

# Madrid talks will have to deal with territorial questions

NICOSIA, Oct 25: The Madrid Middle East peace conference that opens October 30 is to be based on United Nations Security Council resolution 242, approved following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, reports AFP.

Endorsed on November 22, 1967 the measure — in its English version — calls for an Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in the recent conflict in exchange for "the acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

In the French version of the resolution, however, Israel is called on to withdraw from the territories it seized in the June, 1967 war.

Referring the English text and the absence of the definite

article Israel argues that it has already complied with 242 by pulling out of some of the territory it captured — namely, the Sinai Peninsula, which it restored to Egypt under a 1979 peace treaty.

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, during a visit to the European parliament in Strasbourg Tuesday, disclosed that his country could be flexible on this issue.

The parties should negotiate peace treaties but could also discuss territorial questions, he said.

The one-to-one talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, due to begin after the conference's opening session on October 30, will focus on Israeli territorial disputes with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

The following is a summary of the territorial questions involved:

Syria's aim is to regain con-

trol of the strategic Golan Heights — captured by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981 — that overlook the Israeli region of Galilee and in the south command the road to Damascus.

The plateau is marked in the north by Mount Hermon, in the west by the Huleh depression, the Jordan River and the sea of Galilee, in the south by the Yarmuk valley establishing the Syrian-Jordan border, and in the east by Rakkad, a tributary of the Yarmuk.

The Syrian population there numbers 15,000, with an equal number of Jewish settlers, spread over an area of 1,500 square kilometers (600 square miles).

The Palestinians are claiming the West Bank and East Jerusalem, controlled by Jordan until the 1967 war, and the formerly Egyptian administered Gaza Strip.

The West Bank and East Jerusalem were occupied by Israeli troops in 1967, and Israel immediately annexed the Arab eastern sector of the holy city. In 1980, Israel adopted a law making a reunited Jerusalem the country's eternal capital.

The West Bank covers a surface area of 6,800 square kilometers (2,644 square miles) while East Jerusalem covers 100 square kilometers (40 square miles).

The West Bank features a mountain range that rises to 500 meters above sea level to the north and to 1,000 metres near Hebron. The mountain descends into the Jordan valley to the east, such a landscape offers a natural wall of protection, according to Israeli officials.

One million residents, including 150,000 in East Jerusalem live in both areas. Some 100,000 Jewish set-

lers in the West Bank and 125,000 are in East Jerusalem.

The Gaza Strip is a rectangular plain about 40 kilometers (25 miles) in length and up to 12 kilometers (eight miles) wide on the Mediterranean between Egypt and Israel.

About 750,000 Palestinians live in the Gaza Strip, along with 4,000 Jewish settlers.

King Hussein, who in 1988 abandoned illegal ties to the West Bank, has said he wants negotiations on the future of the formerly Jordanian territory, along with the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, to be led by Palestinian members of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Jordan itself, claims two border zones, one in the northern region of Al-Bakoura (1.4 square kilometers or .56 square miles) that Israel occupied in 1949, and the other south of the dead sea in Wadi Arabah (about 388 square

kilometers or 155 square miles) that Israel occupied after 1976.

These regions are uninhabited but the Al-Bakoura zone allows Israel to control the confluence of the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers.

Lebanon did not take part in the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 and is therefore not directly concerned by UN resolution 242.

But Israel has since 1978 occupied a border zone of 1,100 square kilometers (440 square miles) in South Lebanon, or about a tenth of the country's surface area.

Resolution 425, adopted by the Security Council on March 19, 1978 but which has not been implemented, requires Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Lebanese authorities insist that 425 is not negotiable and should not be raised at the conference.

## Off the Record

### Publicity not the doing of his client

WEST PALM BEACH (Florida): The woman who alleges she was raped by William Kennedy Smith rejected offers as high as 500,000 dollars for her story, her lawyer said on Thursday at a hearing where Smith's attorney asked that the charges be thrown out because of intense publicity, reports Reuter.

