

Avoid N-ties with Iran, US tells India

WASHINGTON, Nov 16: The US State Department said on Friday it had summoned the Indian ambassador to express its concern at reports that India was considering selling a nuclear reactor to Iran, reports Reuter.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian had raised the matter with Ambassador Abid Hussain twice in the past two days.

The United States has urged all nuclear supplier countries, including India, to avoid any form of nuclear cooperation with Iran, even under safeguards, Boucher said.

There is not adequate evidence that Iran is genuinely committed to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy, he said.

The latest reports followed the disclosure last month that China had supplied nuclear technology to Iran.

Pol Pot, Khmer Rouge leaders should be tried for crimes: Sihanouk

PHNOM PENH, Nov 16: Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here today that Pol Pot and other Khmer Rouge leaders should be tried in an international court for crimes committed while they were in power in Cambodia, reports AP.

The Prince told a gathering outside the Royal Palace that he recalled telling Washington that he "would be very happy if such a thing happened."

"I want to say that I have never agreed with the Khmer Rouge," he said to several thousand people gathered on the esplanade outside the river front palace, two days after his triumphant return to Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge, in power between 1975 and 1979, is held responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and is a partner in the interim authority for Cambodia headed by

Prince Sihanouk. Violent demonstrations could greet the Khmer Rouge, whose cadres start returning to Phnom Penh Sunday, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said.

His remarks, made on Friday after he attended a Buddhist ceremony alongside Prince Sihanouk, came amid signs that Hun Sen's party was seeking a political alliance with the Prince's followers that would exclude the Khmer Rouge.

Prince Sihanouk meanwhile filled his first full day in Phnom Penh with the pomp and glitter that characterised his rule in the 1950s and 1960s, praying at the silver pagoda, accepting the credentials of French Ambassador Philippe Coste and attending a dinner hosted by the government top leaders.

The Khmer Rouge will not be warmly welcomed like Prince Sihanouk, Hun Sen



Pol Pot

warned. "I'm afraid they will be welcomed with sticks and stones."

"I am responsible for their safety," he added. "If we refuse (to allow a demonstration) or if the demonstration takes place and we use force to control them, then we will be accused of violating human rights."

"I find myself in a very diffi-

cult situation but I have appealed to my people to keep quiet to allow the SNC members to come and work," Hun Sen said.

Under a United Nations-sponsored peace plan signed October 23, representatives of the Khmer Rouge are to return to Phnom Penh for the first time since 1979 to sit with the other Cambodian factions on the Supreme National Council (SNC), whose president is Prince Sihanouk.

The Khmer Rouge's radical Marxist rule, which left hundreds of thousands dead, is far from forgotten in Phnom Penh, a city it emptied at gunpoint in 1975.

Reuter adds: The French Ambassador Saturday became the first foreign envoy to present his credentials to a "playful" Prince Sihanouk.

All countries now recognising the government must re-credit themselves to the council.

Coste described Sihanouk as playful during their meeting and said the Prince was optimistic about the future.

France has closely followed events in Cambodia, a French protectorate and colony from 1863 until Sihanouk gained independence in 1953. With Indonesia it convened the protracted peace talks in Paris.

The Australian Ambassador will present his credentials to Sihanouk on Saturday, to be followed in quick succession by the envoys of Thailand, Japan and North Korea.

Three of the Phnom Penh government's closest allies, Vietnam, Laos and the Soviet Union, will also credit ambassadors soon to the Supreme National Council.

Under an ambitious UN-sponsored peace plan, the Council will represent Cambodian sovereignty until elections can be held in 1993.

Off the Record

Eat your heart out, CNN

LONDON: The British Broadcasting Corporation on Friday launched its first 24-hour international television news channel officially described as complementing, not competing with, America's CNN network, reports AP.

But as the BBC's World Service News round-the-clock newscasts rolled, the reserve slipped in the Corporation's west London studios.

"Eat your heart out, CNN," declared Tim Simmons, a managing editor of the new service.

It is beamed at Asia, where CNN also aims to expand, and extends a two-hour daily programme which began last month.

