

Baghdad briefs IAEA on nuclear plants

# US Senate okays bill to try Iraqi war criminals

WASHINGTON, Apr 19 : The US Senate on Thursday approved a bill calling for an International Tribunal to prosecute Iraqi war criminals, reports Reuter.

The bill, adopted without dissent hours after being approved by the Foreign Relations Committee, said the United States should take the proposal to the UN Security Council or, if the council failed to act, work with the Gulf war allies to set up a tribunal.

The legislation required the President to order government departments to collect evidence of Iraqi war crimes and to decide whether any US courts would be appropriate to conduct war crimes trials.

It said there was evidence that Iraqi authorities had violated international law in its conduct of the war and its actions against Iraqi citizens.

Failure to prosecute, it said, "would establish a dangerous precedent."

Earlier, the Foreign Relations Committee also approved a bill authorizing \$50 million dollars for relief of Kurdish and other refugees fleeing Iraq.

The administration had not asked for the money. Congress would have to pass a separate appropriations bill before the money could be spent.

AFP reports from Luxembourg : European

Community (EC) Foreign Ministers today called for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to be tried for "attempted genocide" against the Kurdish people, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said.

Eyskens said that the EC would contact UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to establish the legal requirements for such an action.

A Vienna report adds : Iraq on Thursday gave the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) information about its nuclear facilities and technical equipment that could be used in making nuclear weapons, a spokesman for the watchdog agency in Vienna announced.

No details were available on the contents of the Iraqi letter which was sent in line with UN Security Council Resolution 687.

It is still not known if Iraq has the know-how to manufacture nuclear weapons or was able to do so before the Gulf war and allied air raids.

Iaea experts who inspected nuclear research reactors in Iraq last November, three months after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait, said no fissionable material had been held back for the construction of atomic bombs.

However the Iaea would not rule out the possibility at Iraq had secretly violated the non-



TURKEY: An Iraqi Kurdish refugee holding his sick child in his arms, runs along a mountain road looking for a doctor. The plight of refugees has not significantly eased due to remote and difficult locations. —AFP/UNB photo

proliferation treaty which it signed in 1969.

US Secretary of State James Baker accused Iraq shortly before the Iaea inspection of taking extraordinary steps to gain possession of nuclear weapons.

A copy of the Iraqi letter was sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Resolution 687 adopted by the Security Council on April 3 stipulated that Iraq accept not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons or to operate facilities for their production.

Baghdad also had two weeks to name sites, quantities and types of nuclear facilities and to put them under Iaea control.

The Iaea and a special UN Committee must now draw up a plan to scrap and remove all material that could be used in the making of a nuclear bomb and to render it in offensive.

The Iaea said it was the first time that the watchdog had faced such a task.

## Iran to settle 50,000 Kurds in Qom

TEHERAN, Apr 19 : Iran said on Monday 50,000 Iraqi refugees would be settled in the holy city of Qom as more Kurds died of exhaustion and hunger on their trek to Iran, reports Reuter.

The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees, Sadako Ogata, visited the frontier and said the UNHCR would set up an office in Bakhtaran province hosting 400,000 Iraqi refugees to help distribute international relief supplies.

"It is a great human tragedy," the official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Ogata as saying.

"Ogata said the donations sent by the United Nations are almost nothing compared with the countless number of refugees who are still coming to Iran," IRNA reported.

Iran says more than 900,000 Iraqis have crossed its borders to escape attacks by President Saddam Hussein's forces following the defeat of Kurdish and Shi'ite uprisings in northern and southern Iraq.

## Carter, Genscher, Greenpeace receive awards

ATHENS, Apr 19 : Former US President Jimmy Carter and German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher received this year's Onassis awards Thursday for their contributions to advancing East-West relations and world peace, reports AP.

The environmental organization Greenpeace International and a Cypriot archaeologist, Vassos Karagorgis, also received prizes.