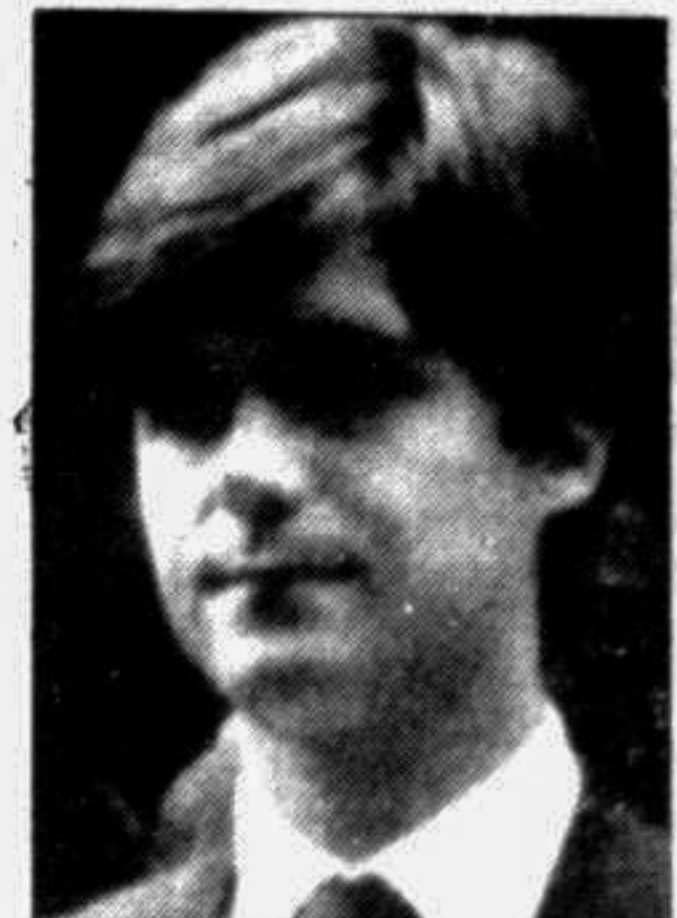
Legal experts said the chances of the case being dismissed were slim, but the lawyer of the young Florida woman who brought the charges stressed in an all-day hearing that the publicity was not the doing of his client.

Lawyer David Roth said she had turned down dozens of offers to sell her story, including a bid of 500,000 dollars from paramount communications ten days ago.

Lawyers for Smith, nephew of Massachusetts senator Edward Kennedy, asked for dismissal because of publicity and alleged misconduct by prosecutors in releasing material to the media.

In July, prosecutors released statements of three women who claimed Smith had attacked them between 1983 and 1988.

Smith pleaded innocent and jury selection is scheduled to begin in Palm Beach County Court next on Wednesday.



### Cannibalism in Soviet Union

MOSCOW: Police in the Soviet industrial city of Nizhni Tagh broke into a flat to find butchered bodies, a human heart in a frying pan and other evidence of cannibalism, Postfactum news agency reported on Thursday, reports Reuter.

It said the walls in the flat were splattered with blood and parts of the couple who lived there were strewn around the kitchen when police entered.

They believed the killing and the cannibalism were carried out in the presence of the couple's two children, aged three and five years. The agency said police were hunting suspects but gave no further details.

Pravda reported that a Lithuanian arrested last month had murdered and cooked his first wife 10 years ago and killed and salted down a second wife in September.

### World's fastest typist

LAS VEGAS: Wayne Stoler has won the title of the world's fastest, most accurate typist here, pounding out an average 140 words a minute at the world invitational type-off, reports AFP.

The competition drew 10,000 contestants from 40 countries, all but 16 of them women.

Gender has nothing to do with it, said Stoler, whose mother once won the Baltimore City typing crown with 99 words per minute on a manual machine. "It's just how you happen to be doing on a particular day."

Stoler, 33, a business newsletter publisher, won 10,000 dollars, a new car and a cut-crystal trophy Wednesday after making only six errors in his final effort and typing an average 140 words a minute on an electronic keyboard.

### Angina patients overtreated

LONDON: Angina patients are commonly treated with several drugs but a medical study published Friday found that it is just as effective to use only beta-blockers typically the first line of defence, reports Reuter.

The study reported in the current issue of the British medical journal 'The Lancet' concluded that angina patients were routinely overtreated an important finding for health systems looking to cut costs.

Angina, whose symptoms include chest pains, affects about 10 per cent of adults in the United States and represents a huge market for drug companies.

Calcium channel blockers are fastest growing segment of the market as well, with Bayer AG's Nifedipine, used in the Lancet study, the biggest seller.

Researchers at Guy's hospital in London reported that in a study of 18 patients the triple therapy resulted in no significant differences in symptoms. The only significant finding was that a beta blocker plus a nitrate or calcium channel blocker could lengthen duration of exercise.

The assumption that the addition of agents will confer further benefit is not valid and it may be better to change therapy rather than to add to it, the authors said. "We suspect that patients with (angina) are overtreated."

