his plans to keep America's booming economy going as voters appear split on whether he would do any better than George W. Bush. The planned two-week tour, which the Democratic presidential candidate is to begin next week, is meant to fuel his aggressive drive to define his image and his message in positive and upbeat terms.

Reunion Planned for McCoys, Hatfields

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP)

A hundred years after the end of their legendary feud, the Hatfields and the McCoys are getting together this weekend for their first reunion and they will be leaving the shotguns behind. "We are going to be on our best behavior," said reunion chairman Bo McCoy, a Waycross, Ga., minister whose ancestors took part in the 19th century shooting war between the two families that left 12 people dead and cemented the image of Appalachia as a place full of hillbillies with guns.

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Rocker Says He May Quit Baseball

ATLANTA (AP)

John Rocker might not go to the minor leagues and is even considering whether to walk away from baseball altogether. And how would he make a living? "I would be a stockbroker, probably," the outspoken reliever said today. In his first public comments since being sent to Triple-A Richmond, Rocker told radio station WKLS-FM that he's upset about the way he was treated by the Atlanta Braves.

Judge: Microsoft To Be Split in Two

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Bomb Kills Sri Lankan Official, Others

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

A suicide bomber shattered Sri Lanka's first-ever War Heroes Day, killing a Cabinet minister and 20 other people Wednesday during a fund-raiser for the families of slain soldiers. Minister for Industrial Development C.V. Gooneratne was assassinated as he walked among supporters in his parliamentary district in Ratmalana, an

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industrial suburb of the capital, Colombo. Gooneratne, the bomber, and 20 other people were killed, said the director of Kalubowila Hospital, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena.

Border DAs To Nix Federal Pot Cases

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)

Cash-strapped district attorneys along the Texas-Mexico border will stop prosecuting federal marijuana cases beginning July 1, a spokesman for the group said today. The U.S. Department of Justice refers cases in which smugglers are caught at border checkpoints with 250 pounds or less of marijuana to state courts. Local officials say the policy has overwhelmed their county legal systems. "This partnership has gone one way for too long," said Jaime Esparza, a district attorney in Texas.

NAACP Challenges Felon Vote Law

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

The Philadelphia NAACP sued the state today to challenge a law that prevents some felons from registering to vote for five years after their release from prison. About 1.4 million ex-felons nationwide have permanently or temporarily lost their voting privileges, according to the Sentencing Project, a criminal justice think tank in Washington, D.C. The federal lawsuit filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People targets what it calls a quirk in a 1995 Pennsylvania law that restricts the voting rights of former prison inmates.

Bush Vows Positive RNC Convention

WASHINGTON (AP)

George W. Bush, who promised to bring civility to Washington, plans to break with tradition and lower the decibel level on partisan attacks at the Republican National Convention by focusing on his plans for the White House, aides said today. "Governor Bush is a different kind of politician. He plans to offer a different kind of convention," chief campaign spokeswoman Karen Hughes said in a telephone interview. Hughes and other advisers said Bush, the Republican presidential contender, hoped to strike a more high-minded tone than in conventions past.

McCain Still Presses Finance Reform

WASHINGTON (AP)

Sen. John McCain, who sought the White House on a platform of campaign finance reform, pressed the Senate today to require a secretive new generation of political groups to disclose their donors. "This is (a) dark, uncontrolled sector of the political landscape," McCain, R-Ariz., said in remarks on the Senate floor. "It a danger to our electoral system."

Gorbachev OK After Swimming Accident

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was rescued during a Caribbean swim, after a powerful current pulled him close to dangerous rocks, a Red Cross lifeguard said today. Gorbachev, who presided over the breakup of the Soviet Union, suffered only a scraped knee in the accident, said lifeguard Carlos Segura Roman. Gorbachev and a companion were drawn out by the current while swimming Sunday at Costa Rica's Puerto Viejo de Limon beach, 125 miles southeast of San Jose, the capital.

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AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

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Rocker a No-Show at Minor Leagues

MAUMEE, Ohio (AP)

John Rocker was a no-show for a second straight day, leaving officials of the Atlanta Braves organization wondering whether he will report to the minor leagues. Rocker has until tomorrow to join the Class Triple-A Richmond Braves, who opened a three-game series with the Toledo Mud Hens tonight. Richmond manager Randy Ingle said he had no idea if or when to expect Rocker. Earlier today, Rocker told Atlanta radio station WKLS that he may quit baseball.

Ruling May Frost Microsoft's Relations

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)

Much of the high-tech industry has been gradually distancing itself from Microsoft since the software giant's legal troubles began, and that tendency is likely to accelerate regardless of whether today's breakup ruling is upheld on appeal. While still an industry powerhouse, Microsoft's name no longer carries the weight it once did because operating systems have become less crucial components in the increasingly important business of getting the Internet into everything from computers to cellphones to automobiles.

Sri Lankan Official Killed in Bomb Blast

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A suicide bomber detonated an explosion in a capital suburb Wednesday, killing a Cabinet minister and 20 others, officials said. The bomber's severed head and limbs were scattered around a traffic island, while police officers and army commandos gathered evidence and pushed the crowd back from the site. Minister for Industrial Development C.V. Gooneratne was among the 21 people killed by the bomber.

Population Growth in India Explodes

WASHINGTON (AP)

It has taken thousands of years for the population of India to swell to 1 billion, but it may take just 100 years for India to add another billion. How successful the Indian government is in boosting literacy rates and sexual education among **females** in the next several decades will be critical in determining just how quickly the population there increases, the author of a new report on world population says. India is home to one-sixth of the world's 6 billion people. By mid-century, India's population could reach 1.6 billion people, helping to swell the world population to 9 billion.

Reservation Phone Service Targeted

WASHINGTON (AP)

Regulators are moving to expand phone service on American Indian reservations by increasing federal subsidies, hoping to overcome high costs and other problems in connecting these areas. The Federal Communications Commission is expected to vote tomorrow on a plan partly promoted by President Clinton to provide reservations with basic telephone service for \$1 a month. "In a networked economy, our network must be accessible to all Americans. We can do better and we must do better," said Commission Chairman William Kennard today.

Women Activists Issue 'Report Card'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Women's rights activists issued a report card today on the U.S. government's efforts to improve equality for women in America and the results were mixed. The United States got an "F" for its attempts to reduce poverty among American women but scored a "B" its best grade for progress in appointing women to important decision-making positions. The report card was compiled by U.S. Women Connect, a nonprofit advocacy group, and released at this week's women's conference at the United Nations.

Policy Said To Spur Teacher Scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)

In less than a week, the principal of a high-scoring Maryland elementary school has quit and two teachers _ one from the Potomac, Md., school and another from Reston, Va. _ were suspended after pupils told their parents that adults gave them test questions or guided them to correct answers. Critics say these test scandals following others in New York, Texas, and Ohio will only increase as more states link scores to a school's reputation, teachers raises or a superintendent's job.