## Off the Record

### Cory proclaims Positive Thinking Week

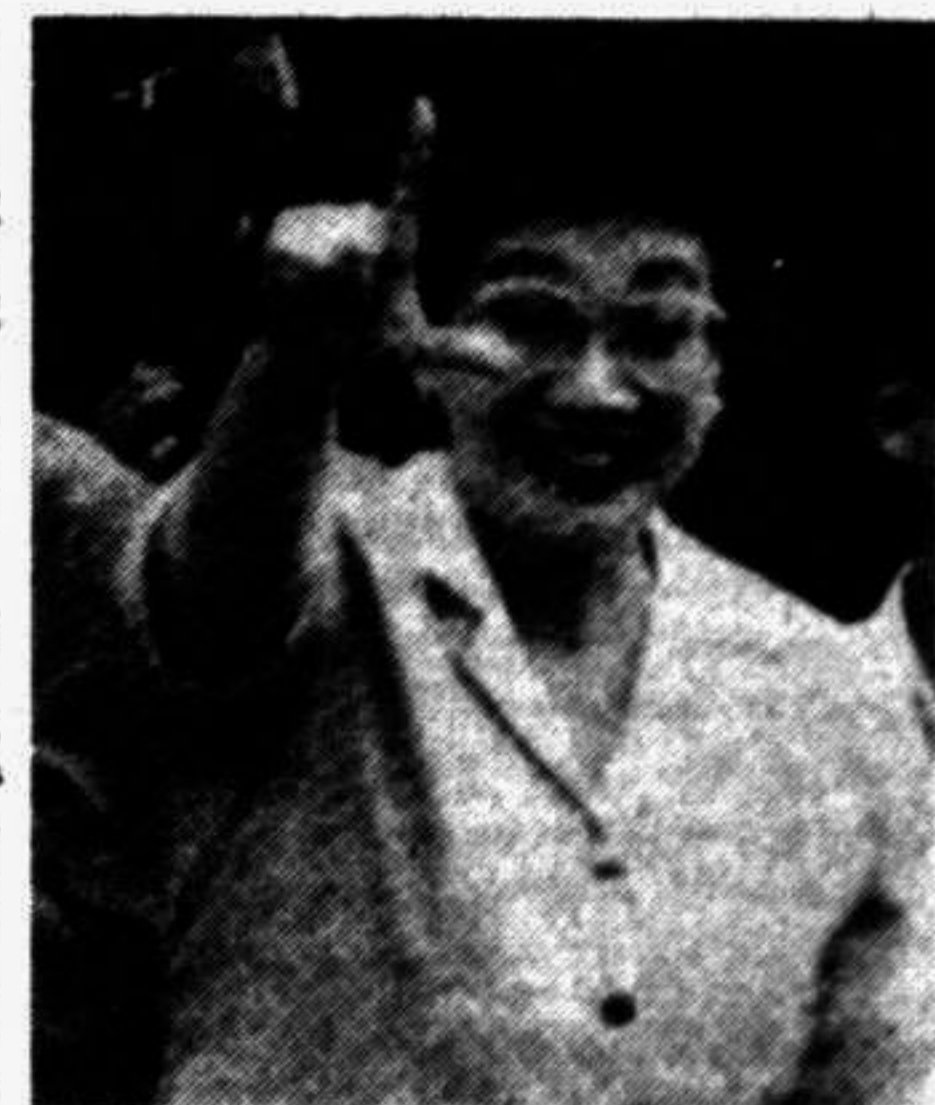
MANILA: President Corazon Aquino Monday asked Filipinos to observe a Positive Thinking Week every third week of April from this year, reports AFP.

"Positive thinking enriches one's personality and keeps God's blessing flowing into the court of life", the religious Mrs. Aquino said in a Presidential proclamation.

Mrs. Aquino who has often called on reporters to focus on the positive instead of constantly writing about negative events, said that being positive in mind and spirit creates an environment filled with love, peace, and harmony.

She said the national directive was aimed at recognizing efforts of various artistic organisations to promote positivism, which, the President said, brings one closer to the ideals of truth, beauty, and happiness.

Mrs. Aquino's proclamation was requested by a group of artists who stress positive Filipino values in their work, said E.R. Tagle, a painter who heads the organization.



### Wartime romance picks up steam

EL TORO MARINE CORPS AIR STATION (California): A wartime romance that blossomed between a Marine and a woman looking for a pen pal has picked up steam now that the two have finally met, reports AP.

