

# US asks its nationals to leave USSR immediately

WASHINGTON Aug 20: The United States on Monday urged Americans to defer travel to the Soviet Union and said Americans now in that country should depart as soon as they safely can, reports Reuters.

Following the coup that ousted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Monday's declaration of a State of Emergency, the State Department warned in a travel advisory of the possibility of civil disruption for an indeterminate period.

It warned that the implementation of military rule in some areas deployment of military forces seizure of some public facilities and the possibility of large demonstrations create unpredictable and potentially dangerous tensions. The State Department recommends that American citizens defer travel to the Soviet Union at this time, it said.

Adding that Americans in the Soviet Union should consider departing the country as soon as they safely can.

It said, however, that there do not appear to be threats to Americans and there have been no reported incidents of violence involving Americans.

The Soviet UN mission said on Monday that a State of Emergency declared by the new leadership in Moscow was temporary and aimed at securing the safety of all Soviet citizens.

In its first action following the overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev, the mission circulated a statement by the new leadership announcing the State of Emergency.

The statement, sent by Acting President Gennady Yanayev to government heads and the UN Secretary General, was issued in the form of a press release.

It said the emergency measures were temporary and

aimed at securing "conditions that would guarantee each citizen personal safety and the safety of his or her property."

Gorbachev's overthrow is unlikely to be reflected immediately at the United Nations since no major issues are pending on which Moscow would have to declare itself.

Any changes in Soviet foreign policy are likely to become apparent, however, once the UN General Assembly begins its annual three-month session on September 17 with the participation of foreign ministers and other senior officials.

Soviet UN representative Yuly Vorontsov, who took up his post here in May 1990, is on holiday in the Soviet Union and his deputy, Valentin Lozinskiy, is in charge. Vorontsov, formerly a first Deputy Foreign Minister, is not due back in New York until September 1, a Soviet spokesman said.

# One-eyed mastermind of Rajiv's killing found dead

BANGLORE (India), Aug 20: The Sri Lankan Tamil militant believed to have masterminded the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was found dead after a siege of his hideout, top police officials said on Thursday.

The one-eyed man identified as Sivarasam and six others, one an alleged woman accomplice hunted as intensely as Sivarasam, committed suicide by swallowing cyanide, they said. Sivarasam also had a bullet wound in the head.

It appears that he not only consumed cyanide but he appears to have shot himself in the temple with his revolver. Senior Policeman Ajay Kumar Singh told Reuters at the scene.

The siege of the house in a village on the outskirts of Bangalore, capital of the southern state of Karnataka, started on Monday following the cap-

ture alive of seven members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Police said the surrounded the house certain that Sivarasam, hunted since shortly after Gandhi's May 21 murder by a woman suicide bomber in neighbouring Tamil Nadu State, was inside.

Early today, a special team of paramilitary commandos blew off a back door with plastic explosives and burst in only to find all the occupants dead.

Police allowed reporters into the house to see the heap of bodies, which included Subha, a woman alleged to have been Sivarasam's accomplice in plotting Gandhi's death.

Lankan army officers have praised the courage of Tamil guerrillas in a battle against huge odds during fierce fighting for a strategic army camp in this northern outpost.

"We fought a worthy adversary and a worthy enemy. Our troops were highly motivated because they were battling a worthy force," said Brigadier Wijaya Wimalaratne, who led an 8,000-strong force that relieved the camp assault.

"We gave them a sound thrashing," he added. "In no way can the tigers (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) defeat the Sri Lankan army."

He was speaking on Sunday to reporters at Elephant Pass Camp, 320 km (200 miles) north of Colombo, where the Tigers launched a massive assault and withdrew on August 3 after army reinforcements arrived.

Wimalaratne, whose relief force broke through 45 Tiger defences and fought hand-to-hand battles to reach the embattled camp, said the rebels were now short of fighters.

# Off the Record

## A lesson for diabetes

SYDNEY: Ten diabetic and overweight Australian Aborigines who reverted to the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of their ancestors showed a marked improvement in health, a study shows, reports Reuter.

After seven weeks on a traditional diet of fresh water fish and kangaroo meat, the men lost weight, their diabetes improved and their major risk factors for heart disease were reduced, a study in the medical journal of Australia said.

"There's a lesson in these results for all of us," Professor Kerin O'Dea of Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria, said. "It shows that going back to the bush and living off the land is a very effective way of treating some diabetes."

The results indicated the high fat, high carbohydrate diet Europeans brought to Australia more than 200 years ago was responsible for much of the unhealthiness among native Aborigines today, she said.