Report: Massive Blackout in Cuba

HAVANA (AP)

A heavy storm knocked out power across the capital of Havana and surrounding provinces this evening, leaving millions without electricity for at least an hour. State television reported that the blackout began around 6 p.m. and included most of Havana, surrounding Havana Province and Pinar del Rio Province to the west. Havana alone has 2 million residents. Power was restored to most areas within an hour, and was to be gradually restored to other areas over the rest of the evening, state television said.

Tokyo Stocks Edge Higher

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo stocks edged higher Thursday, supported by an overnight advance on Wall Street. The Nikkei Stock Average gained 29.54 points to 17,174.50 in early trading. On Wall Street on Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 77.29 to 10,812.86 while the Nasdaq composite index rose 82.89 to 3,839.26.

AL All-Star Staff Chosen

NEW YORK (AP)

Managers Lou Piniella of the Seattle Mariners and Larry Rothschild of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays were picked today as coaches for the American League All-Star team, which will be managed by Joe Torre of the New York Yankees. Torre also invited seven members of his Yankees staff Mike Borzello, Chris Chambliss, Tony Cloninger, Lee Mazzilli, Willie Randolph, Mel Stottlemyre and Don Zimmer to handle batting practice and other field duties.

Judge Orders Microsoft Split in Two

WASHINGTON (AP)

Declaring the software giant that spurred an explosion in home computing should be split into two because it "proved untrustworthy in the past," a federal judge today ordered the breakup of Microsoft. An unrepentant Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, vowing an appeal, said the ruling shows "the government can take away what you have created if it proves to be too popular." He said the company would seek to block Jackson's order from taking effect during the appeals process.

Nuke Cuts OKd for Next President

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, 2000

The Republican-led Senate voted today to prohibit President Clinton from making deep unilateral cuts in the nation's nuclear arsenal, but agreed to ease that prohibition for the next president. With Senate Democrats crying foul, the Senate voted 51-47 largely along party lines to reject an effort to lift the five-year old prohibition completely. Instead, the Senate went along with a proposal by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner, R-Va., to allow the president to make such warhead cuts only after a Pentagon review every four years.

Teacher Fund To Sell Tobacco Stocks

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

The California's teacher pension fund said today it will sell all of its tobacco holdings, more than \$237 million worth of tobacco stocks, because they are a bad investment. The California State Teachers' Retirement System has been considering the move for six months, after it was suggested by teachers' unions and state Treasurer Phil Angelides, a system board member. The fund, with a total portfolio of \$114 billion, provides retirement benefits to more than 605,000 current and retired teachers in California public schools and community colleges.

Survey: Kids Fuel Internet Explosion

SAN MATEO, Calif. (AP)

Children are fueling the Internet explosion, according to a new national survey that found the number of 2- to 17-year-olds logging into cyberspace has tripled since 1997. "The notion that children are an emerging market is no longer true. They have emerged," said Peter Grunwald, president of the San Mateo-based Grunwald Associates, which conducted the survey. The survey found that more than 25 million children in the United States are on the Internet, up from 8 million in 1997. And by the year 2005, the number of children online is expected to increase by another 70 percent, the survey projected.

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Tunnel Found Linking Gaza, Egypt

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

Palestinian security forces on Wednesday unearthed a tunnel between Egypt and the Gaza Strip apparently used to smuggle goods into Gaza. Hussein Zanoon, the Palestinian security chief in charge of the Rafah area where the tunnel was found, said five suspects have been arrested. Police were to close the 150-yard-long, 9-yard-deep tunnel later Wednesday, which Zanoon said was used to smuggle Egyptian food and other products into Gaza.

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Yankees Defeat Expos 7-2

MONTREAL (AP)

Orlando Hernandez allowed four hits in eight innings and the New York Yankees stole a season-high five bases tonight in a 7-2 win over the Montreal Expos. Hernandez (6-4), who pitched his first career complete game at Montreal on June 9, 1998 in his only previous start against the Expos, allowed one hit in the first five innings Vladimir Guerrero's 18th homer, a two-run drive the first. Hernandez struck out five and walked two before Allen Watson finished with a perfect ninth.

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Bob Hope Released From Hospital

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP)

A week after he was hospitalized for intestinal bleeding, a frail but smiling Bob Hope stood and waved to cameras Wednesday and then was sent home. The 97-year-old entertainer's appearance outside Eisenhower Medical Center had been planned, but not his discharge. Hope decided Wednesday that as long as he was up and dressed that he would go home, and his doctor agreed, hospital spokeswoman Lea Goodsell said.

Dismissals Sought in Columbine Suits

DENVER (AP)

Jefferson County attorneys asked a federal judge Wednesday to dismiss four lawsuits filed by families of Columbine victims saying the lawsuits unfairly blame the sheriff's department for the massacre. "Although it is natural to assign blame after a tragedy of this magnitude, the law does not support the attempts to blame law enforcement officers and government officials for atrocities committed by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold," assistant county attorney William Tuthill said in a statement.

Sri Lankan Official Killed in Bomb Blast

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Lakers Defeat Pacers 104-87

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Shaquille O'Neal put up numbers worthy of a champion, scoring 43 points and grabbing 19 rebounds as Los Angeles kept a comfortable lead most of the way and defeated the Indiana Pacers 104-87 in Game 1 on Wednesday night. As expected, O'Neal was an unstoppable force against an opponent with few options for slowing him down. Whether they single-teamed him or used double-coverage, nothing really worked for the Pacers in trying to stop the Lakers' 7-foot-1 center.

Load-Date: June 7, 2000

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

Associated Press Online

November 22, 1999; Monday 23:03 Eastern Time

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 22177 words

Byline: LISI de BOURBON

Body

Bush, Gore Losing Edge in N.H.

WASHINGTON (AP)

A poll published in the Los Angeles Times Sunday suggests Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush have little edge over their presidential rivals in New Hampshire. Still, the poll gives hefty national leads for both Texas Gov. Bush and the vice president. The poll indicates that people who are focused on the race and viewing candidates up close are finding reasons to vote for underdogs.

Group To Propose New Workplace Rules

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is set to propose new workplace rules that would protect millions of people who work at computers, on assembly lines or at other jobs where workers suffer from repetitive stress injuries, according to published reports. The Washington Post said the proposed standards will be unveiled Monday. Business and some lawmakers have opposed the standards for years, insisting there should be no new rules issued until there is scientific proof that workplace problems cause the injuries.