### No more 'lioness' club

CHICAGO: Lions Clubs International, which calls itself the world's largest service organisation, said on Thursday it will no longer sponsor separate women-only 'Lioness' clubs because Lions Clubs now admit women, reports Reuter.

"Lioness Clubs were originally created out of inequality — there no longer is a need for that parallel structure," said Donald Banker, President of the group.

Since 1988 women have been admitted into the formerly all-male Lions Clubs.

There are about 5,500 Lioness Clubs still in existence around the world. They were originally established to give the wives of lions members and other women an opportunity to engage in the same activities as men.

The Chicago-based organisation, which has 40,000 clubs in 171 countries, said Lioness Club members should either apply for a regular Lions Charter or join an existing Lions Club.

### World's most married woman files for divorce

ANDERSON (Indiana): With 22 weddings under her belt already, the world's most married woman filed for divorce just weeks after her last trip down the aisle, reports AFP.

Linda Essex Changler, who is listed in the Guinness Book of Records for her numerous nuptials, has filed to annul her October 4 marriage to Jesse Chandler.

The 51-year-old petitioned to end her latest alliance on grounds of fraud.

## Riyadh will restore ties with PLO

AMMAN, Oct 25: Saudi Arabia has pledged to restore severed ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in a crucial step for the PLO and the Palestinian cause, the organisation said.

Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal made the pledge during an hour-long meeting in Damascus with PLO executive committee members Farouk Kaddoumi and Yasser Abed-Rabbo in Damascus on Thursday, Abed-Rabbo told Reuter.

The surprise talks were the first in a year since the PLO enraged Riyadh by backing Iraq against a Saudi-based coalition in the conflict over Kuwait.

It was beautiful, said a jubilant Abed-Rabbo when asked how the meeting of front-line states in Damascus had gone.

He said he and Kaddoumi, effectively PLO Foreign Minister, had met Saud alone in talks brokered by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after the wider meetings ended on Thursday.

"We agreed to continue our coordination in the future and to renew our relations in order to serve the cause of peace in the region, he said.

Describing the talks as a

major step in the PLO's return to the fold, he said the Arab world could now bury its preoccupation with the divisions of the war and focus on solving the Palestinian problem.

I think the meaning of this meeting in Damascus is that the Palestinian question has returned back as the core of the conflict in the region, said Abed-Rabbo, head of the PLO's information department.

Abed-Rabbo said the foreign minister of Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon earlier agreed with the PLO to present a united front at peace talks with Israel opening on Wednesday.

All the parties have agreed that the main question is to stop settlements in the occupied territories immediately after the beginning of the conference, he said.

"We believe there is a necessity to open a new age in relations especially with Saudi Arabia", he said, referring to the bitterness of the Gulf war.

The PLO suffered crushing political and financial losses by backing Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein against most of the Arab world. The organisation imposed spending cuts around the world after Egypt and the Gulf states withdrew aid.



KARACHI: Former Pak Army chief, Mirza Aslam Beg speaks to a gathering of lawyers in Karachi. Beg said that Pakistan and India should negotiate a settlement to the Kashmir dispute, warning that otherwise it could lead to disaster.

## Settle Kashmir issue thru' talks: Beg

KARACHI, Oct 25: Former Pakistani Army Chief, Mirza Aslam Beg, said here Thursday that Pakistan and India should negotiate a settlement to the Kashmir dispute, warning that otherwise it could lead to disaster, reports AFP.

Speaking at a gathering of lawyers, Beg said India had indicated a willingness to discuss a solution, which represented a ray of hope.

This was a reference to talks between Pakistani and Indian Prime Minister in Harare during the Commonwealth summit and reports published here that India was willing to discuss the Kashmir issue.

Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao had said Saturday in New Delhi that Pakistan and India had rejected mediation by friendly countries to resolve their differences and that they would like to overcome the problem bilaterally.

Estrangement of relationship between Pakistan and India is leading towards disaster, leaving in the wake poverty and deprivation Beg said. Speaking about changes in the Soviet Union, Beg said

## Benazir terms Sharif's govt a band of thieves

RAWALPINDI, Oct 25: Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Thursday called Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government a band of thieves and vowed that her People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) would oust them from power, reports Reuter.

"We will fight and make the jackals run away, she told tens of thousands of cheering followers at a rally marking the first anniversary of last year's national elections which she says were rigged to defeat her.

Earlier Bhutto drove on a truck through central Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad, with thousands of her followers marching with her to the city's Liaquat Bagh Park, a traditional site for political rallies.

