

[20490001]

U.S. and Soviet negotiators opened talks in New York aimed at resolving differences in proposals to reduce chemical-weapons arsenals .

While the Kremlin has urged a ban on output of the poison gases , the White House wants to continue producing the weapons even after an international treaty culling for their destruction is signed .

About 70,000 people attended the anti-government rally , at which leaders of the banned African National Congress refused to renounce violence to end apartheid .

Ortega had threatened to end a 19-month-old ceasefire .

Baker 's remarks came as the White House urged both sides to honor the truce .

The USS Lexington returned to dock in Pensacola , Fla. , following an accident Sunday in which the pilot of a training jet crashed into the ship , killing five sailors .

The captain of the aircraft carrier , the oldest in the Navy , said the flier was making his first attempt to land on a carrier .

Four people torched three U.S. flags on the central steps of the U.S. Capitol in a bid to test a new federal law protecting the American flag from desecration .

All four demonstrators were arrested .

Separately , the U.S. Embassy has filed three protests in as many days with China 's government , alleging harassment of diplomats and their families , an embassy source said .

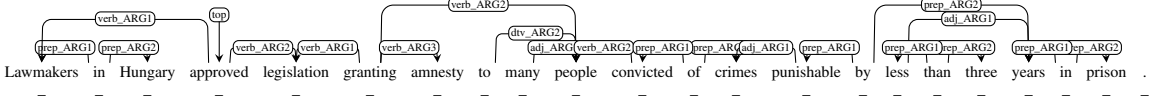
The heaviest damage was reported in Tipasa , about 40 miles west of Algiers .

As rescue teams continued searching for victims , hundreds of survivors accused the government of a feeble response following the temblors .

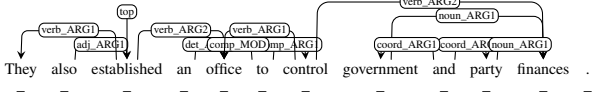
Britain 's Thatcher summoned senior advisers for strategy talks as opinion polls showed the prime minister 's popularity had hit a record low following the resignation last Thursday of Chancellor of the Exchequer Lawson .

One poll , conducted for the British Broadcasting Corp. , found that 52 % of voters believed that she should quit .

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