For many Aborigines, this western lifestyle also brought diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and other heart disease risks, she said. In some communities, one in three aborigines over the age of 35 had diabetes, O'Dea said.

## BBC to teach the world to speak English

LONDON: An American presenter is to help the BBC to teach the world to speak English. The recognised guardians of the language have been forced to admit that foreigners now prefer the American version.

The presenter will be one of the hosts on Hello, a television teaching programme, and will introduce words, like "sidewalk" and "elevator" to millions of viewers.

"We have a reputation for standard English but we realised what people want in American-English, and if we don't supply it someone else will, said Mr Peter Walton, executive producer.

"It has been a big problem for us. We were losing sales. A large part of the world listens to CNN in an American accent and considers that standard. People were coming to our stands at international trade fairs saying 'Haven't you got anything in American?'"

The \$3 million series will be offered to broadcasters around the world. It is designed to replace the 14-year-old programme Follow Me, which has been screened in 70 countries including China, where it is seen by 100 million people at peak time.

Hello will also be available in video and cassette form for use in homes and schools.

At first it will dodge some problems raised by American English.

"We're avoiding all mentions of cars like the plague because everything is different — the boot, the bonnet, the hood, and the trunk," said Mr Bob Marston, programme co-ordinator.

## US offers passports as prize in 'lottery'

WASHINGTON: For the price of a postage stamp, thousands of illegal immigrants to America can enter the greatest lottery of all. The prize is paid up, no questions-asked United States citizenship.

Congress has approved a bizarre scheme to award immigrant visas by mail to 40,000 people, with the odds heavily weighted in favour of the Irish, who are guaranteed at least 40 per cent of the winning tickets.

The lottery is open to would-be citizens, whether already in America or living abroad, though all applicants must have a formal offer of a year's employment.

No date has yet been set, but the process is expected to begin this autumn and the State Department says it will give ample warning. More than 30 countries are on the eligible list, including Britain.

Under the scheme, a post office in Washington is to be designated to receive the applications, then a date set. Letters received from that day will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The plan is to assist illegal immigrants, principally from Ireland and western Europe, to achieve proper legal status, enabling them to move out of low-paid, casual jobs in the black economy.

Last time a similar lottery was adopted, in 1986, 1.4 million letters were received, and even more are expected this time.

## Arabs at odds hail

NICOSIA, Aug 20: Arabs at odds with the west — orphans of the cold war's end — welcomed the fall of Mikhail Gorbachev, reports Reuter.

They included the Iraqi government, Palestinians and pro-Iraqi Algerians. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi called the Kremlin upheaval "magnificent".

The former Soviet regime followed a policy that negatively affected the international situation and had negative consequences in Third World countries, especially Iraq, "an Iraqi spokesman said after President Saddam Hussein met the country's top leadership to discuss the Soviet upheaval.

He said Iraq considered the Soviet Union a friend and would respond to any friendly moves by the new Kremlin leaders.

## 55 jurists murdered last year

GENEVA, Aug 20: Some 532 judges or lawyers have been harassed over the past year, 55 of them murdered, a leading organisation of jurists announced today.

The respected Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) released the report, covering the period mid-1990 to mid-1991, and was to present it to a UN human rights sub-commission in Geneva later in the day.

Most of the killings took place in South America. At least 37 judges and lawyers were murdered in Colombia — mostly by the drug cartels but in many cases they were killed while investigating crimes, allegedly carried out by security forces.

Ten jurists were killed in Peru and 26 were victims of violence or threats, caught in the crossfire between guerrilla forces and the military, the ICJ said.

It also criticised Sudan, Israel, Rwanda, Paraguay, Turkey, Kenya, China and Burma.

Reed Brody, Director of the ICJ's Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) which prepared the report, called on the United Nations to monitor actively the protection of lawyers and judges.

In hardly any of the cases has the perpetrator of the violence been brought to justice, he said.

when they carry out their professional obligations," said CIJL Chairman PN Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India.

# While Russians love Vodka, Gorbachev liked endless talk

MOSCOW, Aug 20: Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet Union's eighth leader, transformed his country's political system and helped end the Cold War, but lost popularity when his reforms failed to revive a sick economy, reports AP.

He freed political prisoners, allowed open debate and multi-candidate elections, gave Soviets wider opportunities for travel and emigration, halted religious oppression and improved relations with the West. In the process, he won the Nobel Peace Prize.

In contrast to his aging predecessors, Gorbachev radiated energy and drive. His press-the-flesh politicking enchanted crowds at home and set off "Gorbomania" abroad.