FBI: Serious Crime Down in 1999

WASHINGTON (AP)

The number of serious crimes reported to police plunged by 10 percent in the first half of this year, the FBI announced Sunday. The unusually large drop extended the nationwide crime decline to 7 1/2 years. Experts said the drop can be explained by a series of federal, state and local anti-crime measures, a growing economy, the aging of baby boomers and the decline of crack cocaine markets. The only discordant note in the FBI report was a 1 percent increase in murders in cities of more than 1 million residents.

Solzhenitsyn Backs Russia Campaign

MOSCOW (AP)

In an interview broadcast Sunday, Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn endorsed Moscow's military campaign against breakaway Chechnya saying Russia must defend itself against terrorism and stop capitulating to the West.

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

The outspoken, 80-year-old Nobel laureate said the new operation was different from the 1994-1996 Chechnya war, which he blamed on a series of Kremlin mistakes caused by greed, corruption and bad judgment. Solzhenitsyn's comments reflect the opinions of many Russians, who opposed the last Chechnya war but have supported this autumn's military campaign.

Bush Skips 2nd Candidates' Debate

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)

Front-runner George W. Bush was the only major absentee as four Republican presidential hopefuls debated Sunday in Arizona, but he was the center of attention from the participants. The debate at Arizona State University was sponsored by the Arizona Republican Party and broadcast live on C-SPAN. More than 2,000 people bought tickets for the event. The Texas governor already has missed two debates in New Hampshire, because of what he said were scheduling conflicts. Another Arizona debate was added Dec. 6 to accommodate the front-runner.

School of the Americas Protested

FORT BENNING, Ga. (AP)

More than 3,000 protesters, many wearing black robes and white death masks, marched onto Fort Benning on Sunday to protest human rights abuses they say are committed by graduates of the Army's School of the Americas. The School of the Americas is best known for its training of Latin American officers who were fighting communist insurgencies. It has long been criticized for human rights abuses later committed in Latin America by some of those graduates. The annual demonstration commemorates the Nov. 16, 1989, killings in El Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her young daughter.

Japan Stocks Gain Sharply

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks gained sharply in early trading Monday. The Nikkei Stock Average rose 247.13 points, or 1.33 percent, to 18,817.97 points in the first 30 minutes of trading. On Friday, the Dow industrials closed down 31.81 at 11,003.89. The Nasdaq was up 21.99 at 3,369.10.

Suns 99, SuperSonics 86

PHOENIX (AP)

Jason Kidd scored 18 of his 25 points in the second half, and the Phoenix Suns beat Seattle 99-86 Sunday night, handing the SuperSonics their first loss in seven games against Western Conference opponents. Kidd also had 14 assists and seven rebounds, helping the Suns keep up their recent mastery of the SuperSonics by beating them for the sixth consecutive time. Tom Gugliotta scored 16 points for Phoenix, including a three-point play that gave the Suns a 93-84 lead with 2:11 remaining. He muscled in a layup with 1:35 to play, sending the Suns ahead by nine points.

Study: Teens Drug Use Leveling Off

NEW YORK (AP)

Teen-agers' drug use is leveling off amid growing evidence that America's youth, which once viewed drugs as almost a rite of passage, now views them as uncool, according to the annual survey by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. The 12th survey of U.S. teen-agers, released Monday, found that 40 percent of those questioned felt "really cool" teens did not use drugs an increase of 5 percentage points from last year. Among 13- to 15-year-olds, only 8 percent believed marijuana smokers were popular, down from 13 percent last year and 17 percent in 1997, the survey found.

Bush, Gore Losing Edge in N.H.

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WASHINGTON (AP)

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Solzhenitsyn Backs Russia Campaign

MOSCOW (AP)

In an interview broadcast Sunday, Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn endorsed Moscow's military campaign against breakaway Chechnya saying Russia must defend itself against terrorism and stop capitulating to the West. The outspoken, 80-year-old Nobel laureate said the new operation was different from the 1994-1996 Chechnya war, which he blamed on a series of Kremlin mistakes caused by greed, corruption and bad judgment. Solzhenitsyn's comments reflect the opinions of many Russians, who opposed the last Chechnya war but have supported this autumn's military campaign.

Bush Skips 2nd Candidates' Debate

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)

Front-runner George W. Bush was the only major absentee as four Republican presidential hopefuls debated Sunday in Arizona, but he was the center of attention from the participants. The debate at Arizona State University was sponsored by the Arizona Republican Party and broadcast live on C-SPAN. More than 2,000 people bought tickets for the event. The Texas governor already has missed two debates in New Hampshire, because of what he said were scheduling conflicts. Another Arizona debate was added Dec. 6 to accommodate the front-runner.

School of the Americas Protested

FORT BENNING, Ga. (AP)

More than 3,000 protesters, many wearing black robes and white death masks, marched onto Fort Benning on Sunday to protest human rights abuses they say are committed by graduates of the Army's School of the Americas. The School of the Americas is best known for its training of Latin American officers who were fighting communist

insurgencies. It has long been criticized for human rights abuses later committed in Latin America by some of those graduates. The annual demonstration commemorates the Nov. 16, 1989, killings in El Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her young daughter.

Japan Stocks Gain Sharply

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks gained sharply in early trading Monday. The Nikkei rose 247.13 points, or 1.33 percent, to 18,817.97 points in the first 30 minutes of trading.

Jaguars 41, Saints 23

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

Mark Brunell and Jimmy Smith played their best games of the season Sunday night and the Jacksonville Jaguars of old returned in grand fashion. Brunell threw for 351 yards and two touchdowns to lead Jacksonville to a 41-23 victory over the New Orleans Saints, the seventh consecutive win for the Jaguars.

China Holds Unmanned Space Test

BEIJING (AP)

China's first successful test of a spacecraft for manned flight also had major military implications, proving China has mastered technology that could defeat U.S. anti-missile defenses, an official Chinese newspaper reported today. The same low-power propulsion technology used to adjust a spacecraft's orbit in flight could also be used to alter the path of offensive missiles, helping them evade proposed U.S. anti-missile defense systems known as TMD and NMD, military expert Song Yichang told the state-run China Business Times. China's development of low-momentum rocket propulsion "is equivalent to having a trump card to counter TMD and NMD," the newspaper said.

Texas A&M Victims Mourned

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

While Pastor Dwight Edwards comforted the mourners grieving for the 12 people killed in the collapse of the bonfire tower at Texas A&M, he also tried to reassure those who survived the ordeal, students who may have wondered why they escaped harm when their friends did not. Local, state and federal officials were to meet Monday to map out a strategy for finding the cause of Thursday's collapse of the 40-foot pyramid of logs. But Charles Anderson, pastor of A&M United Methodist Church, said the answers would do little to comfort those left behind.