"She was like I knew she'd be. Perfect," said a grinning lance Cpl. Luis "Raymond" Luna, who asked Kathie England to marry him during a phone call in February. The couple agreed to marry one year to the day after Luna's return.

"It may be a lot sooner, depending on what happens," England, 27, said after meeting Luna Tuesday morning at his military base 45 miles (70 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles.

Miss England, who lives in Anaheim and works at an advertising agency, got things going after she read an appeal for pen pals for U.S. troops in the Gulf.

Her letter addressed to "any serviceman" was plucked from a pile by Luna, a 19-year-old Texan.

The first outing for the couple was a shopping excursion to exchange his Desert Storm camouflage for civilian attire.

### They refused to fight in Gulf war

BONN: Nearly 50 American servicemen who refused to fight in the Gulf were now in hiding in Germany, fearful of being court-martialed as deserters, a US lawyer said, reports Reuter.

They are waiting for legal assistance before they turn themselves in. It clearly is not a friendly greeting they will get when they return to military control, said Clare Overlander, a lawyer from New York.

Overlander is advising about five of an estimated 50 US servicemen who went into hiding rather than joining 80,000 US troops sent to Saudi Arabia from bases in Germany.

She said the servicemen she represented had come out of hiding and returned voluntarily to military control.

The US European command in Stuttgart said it had no figures and not even any estimate of desertions.

Most in hiding were objectors on moral or religious grounds but some claimed psychiatric or medical reasons for refusing to join in the victorious eviction of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, Overlander said.

## BRIEFLY

### Iran ready to help Iraqi refugees :

The United States said Thursday Iran had accepted its offer to take part in an international relief operation to help Iraqi refugees who have fled to its territory, reports Reuter.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tehran had given work of its decision through the offices of Swiss diplomats, the regular channel of communication between the two countries.

"The Iranians have indicated that they would welcome US participation in the international relief effort to assist refugees in Iran," Boucher said.

### Kuwait violates human rights: AI :

Amnesty International said on Thursday, that Human Rights abuses, including torture and executions, had swept Kuwait since it was liberated from Iraq by allied forces in the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

"Amnesty International Friday publicly appealed to the Emir of Kuwait to intervene personally to end the wave of arbitrary arrests, torture and killings... Since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces," the London, based Human Rights group said in a report.

The report was compiled after a two-week fact-finding mission by an Amnesty team that went to Kuwait on March 28.

### Sanctions on Bush's son :

The US government on Thursday imposed sanctions on President George Bush's son Neil for the failure of a Denver, Colorado, bank that played a major role in the savings and loan scandal which will cost US taxpayers billion of dollars, reports Reuter.

The younger Bush, 36, was a director of the Denver-based Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan Association.

The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) issued strict regulations on the younger Bush if he is in the future involved with any defensibly insured savings and loan institution or banks.

### 100,000 Kurdish refugees back home :

Iraqi Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hammadi on Thursday said more than 100,000 Kurdish refugees had returned home since Baghdad declared an amnesty two weeks ago, reports AFP.

Radio Baghdad, monitored by the BBC in London, quoted the Information Minister as saying that Kurds preferred their own homes to the "so-called protection" of international humanitarian organizations.

He also attributed their return to efforts by Iraqi authorities to provide basic services, including buses to get them home.

### Tibetan woman executed :

Chinese authorities sentenced to death and immediately executed a 22-year-old Tibetan woman for embezzlement, according to a report reaching Beijing on Monday, reports Reuter from Beijing.

The April 4 Edition of Tibetan Daily said the woman had embezzled 785,866 yuan (149,404 dollars) while working for the national airline Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) in the Tibetan capital Lhasa from 1987 to 1990.

She was sentenced to death in a public trial on April 3 in Lhasa and executed immediately, the newspaper said.

### Ceasefire in Iraq :

The Iraqi government and Kurdish rebels agreed two days ago to observe a temporary ceasefire, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) said Thursday, reports AFP.

A spokesman for the DPRK, headed by Massoud Barzani, told Agence France-Presse in Damascus that a ceasefire was agreed between Kurdish fighters and Baghdad to allow leaders of the Kurdistan front to study a proposal from the Iraqi regime "concerning the granting of autonomy to the Kurds."