After rising through the Communist Party to become its general secretary in March 1985, Gorbachev built a powerful presidency independent of the party, which surrendered its monopoly on power in 1990.

In the new climate of freedom, all 15 Soviet republics demanded more autonomy. Four of them — Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Georgia — proclaimed independence.

Ethnic tensions broke out,

causing hundreds of deaths in Azerbaijan and other trouble spots. Labour unrest also grew, provoked by soaring inflation and shortages of consumer goods. In mid-1990, five years after he began his bold reforms, Gorbachev turned back to the party apparatus to restore order and discipline.

As he clung to a shrinking political center, he was buffeted by calls from both the left and right to resign. The intelligentsia, once a vigorous supporter, turned against him.

Another reports says: In almost six years of running his unruly country, Gorbachev had spoken more words than any man alive.

While many Russian men love Vodka, Gorbachev loved talk. Just as Russians insist that a bottle, once opened, should be finished, so Gorbachev would go on until people are talked under the table. His larynx was worthy of the order or hero of the Soviet Union.

It had been hard at work in the Congress of People's Deputies, the parliament that Gorbachev invented as an exercise in democracy and which, when necessary, he controlled manipulated and browbeaten.

A deputy had his microphone abruptly switched off for referring to the proceedings as a continuation of the "charade" that attended Gorbachev's election to the presidency this year.

"You can't say that sort of thing, Stidown," snapped Anatoly Likyanov, the chairman. It was a reminder of how thin skinned many Soviet politicians are; that a woman was even now being prosecuted for insulting the President, that politicians have some way to go before they are as properly hardened to democracy as the bar-room brawlers of the House of Commons.

Still, all of this is a great improvement on the Soviet past, the years Before G. There was a time when a dissenter would have had more than his microphone shut off. There was a leonine grown from the platform when the parliament exercised its democratic right and would not give Gorbachev's candidate for the Vice-Presidency its approval.

This is one of the few countries in the world where you have one candidate in an election. And he loses.

But then, in a recent election for First Secretary of the Russian Writers' Union, none of the three candidates won enough votes and, naturally, the job was given to the man who came last.

Anyway, Gorbachev democratically demanded a new vote and seemed to suggest that his own leadership was on the line. He hinted at resignation before, to get his way. Lenin used to do it, too.

So he got his man and he got the sweeping powers that theoretically make him Supper Gorb. Now he was like a multimillionaire who can buy anything but is not sure that all his riches will bring him True Happiness. Like Midas, he might have asked the gods for too much. The fact is that more questions had been raised by this Congress than had been answered. The Kremlin is at the best of times a hall of mirrors, and now it seems more than ever a place of refractions had illusions. The Congress reflected a country confused and divided.

Communist party hardliners showed themselves a ground in the past and afraid of the future. Forward to the past, they cried. Like Canute's courtiers, they demanded that King



MOSCOW—A file photo shows Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa relaxing, feeding a cat in Urals.

Mikhail should command the tide of history to stop its swirling. The question now is whether Gorbachev will see if he can or whether, like wise Canute, he would demonstrate to his courtiers that time and tide abate for no man.

The hardliners want the continuation of empire, ideology and the absurd economic system to which they are accustomed. They insist that in a foundinging ship they should throw away the lifebelts and strap on the ballast.

As Gorbachev pondered his powers he knew that a wrong move could be disastrous. He has so far insisted that all the republics, even the relatively recently annexed ones, should remain in the union whether they like it or not. He seemed to be missing an opportunity to build a creative relationship and one wonders whether we are seeing the limits of his imagination.

The use of force in the Baltic lands and elsewhere would bring a reaction the consequences of which might

be cataclysmic. Moscow lashing out in its dangerous imperial senility, Eduard Shevardnadze's nightmare of dictatorship might come true.

Gorbachev could use his famous voice to thunder and cajole. But decrees flowing from the Kremlin are already widely ignored because the system Gorbachev commanded does not enjoy the popularity or trust of a people who question its very legitimacy, not least because it has failed them. How long can tanks keep the tide at bay?

Gorbachev ended the last year stronger in some ways, certainly on paper, weaker in other. He lost good men to the hardliners. With Shevardnadze gone he had no prominent non Slav in the government. He hardly began a real economic reform. He quarrelling with Boris Yeltsin over fundamental issues of land, economy — and who runs the show around here?

There has been much beating of the drums of doom this past year. Democrats are dis-

appointingly disorganised. Gorbachev talked of dark forces. The KGB warns of wily foreigners and other beasties.

Certainly there is great danger in this crippled country. But there is also a sanguine view. There is little violence in the Baltic republics and recent explosions are of dubious provenance. There is no violence in Russia, the largest republic, where there is a horror of disorder.