Study: Teens Drug Use Leveling Off

NEW YORK (AP)

Teen-agers' drug use is leveling off amid growing evidence that America's youth, which once viewed drugs as almost a rite of passage, now views them as uncool, according to the annual survey by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. The 12th survey of U.S. teen-agers, released Monday, found that 40 percent of those questioned felt "really cool" teens did not use drugs an increase of 5 percentage points from last year. Among 13- to 15-year-olds, only 8 percent believed marijuana smokers were popular, down from 13 percent last year and 17 percent in 1997, the survey found.

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The Nikkei gained 251.28 points to close at 18,822.12.

Raptors 111, Lakers 102

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Vince Carter had a career-high 34 points and 13 rebounds despite bruising his right hip as the Toronto Raptors defeated the Lakers 111-102 Sunday night for the first time in Los Angeles. Dee Brown and Doug Christie had 15 points each as the Raptors had six players in double figures. Antonio Davis and Del Curry added 13 points each and Tracy McGrady had 12 points.

Deposed Premier To Appear in Court

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Defiant former Premier Nawaz Sharif, appearing in court today in response to army allegations of treason and hijacking, reiterated that the charges he faces are baseless. Elsewhere, army officials said Sharif's family members were free to leave their homes, where they had been confined since the Oct. 12 military coup that ousted Sharif.

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Kings 110, Rockets 105

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

Chris Webber had 28 points and 11 rebounds and Jason Williams added 25 points and 12 assists as the Sacramento Kings won their sixth straight game Sunday night, beating the Houston Rockets 110-105. The Kings improved to 7-1, tying the franchise mark for the best start, held by the 1952-53 Rochester Royals. Rookie Steve Francis had 21 points and nine assists for Houston.

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Churches Close Throughout Holy Land

JERUSALEM (AP)

Churches closed throughout the Holy Land today as part of a dispute that has poisoned Christian-Muslim relations and left Israel caught in the middle. At the heart of the dispute is a controversy over what to build a Muslim mosque or a Christian visitors' plaza on a plot of land in Nazareth, the town of Jesus' boyhood. By closing the churches for two days, Christians hope to draw the world's attention to what they say are growing threats to their shrines. In Bethlehem, believed to be the site of Jesus' birth, the small iron doors of the Church of the Nativity were closed to dozens of would-be visitors today.

Sri Lanka Pulls Army From Church

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

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The military said today its troops have vacated a 17th century Dutch-built Catholic church where an artillery attack killed 44 people. The army still controls the northern town of Madhu, where the church is located, military officials said. They blamed the rebels, called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, for Saturday's artillery attack on Madhu, 130 miles north of the capital, Colombo. But in a statement issued by its London office, the LTTE denied the charge and accused the military of using the victims as human shields.

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A Japanese air force training jet ripped through a power supply line and crashed into a river today northwest of Tokyo, killing the two crewmen aboard and causing a power outage in parts of the capital. Witnesses said the plane exploded in flames as it slammed into the Iruma River on the outskirts of the city, national broadcaster NHK reported. The Iruma-based T-33 jet crashed near a junior high school, but there were no reports of casualties on the ground, a local police spokesman said.

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Cougars Football Coach Said Fired

HOUSTON (AP)

Houston football coach Kim Helton reportedly will be fired today despite posting a winning record this season. Helton will be dismissed with two years left on his contract, worth \$600,000, KRIV-TV reported last night, citing sources close to the university. Houston athletic director Chet Gladchuk was unavailable for comment last night.

Generals Implicated in E. Timor Violence

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

Indonesian investigators have implicated several top generals in the burning and looting spree that followed the overwhelming vote for independence in East Timor, one investigator said today. Several military commanders — including former military chief Gen. Wiranto, who is now a senior Cabinet minister in charge of security will be

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summoned before a tribunal investigating human rights abuses in the former Indonesian province, said Munir, a member of the investigative commission set up by the government in the wake of the violence.

China Indicts Member of Banned Sect

BEIJING (AP)

A suspected leader of the outlawed Falun Gong spiritual movement was formally charged today by a court in the southern town of Shenzhen, more than two months after he was detained by police. An official in the prosecutors office in the Futian district of Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, said Li Jianhui had been formally charged with "using an evil cult to violate the law." Investigations into Li's case were continuing, said the official, who gave his surname as Lin. The Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said the case against Li was intended to send a warning to Falun Gong members in Hong Kong.

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Tavarez, Rockies Agree to Contract

DENVER (AP)

Reliever Julian Tavarez, claimed on waivers last week, and the Colorado Rockies agreed yesterday on a one-year contract. The Rockies got the 26-year-old right-hander on waivers from the San Francisco Giants last Tuesday. Tavarez had until yesterday to decide whether to join the team or become a free agent. Tavarez was 2-0 with a 5.93 ERA last season.

Madeleine Albright Visits Slovakia

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived for a one-day visit to Slovakia today in a sign of improved relations with this former communist country following the end of authoritarian rule. At Bratislava airport, Albright was welcomed by Slovak Foreign Minister Edward Kukan. She was scheduled to meet with Premier Mikulas Dzurinda. A statement from the U.S. embassy said Albright will discuss a range of issues, including U.S. support for Slovakia's integration into western institutions and support for a democratic transition in Serbia.

2 Cops, 4 Civilians Killed in Aceh

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)

Unidentified gunmen torched buildings in Indonesia's strife-torn Aceh province, and six people, including two policemen, were found dead, police said today. The latest upsurge in violence in Aceh comes after a period of relative calm that followed the election last month of Wahid Abdurrahman as Indonesia's new president. It also follows calls by senior police and military officers in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, for the imposition of martial law in the independence-minded region.

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Saints Quarterback Injures Knee

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Clinton Opens Bulgaria Visit

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)

President Clinton, opening the first-ever visit to this former communist nation by an American head of state, today praised Bulgaria for its commitment to democracy and progress in economic reform. Bulgaria, which aspires to one

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day joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, supported NATO's air war over Kosovo by permitting U.S. and allied warplanes to fly over its territory. On Tuesday Clinton was flying to Kosovo to express support for NATO and United Nations efforts to build a peace between Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

Russia Closes In on Chechen Capital

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia (AP)

Russian forces closed in around the Chechen capital today and searched for rebels, while fearful civilians kept up their exodus from the breakaway region. The Federal Migration Service said today that 222,556 refugees had fled Chechnya since Russian airstrikes began in late August. More than 1,850 had left Chechnya over the past 24 hours, the Interior Ministry said today. Weary-looking people, mostly women and children, piled out of trucks at the border with the neighboring Russian region of Ingushetia, and began their trek to find shelter in tent camps or private homes.

U.S. Envoy Tours E. Timor Refugee Camps

MOTAAIN, Indonesia (AP)

Saying thousands of East Timorese refugees are too frightened to return home, U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke toured squalid camps today and helped Indonesian and U.N. officials reach an accord to stop border clashes. Elsewhere, Indonesian investigators announced in Jakarta that top generals have been implicated in the violence that followed East Timor's overwhelming vote for independence from Indonesia on Aug. 30. Senior commanders including former military chief Gen. Wiranto, now a Cabinet minister will give evidence regarding human rights abuses, said a member of the government's investigative commission.