The Kurdistan front is an umbrella group bringing together the major Kurdish parties.

"The proposal from the regime calls for a settlement of the Kurdish problem based on the March 1970 accord concerning the granting of autonomy to the Kurds as well as the realization of pluralism and democracy" in Iraq, the spokesman said.

### Severe famine in Sudan :

Sudan pleaded on Thursday for aid to fight the famine threatening millions of people but a relief agency said help may be too little, too late, reports Reuter from London.

Sudanese Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi told a London news briefing that Sudan needed food, seed, agricultural implements and help for its rail and road transport.

"Our urgent priority is transport. We have a fleet of 6,000 trucks, half of which cannot move for lack of spare parts," he said.

A relief agency official, John Magrath of British-based Oxfam, warned: "The annual rains are only six weeks away and will seriously hamper the delivery of aid. Time is desperately short."

## 7 lakh Kurds to be given a meal daily

# Allied bases on Iraqi border for massive relief operation

SILOPI (Turkey), Apr 19 : A first detachment of French soldiers arrived late Thursday at this town near the Iraqi border to set up facilities for Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraq, reports AFP.

Fourteen French soldiers and several officers formed the vanguard for a total of 328, including medics and a parachute company, due to arrive in Turkey by Saturday.

Eight hundred US soldiers have already established an operations base here, and British defence secretary Tom King announced Thursday that a Royal Marines Reconnaissance Team had flown to the Iraqi-Turkish border region.

The French Defence Attache in Turkey, Colonel Francois Buchwalter, told Agence France-Presse that the French troops who arrived on Thursday, were "an advance detachment opening the second phase, the French plan for aid to Iraqi refugees."

Phase One got underway on April 8 when transport planes parachuted in aid including food and blankets to both sides of the border. Under Phase Two, camps would be set up on the Iraqi side under the United Nations flag "to persuade the Kurds to come down from the mountains where they have taken refuge," Col. Buchwalter said.

The Headquarters of Operation "Provide Comfort" at Incirlik said earlier that under a Phase Three, the allies were gearing up to provide at least one meal a day by the weekend for 700,000 Kurdish refugees.

US President George Bush announced Tuesday that en-

campments would be set up for refugees in northern Iraq with US, British and French troops providing security.

Reuter adds from Moscow : The Soviet Union on Thursday softened its opposition to the creation of safe havens in Iraq for Kurdish refugees, saying it now seemed the most realistic way to save countless lives.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskikh

held a news briefing that Moscow regarded the idea of safe havens as "an emergency step primarily brought about by an extremely tense situation," the official Tass News Agency said.

"He believes that (the havens) are the most realistic opportunity to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees, taking into account that they will later return to their places of perma-

## Republican Guards get 'heavy blows' in 12 Iraqi cities

TEHERAN, Apr 19 : Rebels have "dealt heavy blows" against Iraq's elite Republican Guard during fighting in more than half a dozen southern Iraqi cities, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported on Friday, reports AFP.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, rebels made gains in the main southern city of Basra, as well as Al-Mashrah, Aligharbi, Kahla, Tanuma, Nasriyah and Al-Amara, IRNA said, quoting refugees arriving in Iran.

IRNA said rebels killed several government soldiers and captured a group of others during two separate guerrilla attacks in Aligharbi and Al-Mashrah.

No details about Republican Guard casualties were given, however.

Iraqi rebels launched a

"successful" attack against government troops in areas of Maysan Province, IRNA added, citing Iraq's revolutionary voice, an opposition Radio station.

The station did not say when the attack was launched but said many Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and nine more were captured, none military vehicles were also destroyed and the revolutionaries seized some weapons, IRNA said.

A student from the town of Al-Qurna said some 1,000 soldiers from Republican Guard Brigade 206 have deserted in the past week, according to IRNA.

A female refugee said five to six newborn children die each day due to the lack of milk, according to IRNA.

## Inspection of nuclear facilities sought

# Soviet threat to block nuclear fuel supply to North Korea

TOKYO, April 19 : Moscow has warned North Korea it will stop supplying it with nuclear fuel if Pyongyang refuses to allow inspection of its facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Soviet presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said here Monday, reports AFP.