"We haven't seen the BBC's product yet, but we welcome the competition," said Steve Haworth, public relations spokesman at CNN quarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

"CNN is available in more than 120 countries now and continues to strengthen its image as a credible, believable and timely news service," he said.

World Service News for Asia is funded by advertising and is the BBC's first collaboration in news and current affairs with a commercial partner, Hutchvison, a Hong Kong satellite TV network.

The BBC's two domestic television channels are funded publicly from television licence fees.

The Corporation said it expected to announce a deal soon to expand its international TV bulletins to Africa by 1992, and to broadcast to the Americas by the end of 1993.

The British service envisages regionalised bulletins and nationally mixed teams of presenters, in contrast to CNN's largely American staff.

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Yeltsin fears insurrection in Russia

HAMBURG (Germany), Nov 16: Boris Yeltsin said the huge Russian republic may be swept by an uprising if Western nations don't act quickly to help ease shortages there, Der Spiegel magazine reported, reports AP.

"There will be a mutiny," if people can't get enough food, the Hamburg-based weekly on Friday quoted the Russian president as saying. It said he complained that the Germans were taking too long to send promised help.

"I don't understand it. First they make promises, then put on the brakes. We need to know what we can expect from the Germans," he was quoted as saying.

The interview will run in Der Spiegel on Monday. Excerpts were provided early to other news media.

Germany has promised billions of dollars in support for the Soviet Union, and is also providing at least \$5 billion to help build homes for Soviet troops being withdrawn from former East Germany. Last Friday, the German Red Cross said it was sending 20,000 tons of food to the Soviet Union.



BEIJING: The Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah and Chinese President Yang Shangkun review the honour guard during welcoming ceremonies at the Great Hall. Talks are expected to centre on the reconstruction of Kuwait, the search for peace in the Middle East and bilateral issues.

Confiscated uranium flown to USSR

Iraq continues to defy UN resolutions, says Bush

WASHINGTON, Nov 16: President George Bush accused Iraq on Friday of continuing to defy UN resolutions by concealing weapons, failing to return all Kuwaiti detainees and violating Kuwait's northern border to retrieve equipment, reports AP.

Bush told Congress the United States will "continue to maintain an appropriate level of forces in the region for as long as required by the situation in Iraq."

About 30,000 US troops remain in the Gulf area, including those on warships and those participating in a refugee protection programme for Kurds in Turkey.

The President's accusations came in his monthly report to House and Senate leaders on the status of Iraqi compliance with the ceasefire resolutions adopted at the end of the Gulf war.

The President also told Congress he was concerned that "Iraq has not yet carried out its obligations ... to return all detained Kuwaiti and third-country nationals."

"We have raised this humanitarian issue with the Baghdad authorities on more than one occasion," Bush said.

"We also remain concerned about Iraq's failure to return all stolen Kuwaiti property and military equipment," including Hawk air defense missiles, the President said.

Over the past month, Bush

said, "the Iraqis continued to violate Kuwait's northern border to retrieve equipment left behind."

"We will carefully monitor Iraq's actions in this regard and remain prepared to take appropriate steps if the situation requires," he said.

Meanwhile, the first consignment of enriched uranium

confiscated from Iraq by the United Nations was flown out to the Soviet Union on Friday, the head of a UN nuclear mission in Baghdad said.

"Everything went smoothly," said Dimitri Pericos, leader of a team of International Atomic Energy Agency experts charged by the United Nations with eliminating Iraq's

nuclear potential. A UN-chartered Soviet aircraft took off from Habaniya airport, to the west of Baghdad, with a load of 8.2 kilograms (17 pounds) of uranium, including 6.6 kilograms of enriched material, in sealed containers.

Enriched uranium can be used for both civilian and military uses.

The same aircraft was expected to return from Moscow and on Sunday pick up the second and last consignment of uranium that had originally been supplied to Iraq by the Soviet Union.

Only around 300 grams (10.5 ounce) of enriched uranium supplied by France will remain in Iraq Pericos said. Asked if France was likely to take back the material, he said: "I don't think they will disagree."