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Microsoft May Face Class-Action Suit

SEATTLE (AP)

Lawyers plan to file a class-action lawsuit against Microsoft Corp. today for using its monopoly in operating systems software to overcharge buyers of its popular Windows software, The New York Times reported today. The lawsuit is the first of what could be a flood of private litigation stemming from the Justice Department's antitrust action against the Redmond, Wash.-based software giant. "This is the start of the race to get to the courthouse," Stephen Axinn, an antitrust lawyer with Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider, told the Times.

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Saying he is an innocent man, former Premier Nawaz Sharif left an anti-terrorist court today after his second appearance on army allegations of treason and hijacking. He was ordered to remain in police custody at least until Friday, when charges will be officially filed. Army officials said Sharif's family members were free to leave their homes, where they had been confined since the Oct. 12 military coup that ousted Sharif from power.

Japan Stocks Close Higher

TOKYO (AP)

Japan's benchmark stock index closed today at its highest level this year with the Nikkei gaining 251.28 points to close at 18,822.12.

Saints Quarterback Injures Knee

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

New Orleans quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver tore ligaments in his left knee during last night's 41-23 loss to Jacksonville, and his status for the remainder of the season is in limbo. The injury occurred in the third quarter when Jaguars linebacker Brant Boyer came in untouched and tackled Tolliver low. The Saints quarterback, making his third straight start, limped off the field under his own power.

New Workplace Rules Planned

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is set to unveil new workplace standards designed to protect workers who are subject to repetitive stress injuries, according to published reports. The proposed rules, reported today in The Washington Post and The New York Times, would protect millions of people who work at computers,

on assembly lines and other jobs where workers suffer from RSI. The Times said the rules would require employers to adopt ergonomic programs, even if only a few employees have been injured. Business groups say they will continue to fight the proposed standards.

FBI Agents Help With Probe in Egypt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

The FBI has sent agents to Egypt to participate in a noncriminal investigation into EgyptAir's Flight 990 crash, an American diplomat said today. Meanwhile, Egyptian Transport Minister Ibrahim el-Dumeiri was expected to issue a report in Parliament later today on the Oct. 31 crash, which killed all 217 people on board. The jetliner crashed into the Atlantic off Massachusetts' Nantucket Island. The report is likely to provide only a review of the findings so far of the U.S. and Egyptian investigators.

Churches Close Throughout Holy Land

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

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Clinton Begins Bulgaria Visit

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)

Opening the first-ever visit to this former communist nation by an American head of state, President Clinton today praised Bulgaria for its commitment to democracy and progress in economic reform. Bulgaria, which aspires to one day joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, backed NATO's air war over Kosovo by permitting U.S. and allied warplanes to fly over its territory. Clinton will fly to Kosovo tomorrow to express support for NATO and United Nations efforts to build a peace between Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

Microsoft May Face Class-Action Suit

SEATTLE (AP)

Lawyers plan to file a class-action lawsuit against Microsoft Corp. today for using its monopoly in operating systems software to overcharge buyers of its popular Windows software, The New York Times reported today. The lawsuit is the first of what could be a flood of private litigation stemming from the Justice Department's antitrust action against the Redmond, Wash.-based software giant. "This is the start of the race to get to the courthouse," Stephen Axinn, an antitrust lawyer with Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider, told the Times.

China Test Has Military Uses

BEIJING (AP)

China's first successful test of a spacecraft for manned flight also had major military implications, proving China has mastered technology that could defeat U.S. anti-missile defenses, an official Chinese newspaper reported today. The same low-power propulsion technology used to adjust a spacecraft's orbit in flight could also be used to alter the path of offensive missiles, helping them evade proposed U.S. anti-missile defense systems known as TMD and NMD, military expert Song Yichang told the state-run China Business Times.

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Gretzky Joining Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP)

Wayne Gretzky today will join his boyhood idols in the Hockey Hall of Fame as the sport he helped expand in the United States pays tribute to its premier performer. The Hall waived the normal three-year waiting period for the 10th time in honor of Gretzky, 38, whose name was engraved four times on the Stanley Cup. He also won just about every major award MVP, highest scorer, playoff MVP multiple times. Hoopla surrounding Gretzky's induction is unprecedented. Along with the 2,300-square foot exhibit, an ice sculpture of Gretzky graces the street corner outside.

Iraq Paper Predicts New U.S. Attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

An Iraqi newspaper today expressed fears that the United States and Britain would launch military strikes on Iraq on the pretext that President Saddam Hussein's government has rejected a proposal that calls for a resumption of U.N. weapons inspections. Babil, a daily published by Saddam's eldest son Odai, said it expected "the military act" before the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which begins between Dec. 7 and 9. Over the weekend, Iraq dismissed a British-Dutch proposal that would conditionally ease sanctions.

Police Crack Down on Seat-Belt Laws

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More than 7,000 law enforcement agencies are cracking down this week on enforcement of child-safety and seat-belt laws in all 50 states. "I'd like this to be the No. 1 enforcement item on our highways," James Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, told NBC. "Highway deaths are the No. 1 killer of our kids." More than 81,000 young kids under the age of 20 were killed on U.S. highways in the 1990s, he said, including 15,000 children under the age of 10.

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Dow Gains 5; Nasdaq Jumps 30

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The Dow Jones industrial average is up 5 points in today's early going. Losers on the New York Stock Exchange hold a 7-5 lead over gainers. The Nasdaq Composite Index is up 30 points.

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Paraguay Minister Denies Coup Plot

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Dow Drops 12; Nasdaq Down 4

NEW YORK (AP)

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President Clinton, on the first-ever visit to this former communist nation by an American head of state, told a jubilant crowd of thousands that Bulgaria must "stay the course" to build a democracy. Huge American and red-white-and-green Bulgarian flags formed part of the backdrop for Clinton's speech in the heart of the Bulgarian capital. Clinton urged Bulgaria to ally itself with America and avoid the ethnic conflict that has crippled many of its Balkan neighbors. But he cautioned against expecting a rapid transition to prosperity after a long period of communism and official corruption.

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Microsoft Helps Push Dow Higher

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EST, the Dow Jones industrial average is up 29.67 to 11,033.56. Decliners on the NYSE outnumber advancers 1,775-979. The Nasdaq Composite Index is up 3.96 at 3,373.21. The Dow traded in positive territory in part on the strength of Microsoft, which rose late Friday and continued to gain today after a federal judge appointed a mediator to oversee antitrust settlement talks between the company and the government. The surprise move dramatically increased chances for an out-of-court agreement. Microsoft was up 31/4 today at 891/4.