"The Soviet Union warned North Korea that if it doesn't allow inspection by the Iaea, it will stop all kinds of supplies and cooperation with North Korea," Mr. Ignatenko told a press briefing here on the eve of President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan.

The Soviet Union has supplied North Korea with fuel for a nuclear power plant under a 1985 agreement, but a number of countries, including South Korea, are afraid the fuel could

weapons.

In Seoul, the state-run Seoul Shinmun and the national news agency Yonhap quoted high-level officials as saying South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo would ask Mr. Gorbachev this week to stop supplying North Korea with nuclear fuel because of fears it would be diverted to a weapons programme.

The Communist North has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty with the Vienna-based Iaea, but has refused it permission to inspect its facilities.

### Gorbachev extends stay in South Korea

A report from Cheju (South Korea) says : Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has extended his stay in South Korea by one night and one morning, and is now due to leave here

for Moscow at noon Saturday, officials said here today.

There was no explanation as to why the stay had been extended to include tonight and tomorrow morning.

South Korean officials had, however, expressed some concern that Mr. Gorbachev might be rather tired after his marathon talks with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Tokyo, which went late into the night Thursday.

Mr. Gorbachev, who originally was due to stay here four hours after his arrival at 7:00 pm, will now leave Saturday morning at around noon, officials said.

They added that his official talks with South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo will now take place Saturday morning instead of late Friday as planned previously.

## Pakistan rejects Indian claims on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Apr 19 : Pakistan rejects Indian claims that Kashmir is an integral part of India and believes there can be no real improvement in ties until the issue is settled, the Foreign Ministry said, reports Reuter.

The United Nations clearly recognised a dispute existed over the mountain region torn by a violent secessionist campaign, the ministry said in a statement on Monday evening.

The statement was prompted by an interview given to a Gulf newspaper by India's senior foreign ministry official, Muchkund Dubey, in which he reiterated Delhi's claim to sovereignty.

## Rajiv to erase tension, violence of caste

NEW DELHI, Apr 19 : Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, on a comeback trail in India's May elections, Tuesday promised to "heal the wounds" caused during the last 17 months he was out of power, reports AP.

Gandhi released his Congress Party's election manifesto, saying his government will erase the "tension and violence" of caste and religious strifes that left hundreds of people dead last year.

## David Lean dead

LONDON, Apr 19: Sir David Lean, the British Director who died Tuesday won 28 Oscars for his films in a distinguished career spanning half a century, reports Reuter.

He made quality storytelling his byword, becoming one of the few Britons among the world's top directors.

In a film world, more and more dominated by sex, violence and special effects, lean stood fast for the old values of good scripts, fine acting and memorable photography.

His most famous works—Lawrence of Arabia, The Bridge on the River Kwai, Dr Zhivago and a Passage to India—reflected a large-scale romantic vision disciplined by widely-admired editing skills.

Producer David Putnam once said he regarded lean as the greatest storyteller on film.

A meticulous craftsman who demanded slavish obedience from his actors and crew, lean would go to infinite trouble to catch the exact image he wanted on celluloid. Stories

are legion of his waiting for the perfect cloud or sunrise. The current argument is that people don't notice this kind of thing, he said in 1970. Well, they don't notice the 14 coats of paint on a Rolls-Royce, but they are still there.

Lean's first successes came in intimate drama, but his true talent emerged only in the second half of his career in the costly, broad-canvas films shot outdoors for which he is famous.

The scale and splendour of Lawrence and Dr Zhivago inspired awe in millions, but Lean's dedication to the large scale was one reason why many critics attacked the romantic Ryan's daughter (1970) as dreadfully old-fashioned at a time when small-budget, off-beat films were enjoying a vogue.

Sharp attacks from American critics in particular played a large part in keeping lean away from the screen for 14 years, and many admirers feared his career was over.



LONDON : File photo of 1987 of Oscar-winning British director David Lean who died Apr 15, aged 83. Sir Lean was best known for a number of wide screen epic films including "Lawrence of Arabia", "Bridge over the River Kwai", "Doctor Zhivago" and "Passage to India". — AFP/UNB photo