But Iraq still has a lot of irradiated uranium, which is dangerous to handle and difficult to destroy, Pericos said. He declined to specify the amount of that material Iraq had.

In Moscow, the news agency Interfax reported Thursday that the Soviet Union had agreed to store the returned uranium "temporarily" under a commercial deal with the United Nations.

US concern over Israeli moves against Ashrawi

WASHINGTON, Nov 16: US President George Bush on Friday voiced personal concern about Israeli legal moves against Hanan Ashrawi, the spokeswoman of Palestinians at the Madrid Middle East peace conference, reports Reuter.

Bush met delegation of Arab-Americans in the White House. One later reported that Bush raised Ashrawi's case in the light of an official recommendation by Israeli police that she be brought to trial for contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"As he was leaving he raised to me personally the plight of Hanan Ashrawi and what happened overnight," said George Salem, Chairman of the Arab-American Leadership Council.

"He shook my hand as he was leaving and said, please, know that Hanan is in my



mind and I'm paying very close attention to what is happening over there," Salem told reporters.

BRIEFLY

UN to establish arms register: A General Assembly committee approved a landmark resolution on Friday to establish an arms register at UN headquarters in which countries would be asked to list their annual imports and exports of conventional weapons, reports Reuter.

They would also be invited to provide additional information about their military stocks and procurement of domestically-manufactured weapons.

The vote on the resolution in the assembly's main political committee was 106 in favour, with Cuba casting the sole negative vote. Eight countries abstained—China, North Korea, Iraq, Myanmar (Burma), Oman, Pakistan, Singapore and Sudan.

A total of 51 countries nearly one-third of the UN's 166 members—were either absent or did not take part in the vote. The resolution made possible by the end of the Cold War, now goes to the assembly plenary for endorsement.

Filipino FM withdraws candidature: Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus has withdrawn from the race to be UN Secretary-General, reducing the number of candidates to 13, a Security Council source said on Friday, reports Reuter.

He said the Council had been notified of the withdrawal by the Philippines' UN mission. Manglapus had been sponsored by the Philippine Branch of the International Law Association. In the last unofficial poll held by the 15 Council members on Tuesday, Manglapus received no votes while nine voted against him and six abstained.

Referendum in Azerbaijan Dec 20: Azerbaijan will hold a referendum on December 20 to approve its decision to seek independence from the Soviet Union, the republic's parliament in the capital Baku decided on Friday, reports Reuter from Moscow.

Voters will be asked to say Yes or No to the independence declaration, made in the wake of a failed coup in Moscow in August.

Nine killed in Mexico City bus mishap: A bus tumbled off a cliff, killing nine passengers and injuring at least 16 more, Mexican officials reported Friday, reports AP from Mexico City.

The bus fell 150 meters (450 feet) into a ravine Thursday near the town of Comitán De Dominguez, 750 kilometers (465 miles) southeast of Mexico City near the Guatemalan border.

Three of those killed were Guatemalans, officials added.

3 hanged for heroin trafficking: Three men, two Malaysians and a Singaporean, have been hanged for trafficking in heroin, police said Saturday, reports Reuter from Singapore.

Malaysians Lim Kheng Boon and Mohamed Yusohesa were convicted in 1988, along with Tan Leong Chay, of trafficking in 1.78 kilos (3.92 pounds) of heroin with a street value of more than three million Singapore dollars (1.8 million US).

They were hanged on Friday, police said. Under Singapore law, anyone convicted of trafficking in more than 15 grams (0.5 ounce) of heroin faces a mandatory death sentence. More than 25 other people have been hanged under the anti-drug law since it was introduced in 1975.

One killed in St Albans blast: A bomb believed to be planted by the Irish Republican Army exploded Friday, killing one person near a civic centre where army bandmen had given a concert, police said, reports AP.

Another person may have been killed in the explosion in St. Albans, 20 miles north of London, George Churchill-Coleman, the head of Scotland yard's anti-terrorist squad, told a news conference early Saturday.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion but Churchill-Coleman said it appeared to be the work of the IRA.