There is no terrorism in the vast bulk of the country. The nasty feud between Azerbaijan and Armenia could be ameliorated. Trouble in central Asia has been at a relatively low level.

Throughout the Soviet Union there is hardship, but there is no famine. Crime has increased but is simply not as great a problem as it is in the large cities of the West. Much crime, in any case, is built into the system the hardliners wish earnestly to save.

The Soviet Union is changing rapidly. Hardliners want change prevented.

# BRIEFLY

## Indian troops kill 8 Kashmiris :

Indian troops killed eight Muslim militants as they tried to enter the Kashmir valley from Pakistan-ruled territory to join an anti-Indian revolt, senior police officials said on Tuesday, Reuter reports from Srinagar.

They said an army patrol intercepted a group of 10 militants who opened fire, seriously wounding two soldiers, in the border district of Kupwara on Sunday.

The soldiers fired back, killed eight militants and recovered eight AK-47 assault rifles, they said.

It was the only major incident in the district on Sunday, the officials said. They denied militant allegations, that the army attacked a village with artillery and killed 45 people.

## 100 killed in Afghan fighting :

The death toll in air raids by the Kabul government on territory held by Mujahideen Commander Ahmed Shah Massoud rose sharply Tuesday as the rebels reported more than 100 dead and 300 wounded in three provinces since Friday, AFP reports from Peshawar.

All territory Massoud had seized in recent weeks near the Soviet border has been bombed in an "indiscriminate" manner by Soviet-made Sukhot and Mig aircraft, claiming many civilian victims, the rebel commander said in a radio message.

Massoud said the bombing continued and that one-tonne fragmentation bombs were used on civilians.

## UN team to intensify truce in Cambodia :

A United Nations team prepared Monday to study how the world body can strengthen a declared truce in Cambodia's 12-year war, a UN official said in Bangkok, reports AP.

The team, sent by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the request of Cambodia's warring factions, will visit areas controlled by the guerrillas and by the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh, the official said.

The team of 12 military and civilian experts is to assemble in Bangkok late Monday, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

## Two German hostages to be freed :

A senior Muslim fundamentalist source said on Tuesday that Iran and Germany had reached a "gentleman's agreement" under which two German hostages in Lebanon would be freed as part of a wider prisoner exchange.

The source told Reuter in Beirut Iran was determined to remove all obstacles blocking the release of up to 10 Western hostages in Lebanon, including that posed by the two Hamadi brothers imprisoned in Germany for terrorist offences.

The Iranians have struck a gentleman's agreement with the German government that they would talk the Hamadi family into freeing the two hostages as part of the overall deal, the source said.

## Police open fire on black students:

Police opened fire on black students attempting to occupy school buildings, killing one youth and wounding five, a police report said Tuesday, reports AP from Johannesburg.

A police unrest report said officers guarding newly constructed buildings at Sakhile High School, a school for blacks in Standerton, southeast of Johannesburg, confronted students from another black school trying to occupy the grounds Monday.

It said the students threw stones at the police, who responded with shotguns and pistols, killing one youth and injuring five.

Police refused to comment on the reason the black students were trying to occupy the school.

The clash came as black leaders prepared for students to occupy three empty white schools this week to protest the poor condition of black schools.

The government spends five times as much money per student on white education compared to black education. Most black schools in squalid townships, are dilapidated and overcrowded, with few textbooks and poorly trained teachers

# I think like him : Yanayev

LONDON, Aug 20: Gennady Yanayev, named interim Soviet President on Monday to replace the ousted Mikhail Gorbachev, told the BBC last month that I often imagine myself in his (Gorbachev's) position, reports AFP.

The job of the President is to be above partisanship. I often imagine myself in his position and wonder how I would manage a specific situation, the then-Vice President said in an interview in Moscow.

Yanayev further restated his commitment to the Communist Party and communist ideals.