Gretzky Being Inducted Today

TORONTO (AP)

Wayne Gretzky, holder of 61 NHL records, is being inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto today. "To be here today in this group is pretty special," Gretzky said. The Hall waived the normal three-year waiting period for the 10th time in honor of Gretzky, 38, whose name was engraved four times on the Stanley Cup. He also won just about every major award MVP, highest scorer, playoff MVP multiple times. The Great One will be formally inducted along with former referee Andy Van Hellemond and former referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison.

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Israeli Officer Ousted for Comment

JERUSALEM (AP)

Israel's army chief has dismissed an officer who said the liberal Reform and Conservative movements of Judaism had caused greater damage to the Jewish people than the Nazis. Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz ordered Lt. Peretz Gamliel dismissed, the army said today. Gamliel told soldiers during a lecture last week that the moderate streams have harmed the Jewish people more than the Nazis. They had caused 8 million Jews to assimilate, he said, whereas the Nazis had murdered 6 million Jews. "We simply don't want someone who says such things to serve in our ranks," Brig. Gen Elazar Stern said.

Dow Gains 40; Nasdaq Rises 12

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 40.37 at 11,044.26. Decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 1,891-1,002. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 12.44 at 3,381.69.

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Egypt Official Reports on Jet Crash

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Egypt's transport minister tried to absolve Egyptian crew and maintenance workers today from any role in the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 in a speech to Parliament, while U.S. diplomats said FBI agents would work in Egypt on a noncriminal investigation into the crash. "There were attempts to imply that the accident happened as a result of human error or a lack of proper maintenance, but Egyptian documents prove the fallacy of that direction," Ibrahim el-Dumeiri's said in his report to parliament. He did not elaborate on what might have caused the crash or what documents his ministry possessed.

Buchanan Eyes Talks With Iran, Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)

Pat Buchanan today rejected the isolationist label pinned on him by rivals for the presidency, saying he supports opening a dialogue with Iran and Iraq. The Reform Party candidate called the current policy of containing both Persian Gulf countries "sterile and unsustainable." Buchanan also challenged claims of Serb atrocities in Kosovo, saying one estimate put the number of ethnic Albanian deaths at 2,500. "Twenty-five hundred is a terrible tragedy; Auschwitz it is not," Buchanan said.

Boy Scouts Mourn Texas A&M Victim

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Thousands of mourners said goodbye today to another of the 12 people killed by collapse of a bonfire tower of logs assembled in a football season ritual at Texas A&M. Boy Scouts took turns eulogizing a dead comrade, Chad Anthony Powell, today at Harvest Baptist Church in Watauga, a suburb of Fort Worth. The 100 uniformed Scouts were among 2,200 mourners for the 19-year-old former Eagle Scout. Three more funerals are scheduled elsewhere today.

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'Peanuts' Creator Battling Cancer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

"Peanuts" cartoonist Charles M. Schulz is fighting colon cancer, his secretary confirmed today. Doctors found the cancer last week, when performing emergency surgery to clear a blocked abdominal artery. His wife, Jean, indicated that the 76-year-old artist will undergo chemotherapy, said Schulz's secretary, Edna Poehner. Schulz remains hospitalized today in Santa Rosa, about 50 miles north of San Francisco where he lives and works.

Dow Gains 54: Nasdaq Rises 11

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 54.13 at 11,058.02. Decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,025-936. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 11.08 at 3,380.33.

Gretzky Joins Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP)

Not far from where he was born and first played hockey, Wayne Gretzky took up a new residence today the Hall of Fame. The Great One received his Hall of Fame blazer and ring along with former referee Andy Van Hellemond and former referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison at a morning induction ceremony. Friends and family will join the trio for a nationally televised gala ceremony tonight. The 38-year-old left an extraordinary mark on the game, with four championships and 61 NHL records.

Repetitive Motion Rules Announced

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SEATTLE (AP)

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Police Crack Down on Seat-Belt Use

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Deaths of young children in car crashes have dropped about 12 percent in two years, Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater said today. He credited enforcement of laws on buckling up children. In 1998, some 575 children age 4 or younger died in auto crashes, down from 656 children in 1996, the Transportation Department said. The data

were released as more than 6,500 law enforcement agencies begin a safety awareness campaign including ticketing motorists who fail to buckle up children.

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CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

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Clinton Urges Bulgaria To Stay Course

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)

President Clinton, on the first-ever visit to this former communist nation by an American head of state, urged a jubilant crowd to "stay the course" to democracy and avoid the ethnic conflict that has crippled some of its Balkan neighbors. Clinton cautioned against expecting a rapid transition to prosperity after a long period of communism. "The struggle for your constitutional democracy was waged not for paradise but for possibilities," he said.

Russia Closes In on Chechen Capital

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia (AP)

Russian forces are moving steadily to encircle Chechnya's capital and believe civilians will encourage Chechen militants to abandon the city rather than wage an all-out battle, Russia's top army officer said today. Meanwhile, fearful civilians kept up their exodus from Chechnya and foggy weather put Russian airstrikes on hold throughout the day. Some 5,000 to 6,000 militants have barricaded themselves in Grozny in anticipation of a Russian assault.

N.M. School Reopens After Shooting

DEMING, N.M. (AP)

Holding hands and praying, about 150 students and adults formed a human chain halfway around Deming Middle School today to remember a 13-year-old girl gunned down on campus last week. Araceli Tena died of a bullet wound to the back of her head. Fellow student Victor Cordova Jr. is charged with the Friday shooting. The 12-year-old boy made a brief court appearance late this morning before a magistrate who ordered him detained on charges of first-degree murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault.

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Iraq Halting Oil Exports

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Iraq has begun wrapping up oil exports after rejecting the Security Council's decision to extend the oil-for-food program for two weeks, U.N. and Iraqi officials said today. The 3-year-old exemption to crippling economic sanctions allows Iraq to sell \$5.2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies as well as to pay reparations stemming from the 1991 Gulf War. Iraq's rejection of the extension is not expected to have a major impact on the humanitarian program because U.N. officials say supplies are continuing to arrive normally.

Puerto Rico Can't Shut Navy's Water

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

A federal judge today ordered the Puerto Rican government not to shut off the water to a U.S. Navy base while he considers a complaint that the military is using the water illegally. The allegations are part of an escalating feud between the U.S. military and the Puerto Rican government, which is demanding the Navy abandon its bombing range on the outlying island of Vieques. U.S. District Court Judge Hector Laffitte issued the order during a hearing on the dispute today.

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Dow Gains 88.39: Nasdaq Rises 25.93

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before the close, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 88.39 at 11,092.28. Decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,131-933. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 25.93 at 3395.18.