Bhutto and other politicians of the five-party PDA who spoke blamed Sharif's ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) for a multi-million-dollar scandal of loans and financial cooperatives run by IDA mem-

## French cabinet survives censure motion

PARIS, Oct 25: French Prime Minister Edith Cresson's cabinet easily survived a censure motion on Thursday when opponents of her socialist government mustered only 264 votes in parliament, 25 short of a majority, reports Reuter.

The motion was submitted by the right-wing opposition over the government's economic policy. Under French parliamentary law, only negative votes are cast.

It was the seventh time since France's 1988 general election that the opposition submitted such a motion.

All were defeated by the ruling majority which can usually count on the support of more than 290 members in the 577-seat assembly.

## Poland ready to take immigrants from HK

WARSAW, Oct 25: Poland is ready to accept immigrants from Hong Kong and plans to open a consulate in the British colony by the end of the year, a government minister was quoted as saying, reports Reuter.

We have been talking about Hong Kong citizens to Poland and their investing in our country, newspapers quoted Foreign Trade Minister Dariusz Ledworowski as telling reporters on Wednesday after a trip to Asia which included Hong Kong.

There is no possibility of organising a Chinese enclave in Poland but we will gladly agree to issue permanent residence permits to Hong Kong residents on conditions that they make investments in our country, he said.

## Straw poll on Perez's successor

NEW YORK, Oct 25: The UN Security Council will hold a second straw vote today on possible candidates to succeed Javier Perez De Cuellar as Secretary General of the United Nations, reports AFP.

Perez De Cuellar's second term in the top UN post ends December 31.

In the running for today straw vote, which follows a vote earlier in the week, are four western heavy-weights and a high-level UN official and world figure, diplomatic sources said.

These include Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, who also is Acting President of the European Economic Community, UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid to the Gulf Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and her Foreign Minister, Thorvald Stoltenberg.

This second vote is aimed at testing non-aligned nations to see whether they will hold to a non-aligned agreement reached in Accra in September to back African candidates for the top UN post, diplomats said.

Those opposed to the African option were hoping the new batch of candidates might appeal to some non-aligned UN members and help sway their vote.

Entering Mulroney's name into the race, diplomats said, was directly aimed at wooing these nations, since Canada has been a key player in the UN system and its soldiers have participated in all peace-keeping missions.

## BRIEFLY

**Zaire PM faces mounting opposition:** After just two days Zaire's Prime Minister, Mungul Diaka faces mounting opposition on the streets and from opposition parties but says he wants to form a government drawing on all the vast country's regions, reports Reuter from Kinshasa.

Rioting broke out on Thursday after his appointment by President Mobutu Sese Seko, pushing Zaire one step closer to a total breakdown of law and order.

Opposition parties in the Sacred Union alliance were due to meet on Friday to re-appoint Etienne Tshisekedi as the people's choice for the premiership. Mobutu fired Tshisekedi on Monday.

But in apparently confident mood despite the opposition to him, Mungul said on state television on Thursday he planned to form a geo-political crisis government of 33 ministers, with three drawn from each of Zaire's 11 regions.

The clear aim was to appeal to the people over Tshisekedi's head by pledging a fair share-out of government jobs among Zaire's main ethnic groups.

**Afghan planes drop napalm bombs:** Three Afghan planes dropped six napalm bombs near a Pakistani village close to the border with Afghanistan on Thursday, officials said, reports AFP from Peshawar.

The raid caused no loss of life nor damage to property, said the political officer in the Pakistani tribal area of Kurram, which is adjacent to the Afghan province of Pakia.

The planes violated Pakistani air space twice, the official said.

Afghan resistance sources said five people were killed and 10 injured in a bombardment on Mujaheddin positions near the border Wednesday.

**US, Vietnam to hold talks:** US and Vietnamese officials will hold a first round of talks on normalising relations between their two countries in New York next month, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said in Paris Thursday, reports AFP.

An agreement to hold the meeting was reached between Nguyen and US Secretary of States James Baker on the sidelines of the signing of the Cambodian peace accord Wednesday.

The US delegation will be headed by US Under Secretary of State for Asia and the Pacific, Richard Solomon, Nguyen quoted Baker as saying, Hanoi has not decided on the composition of its delegation.

No agenda has been set for the talks so far.

**South-North Korea meet ends:** South Korean officials returned home Friday after agreeing with their northern counterparts to the framework for a historic accord on ending decades of Cold War hostility, reports AP.