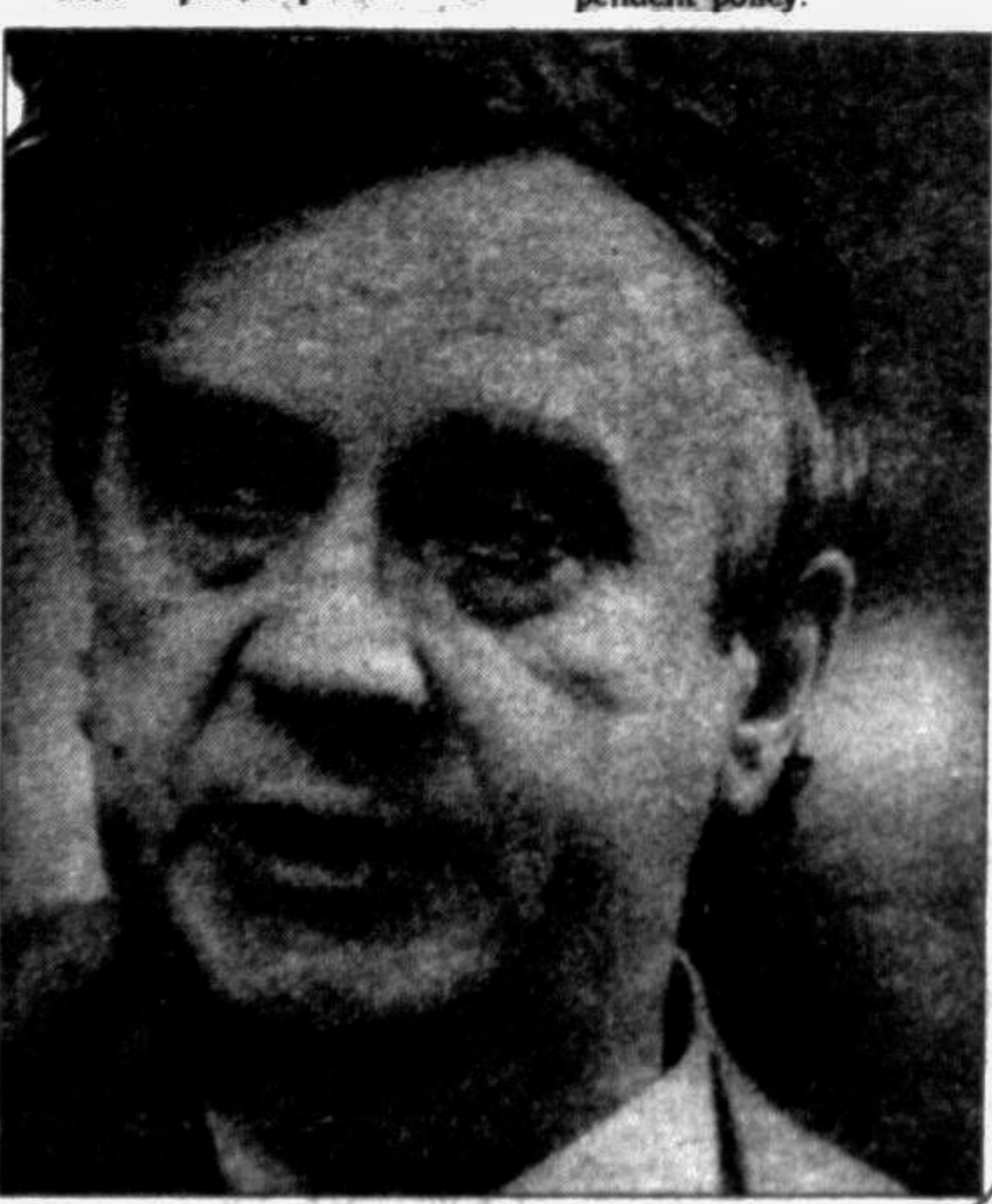
"I am still and shall remain a member of the Communist Party. I am sure that the party has a good future. The communist idea isn't dead. As Mark Twain said — 'rumours of my death have been greatly exaggerated,'" he said.

Despite his comments, which seemed almost to hint at the change in leadership that was to come, Yanayev denied that there were any significant political differences within the Soviet leadership.

The Soviet leadership has a full understanding that we are all travelling down the same path. There are no

differences between the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister," he said. Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov also participated in

Monday's coup. On relations abroad, he said that every state, including the former members of the Warsaw Pact, has the right to conduct its own independent policy."



# China backs Pak proposal to make South Asia N free zone

ISLAMABAD, Aug 20: China has offered to promote a Pakistani proposal to declare South Asia a nuclear weapons-free zone, Pakistani Upper House Chairman Wasim Sajjad said on Monday after a visit to China, reports Reuter.

Beijing had appreciated highly Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference on the issue, he told reporters on his return.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif proposed last June that the United States, the Soviet Union and China help India and Pakistan to broker a regional accord to make South Asia nuclear-free. India rejected the proposal.

"The Chinese government has offered to work with Pakistan to carry forward the proposal," Sajjad said.

India and Pakistan accuse each other of trying to make nuclear weapons.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun would pay an official visit to Pakistan later this year, possibly in October or November, Sajjad said.