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Pakistan's Sharif Claims Innocence

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

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Mannesmann Fights Vodafone Bid

DUESSELDORF, Germany (AP)

Mannesmann AG said today it will start plying its stockholders with information in an attempt to derail a hostile takeover bid by British-based Vodafone Airtouch PLC, claiming the \$128 billion offer is insufficient. Meanwhile, Vodafone chairman Chris Gent was in Germany offering conciliatory words for Mannesmann and criticism of German politicians who oppose the deal. Mannesmann plans to start its own road show next week to inform its shareholders of the company's future plans and profit prospects, a spokesman said.

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Campus Mourns Bonfire Victims

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)

The usual pre-Thanksgiving frenzy of school spirit and football mania that sweeps the University of Texas was put aside today as the mourning continued for the 12 people killed in the bonfire collapse at archrival Texas A&M. Across Texas, thousands of mourners crowded into one church after another, many wearing the maroon-and-white colors of the Aggies, to bid farewell to five of those who died. At UT, a candelight vigil tonight was to take the place of the annual "hex rally," when Longhorns traditionally put a curse on the Aggies' football team before the annual day-after-Thanksgiving game.

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Congo Won't OK Mandela As Mediator

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)

The tortuous peace process in Congo hit another snag when Congolese President Laurent Kabila's representatives refused to endorse Nelson Mandela as the mediator in the country's peace process, rebels said today. Three rebel groups, which fought a yearlong rebellion before signing a peace agreement in August, agreed over the weekend to ask the former South African president to mediate a national dialogue that is supposed to bring a democratic government to Africa's third-largest nation.

Buchanan Eyes Iran, Iraq Dialogue

WASHINGTON (AP)

Reform Party presidential contender Pat Buchanan declared today that the longstanding U.S. policy of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran is unsustainable and he suggested opening a dialogue with the Gulf nations. Delivering a foreign policy speech, Buchanan asked: "If we can engage China and North Vietnam and even North Korea, why can we not at least talk to Iran and Iraq?" The third-party candidate also countered claims by his rivals that he is an isolationist.

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Private Lawsuits Plague Microsoft

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Online Trading Faces Scrutiny

NEW YORK (AP)

New York's attorney general launched a campaign today to educate investors about the pitfalls of trading on the Internet and asked online brokerages to disclose more about the computer glitches that irritate amateur investors. A report released separately today by a top federal securities regulator in Washington recommends that online brokerages be encouraged in some cases to ensure that their customers make investments that are appropriate for them.

SBC To Buy 43 Percent of Prodigy

SAN ANTONIO (AP)

SBC Communications announced today it will buy 43 percent of Prodigy and make the online provider its primary high-speed Internet access service for consumers and small businesses. Financial terms were not disclosed. SBC, the nation's largest local telephone service company, will offer Prodigy's Digital Subscriber Line, or DSL service in markets covering about 100 million U.S. residents. Prodigy Communications Corp., based in White Plains, N.Y., will take over management of SBC's 650,000 Internet customers, increasing Prodigy's managed subscriber base to more than 2 million.

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Ultimatum on IRA Disarmament Issued

LONDON (AP)

Seeking to build Protestant support for the latest compromise plan, Britain's minister for Northern Ireland pledged today to suspend a new Protestant-Catholic administration for the province if the Irish Republican Army refuses to begin disarming. Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson appealed to the Ulster Unionists, the major Protestant party, to back leader David Trimble in a crucial vote Saturday. The vote will determine whether plans mediated by American diplomat George Mitchell to establish the new provincial government next week, and for the IRA to gradually disarm in response can proceed.

Bush Unfazed by Uncertain Support

STRATHAM, N.H. (AP)

Touring a footwear company, George W. Bush today brushed off the notion that people who support him for the GOP presidential nomination can't say exactly why. "That's a good sign," he said, a day after a poll indicated more than a third of his backers couldn't site a specific reason. "People make up their minds in all kinds of ways. I think the people of New Hampshire, the more they know about me, they'll see I've got an optimistic vision for America."

Bradley Attacks Gore Fund-Raising

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

For the first time in a tight New Hampshire race for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bill Bradley today resurrected the specter of Al Gore's questionable 1996 fund-raising tactics. Bradley accused the Clinton administration of "a secret handshake" with congressional Republicans to let campaign finance legislation die. Gore's camp fired back that Bradley is a hypocrite and a latecomer to the fight for political reform.

Private Lawsuits Plague Microsoft

NEW YORK (AP)

A growing wave of private lawsuits against Microsoft Corp. has the company fighting on several legal fronts at once, raising the stakes in its antitrust battle in Washington and intensifying pressure to settle. At least seven suits, including one filed today in a state court in San Francisco, have been filed on behalf of computer users in response to a federal judge's Nov. 5 finding that Microsoft is a software monopolist that routinely bullies high-tech rivals.

Clinton Praises Bulgaria's Progress

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)

President Clinton promised tens of thousands of cheering Bulgarians today that "you too shall overcome" in the struggle for democracy and prosperity. Clinton, the first American president to visit this one-time Soviet bloc state, received a hero's welcome. The president offered encouraging words for Bulgaria's campaign for NATO membership, which promises Western security protection against any threat from Moscow.

Repetitive Motion Rules Announced

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

WASHINGTON (AP)

The 27 million Americans who labor on assembly lines, at computer work stations or in jobs involving heavy lifting could benefit from a government proposal aimed at lessening repetitive-motion injuries, supporters say. Business threatened to fight the rules in court. Businesses face an estimated \$4.2 billion in annual costs to fix job sites and pay workers recovering from injuries under the initiative announced today by the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Bond, Ichabod Break Box Office Record

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Hollywood's juggernaut year is cranking into high gear with two mega-hits dominating the weekend and two more likely blockbusters opening over Thanksgiving as a second straight record year at the box office winds down. The world's favorite spy copped the top spot at the box office over the weekend as the latest James Bond flick, "The World Is Not Enough," debuted with \$35.5 million, according to industry figures today. "Sleepy Hollow" turned some heads for second-place as Tim Burton's take on Washington Irving's tale of Ichabod Crane and a headless horseman opened with \$30.06 million.

Stocks End Mixed; Dow Up 85.63

NEW YORK (AP)

Wall Street turned in a mixed performance today with a handful of large, well-known issues advancing, but most other stocks declining as investors took profits following last week's rally. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 85.63 at 11,089.52. But decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,131-933. The Nasdaq composite reached its 14th record high close in the past 17 sessions, rising 23.31 to 3,392.56.

Prosecutors Seek Monitor for IBF

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)

Federal prosecutors asked a judge today to appoint a monitor to oversee the International Boxing Federation, which is one of the sport's major governing bodies and allegedly riddled with corruption. The IBF would become the first sports group and one of only a dozen entities, mostly labor unions to be placed under court control through the 20-year-old Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, U.S. Attorney Robert Cleary said.