Almost immediately, North Korea's media accused the South of insincerity.

"I am returning home with a relaxed heart because a breakthrough was reached," said South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik as his delegation crossed the armed border at Panmunjom.

He shook hands with North Korea's spokesman, Ahn Byong Su, one of the northern delegation. "Through these talks, we stopped critical public feeling (about lack of progress)," Ahn said with a smile.

While acknowledging that the two rivals agreed to work toward a comprehensive agreement, the paper said "the South is entirely to blame for the fact that no (more) noteworthy result was achieved."

**Four killed in Vietnam flood:** Floods killed four people, submerged hundreds of houses and destroyed thousands of hectares of rice in Vietnam's central Quang Tri province, the Vietnam news agency reported Thursday, reports Reuter.

Many schools and health clinics were submerged and dikes and roads destroyed.

Last month floods in the fertile Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam killed 55 people and caused damage estimated at more than 26 billion Dong (two million dollars)

## 'Star Trek' creator dead

LOS ANGELES: Gene Roddenberry, creator of the "Star Trek" television and film series followed by millions of faithful "Trekkies" round the world, died on Thursday of a massive heart attack at a hospital spokesman said. He was 70, reports Reuter.

# New confrontation looming over Babri Masjid

LUCKNOW, Oct 25: A new confrontation is looming over a disputed religious site in the north Indian town of Ayodhya, where Hindu-Muslim rioting over the past two years has cost at least 2,000 lives, reports Reuter.

The militant Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP or World Hindu Council) has started preparing to build a temple on the site occupied by a 16th century mosque.

It is being backed by the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has ruled Uttar Pradesh state since winning elections in June.

"We have the people's mandate for the construction of the temple and we will carry out this mandate," said state Chief Minister Kalyan Singh.

Muslim activists in Lucknow, the state capital, made fresh legal moves to thwart the construction and said they would launch an unspecified "emergency plan" if it was allowed.

"It could develop into an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation," said Sunil Saxena, a senior editor at the Lucknow-based Pioneer Newspaper. "All the political parties are using the issue for their own purposes. Religion has little to do with it."

Unless there is political solution, the problem is expected to come to a head when the VHP next Wednesday marks the anniversary of last year's attempt to pull down the mosque, when police killed at least 16 people.

VHP sources said supporters had been asked to arrive in Ayodhya by Monday, indicating that another attempt to take over the shrine may soon follow.

The opposition National Front led by former Prime Minister Vishwanath Prastap Singh said it would start a protest sit-in at Ayodhya on Tuesday to counter any such

move.

Hindus claim the Ayodhya site as the birthplace of their god — king Lord Rama. They say the Babri Masjid, named after the Mughal Emperor Babar, was built after a temple to Rama was razed. Muslims say the site was vacant.

The VHP temple campaign has stirred deep emotions in India, which is predominantly Hindu but officially secular.

At least 12 per cent of India's 850 million people are Muslims. About 82 per cent are Hindu and the rest are mostly Sikhs, Buddhists or Christians.

The dispute, which has sparked bloody street fighting, has also been a handy political tool for the BJP. It derives much of its political strength from backing the VHP temple plan as a symbol of Hindu resurgence and of ending what it calls "pandering to the minorities."

The issue is a major prob-

## Khalistan National Army founder shot dead

NEW DELHI, Oct 25: Indian security forces shot dead Labh Singh, the founder of a major armed Sikh militant group, in troubled Punjab state Thursday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

Singh, who founded the Khalistan National Army (KNA), one of 27 people to die in the state Thursday in violence connected with the militant campaign for a separate Sikh homeland called Khalistan.

The KNA founder was shot dead in a two-hour long gun-battle with security forces in Faridkot district. PTI quoted police as saying.

High on the police wanted list in connection with 60 killings in the district as well as cases on extortion, Singh, carried a price of 50,000 rupees (1,900 dollars) on his head police said.

Two accomplices of the KNA founder escaped from the scene of the shootout, police said.

Another 13 militants including two self-styled generals of the Babbar Khalsa and the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), were killed in Punjab.

The dead KLF officer, identified as Gurnam Singh, was wanted in connection with 50 killings including those of police and their relatives. He was shot dead by security men along with two colleagues in Ferozepur district, police said. Two policemen were injured in the shooting.

The Babbar Khalsa officer-identified as Jaswinder Singh, wanted in both Punjab and Haryana states in connection with 100 killings was shot dead by troops along with two accomplices in Tarn Taran district, PTI said.