Marlon Brando's daughter arrested: Cheyenne Brando, the daughter of Hollywood legend Marlon Brando, was arrested in France Friday on charges of complicity in the murder of her lover last year, police sources said, reports Reuter.

Cheyenne, who had vanished from a psychiatric clinic near Paris, was with her father when paramilitary gendarmes stopped her near Orleans in central France, they said.

Mujahideen promise to free Soviet prisoners

MOSCOW, Nov 16: Afghan Mujahideen guerrillas promised on Friday to free an unspecified number of Soviet prisoners by the end of the year, Tass news agency said, quoting Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Byel-onogov, reports Reuter.

The pledge came from a delegation representing four of the seven Pakistan-based groups as well as guerrillas based in Iran at the end of four-day talks with Soviet officials.

It was not clear which guerrilla group would hand over the prisoners. The delegation has said most of them were held by three Mujahideen groups which boycotted the Moscow talks, the guerrillas' first direct negotiations with the Kremlin on ending the 13-year-old Afghan civil war.

Moscow says 305 of its men are unaccounted for or held by the Mujahideen from its 1979-1987 military intervention to

support the once-communist Afghan government. The Mujahideen say the number of prisoners is far lower.

Byel-onogov said that in return the Soviet Union might halt arms supplies to the Kabul government ahead of the currently agreed cutoff date, January 1, 1992.

In a joint declaration, the two sides agreed to set up a joint commission, including ministers from Soviet republics, to monitor the fulfillment of the various agreements.

The declaration called for power in Kabul to be handed over to an interim government pending elections in line with a United Nations plan for an Afghan settlement.

All sides in the conflict favour such an interim government, but disagree over whether the current Afghan administration of President Najibullah should be included in it.

Ozone depletion can affect resistance to diseases

WASHINGTON, Nov 16: Scientists told Congress on Friday depletion of the earth's ozone layer not only will cause increased skin cancer deaths, but could affect humans' ability to fight off infectious disease, reports AP.

The scientists, testifying at a US Senate hearing, said it has become clear that human immune systems are suppressed by an increase in exposure to ultraviolet rays and that known sunscreens do little to mitigate the harm.

There is not yet enough evidence, however, to conclude definitely that the rays that affect the immune system actually cause or increase the severity of diseases, they said.

"This is the most critical unanswered question in attempting to assess the impact of ozone depletion on human health," Dr Margaret Kripke, an expert on immunology from the University of Texas, told the Senate Commerce Committee.

The witnesses, most of whom are members of a special United Nations scientific panel on ozone depletion, reviewed for the senate committee their latest findings on the deterioration of the ozone shield by industrial pollutants.

Under a treaty known as the Montreal Protocol the industrial nations have agreed to eliminate CFCs by 2000 and other nations by 2010.

Stephen Anderson of the Environmental Protection Agency and also a member of the UN panel, said the pace of the CFC phaseout is going faster than had been expected, but that technically the ozone-destroying chemical could be eliminated by 1997, three years ahead of the treaty-imposed schedule.

He declined to discuss the Bush administration's current phaseout plans, calling that a policy issue and not a technical matter.

CFCs over the years have been used for a wide range of purposes, but primarily as a refrigeration and air conditioner

coolant, to make foam and as a cleaning solvent.

Dr Kripke said the effects of ultraviolet rays has on immune systems has been demonstrated in animal tests as well as in studies involving humans and does not appear to be lessened in people with darker skins.

According to the scientific panel's latest assessments, disclosed last month, the ozone layer has thinned about 10 per cent and continues to disperse at a rate of 3 to 5 per

cent per decade. Dr Jan Van der Leun of the Netherlands, who is chairman of the UN scientific panel, said a 10 per cent reduction in ozone would lead to a 26 per cent increase in skin cancers, or an increase of more than 300,000 cases a year.

Reuter adds: Finding out how bad the global warming problem is and how to solve it will cost about five billion dollars a year world-wide over 10 to 20 years, two US scientists estimated on Friday.



DUBROVNIK: Refugees weep after managing to get a place aboard the coastal steamer 'Slavija' Thursday. Ongoing bombardment by Yugoslav army forces has driven thousands of people away from the city.