Business Blasts New OSHA Rules

WASHINGTON (AP)

Businesses today decried a government proposal aimed at lessening repetitive-motion injuries and threatened to fight the rules in court. The new rules would require employers to minimize everyday physical or ergonomic stresses of certain jobs. Businesses face an estimated \$4.2 billion in annual costs to fix job sites and pay workers recovering from injuries under the initiative, which was announced today by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. AFL-CIO president John Sweeney said the action was long overdue.

Churches Close in Israel

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

Churches closed on Monday across the Holy Land in a final attempt to block the building of a mosque in the heart of Nazareth, the town of Jesus' boyhood. The two-day Vatican-backed move highlights the increasingly volatile relations between Christians and Muslims. The church closures, just weeks before the last Christmas of the millennium, left many pilgrims disappointed. "Nazareth should be a city for everyone," said Jozeph Wietsiers, 54, a

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Millions Travel Thanksgiving Week

WASHINGTON (AP)

Almost 20 million passengers will take to the skies this Thanksgiving week and millions more will travel in cars and buses. U.S. airlines are expecting a record 19.8 million passengers in the week and a half surrounding the holiday. That's 10 percent more than the 18 million who flew during the Thanksgiving holiday last year, said David Fuscus, a spokesman for the Air Transport Association, which represents major air carriers.

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Penguins' Jagr May Play Tuesday

PITTSBURGH (AP)

Jaromir Jagr's sore right thigh improved following acupuncture treatments over the weekend and he might try to play tomorrow against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Jagr, the NHL's leading scorer, played only three shifts Nov. 16 against Buffalo before leaving with a thigh injury. He played a team-high 29 minutes two nights later against Tampa Bay but was not effective, and he sat out Saturday's loss at Florida. But Jagr felt much better after undergoing acupuncture treatments over the weekend.

Microsoft Besieged by Lawsuits

NEW YORK (AP)

Microsoft Corp. said today through a spokesman that it has plenty of legal resources to fight a growing wave of private lawsuits. "It's unfortunate that plaintiffs' attorneys have decided to file baseless lawsuits," said Jim Cullinan, the spokesman. At least seven suits, including one filed today in San Francisco, have been filed on behalf of computer users following a Nov. 5 finding that Microsoft is a software monopolist. The determination provided grist for allegations by computer users that Microsoft's monopoly gave it substantial leeway to overcharge for its Windows software program.

Extradited Colombian Pleas Innocent

NEW YORK (AP)

An accused heroin trafficker from Colombia pleaded innocent today to drug charges and was ordered held without bail. Jaime Orlando Lara, the first accused drug dealer turned over by Colombia in nearly a decade, was brought to the United States last night from Bogota. His appearance carried special significance because it fell 10 days after a deadly terrorist bomb exploded in Bogota in what many suspected was a warning against extraditions. President Andres Pastrana defiantly signed Lara's extradition papers just hours after the Nov. 11 explosion killed eight bystanders in an upscale shopping district.

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Judge Cites Rifle in King Inquiry

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)

A judge said today he doubts whether the rifle identified as the one used to kill Martin Luther King Jr. was the murder weapon. Criminal Court Judge Joe Brown, who presided over confessed killer James Earl Ray's recent try for freedom, was called to testify in a suit in which the King family brought against a retired Memphis businessman who has claimed he took part in a conspiracy to kill King. Brown said the rifle found at the scene of King's murder was equipped with a scope that had not been properly sighted. A shooter, he said, "could not hit the broad side of a barn" with that rifle.

Thanksgiving Travelers May Set Record

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43 Killed in Niger Delta Violence

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)

At least 43 people, eight of them soldiers, have been killed since the army moved in to restore order to the oil-rich Niger Delta, said government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. It was not clear if the fighting was continuing Monday. Nigeria earns billions of dollars in petroleum profits every year. But the Delta remains desperately poor and is regularly rocked by violence among feuding ethnic groups. Western oil companies, their workers and their installations are also often targets of Delta residents.

Dow Closes Up

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Celtics Beat Pacers 95-85

BOSTON (AP)

The Boston Celtics beat Larry Bird's Pacers for the first time tonight, getting 13 fourth-quarter points from Dana Barros to defeat Indiana 95-85. Barros hit a 3-pointer with 7:54 left to break a 69-69 tie and put Boston ahead to stay. He hit two more 3-pointers during the 19-4 Celtics run that gave them an 83-73 lead with 3:47 to play. The Pacers had been 8-0 against Boston since Bird became the head coach in 1997. Indiana had beaten the Celtics in 10 consecutive games overall before tonight.

Repetitive Motion Rules Announced

WASHINGTON (AP)

Employers will have to correct injury-causing workplace conditions that require repetitive motion, overexertion or awkward posture under proposed regulations the Labor Department announced today. The proposal affects one of every three work sites and more than 27 million workers. Each year, 1.8 million workers have musculoskeletal injuries related to ergonomic factors, according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Brick Victim's Family Not Mad at NY

NEW YORK (AP)

The family of the Texas woman whose head was smashed with a brick said they bear no anger toward New York City, where Nicole Barrett was attacked. Ms. Barrett, 27 was attacked last week near Grand Central Terminal by a man who police believe might have been homeless. Ms. Barrett required brain surgery after the assault. Her family said she is now talking, smiling and recognizing them, and that she has asked why she is in the hospital. "This is the act of one man," said Mrs. Barrett. "It could have happened in Athens (Texas)."

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Russia Closes in on Chechen Capital

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia (AP)

Russian forces are moving steadily to encircle Chechnya's capital and believe civilians will encourage Chechen militants to abandon the city rather than wage an all-out battle, Russia's top army officer said Monday. Russia pounded parts of Chechnya from the air and ground, with warplanes running about 50 combat missions in a 24-hour period, the Interfax news agency said. Fearful civilians kept up their exodus from Chechnya.

2 Dead in Colorado Pileup

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)

Two people were killed and at least 29 injured when a car spun out of control in heavy snow and fog on an interstate today, causing a chain-reaction crash that involved up to 83 cars. Up to 11 inches of snow fell in the foothills, and the Front Range of the Rockies was under a winter storm warning tonight. The storm was good news for ski resorts, which dealt with an extremely bad season last year and then delayed opening this year because of unusually balmy weather. Steamboat Springs reported a base of up to 36 inches close to the top.

Holy Land Churches Close

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Troy Aikman will start for the Dallas Cowboys Thursday against the Miami Dolphins. Aikman went through light drills with the team today for the first time since Nov. 8, when a sack against Minnesota left him with a second concussion in eight days. He's missed two games as a precaution and has used the time off to visit specialists. Aikman was especially concerned because the hit that caused the second concussion wasn't as hard as the first one, yet symptoms such as headaches and dizziness were worse.

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