expand UN power

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 16 Leaders of the 15 Security Council nations gather January 31 for an unprecedented summit to recommend expanding the diplomatic and peacekeeping role of the United Nations and discuss international security, reports

With Cold War rivalries over and the collapse of the Soviet empire, new opportunities have emerged for an innovative UN role in issues ranging from the environment and human rights to crisis management.

while some observers says the session is likely to be a grandiose photo opportunity with seant results, organizers say it will give a mandate to the new Secretary-General. Boutros Boutros Ghali, to reshape the organization the better deal with the challenges of the decade.

The United Nations has assumed a crucial position in mediating peace talks, like those ending El Salvador's 12year civil war. It is being relied on to dispatch peacekeepers. as in the case of Yugoslavia and Cambodia, to organize and monitor elections and even to help administer countries, like Cambodia.

After a session featuring short speeches by all council members, the council is to

adopt a final declaration calling upon Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali to suggest ways to strengthen and enhance the 166-nation organization.

It is not clear what financial support will meet Boutros-Ghalt's suggestions.

The world body continues in a financial crisis. As of December 31, UN officials says areas to the general budget totaled 439 million dollar about 40 per cent of the annual bud get of about 1 billion dollar. Arrears to peacekeeping operations totaled more than 300 million dollar.

British Prime Minister John Major, who proposed the summit, will preside. Britain also holds the rotating presidency of the council for January.

President Bush. Chinese Premier Li Peng. French President Francois Mitterrand and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin will attend.

It will give Yeltsin and opportunity to outline the problems and goals of the new Commonwealth of Independent States, which replaced the Soviet Union. But the crumbling of the Soviet Union is not an official summit topic and will be addressed indirectly in the session through discussion of security and disarmament issues.

Pan Am bombing

Big 3 to put off vote

BRIFF

Soviet N-arsenal well guarded:

Visiting Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin said on

Wednesday that the former Soviet nuclear arsenal was well

guarded and there was no danger that nuclear weapons would

way on to the black market," he told a news conference after

a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis.

conventional arms disarmament 'as soon as possible', but con-

firmed reports that a number of former Soviet nuclear scien-

"This is happening and will continue to happen," he said.

Miyazawa arrives in Seoul: Japanese

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa arrived Thursday in Seoul

where protesters angered by new disclosures about Japanese

war atrocities plan large demonstrations, reports Reuter from

Won-Shik. Miyazawa left for the national cemetery where he

was to pay respects to people who fell in the struggle to free

the peninsula from Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

darkest chapters of Japanese imperialism - the forced prostitution of thousands of Korean women by the Japanese army

- but the issue looks set to overshadow talks on trade and

EC to recognise 2 republics: The Eu-

Miyazawa has said he plans to apologise for one of the

After a greeting by South Korea's Prime Minister Chung

"Rest assured that not a single nuclear weapon will find its

He said Ukraine was willing to proceed with nuclear and

be sold off, reports Reuter from Athens.

tists had to other countries.

northeast Asian security.

Seoul

NEW YORK, United Nations. Jan 16: The Untied States, France and Britain Wednesday agreed to put off until Friday or Monday a vote on a UN Security Council resolution calling on Libya to cooperate in a probe into bomb attacks against US and French airliners. diplomatic sources said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The draft resolution, which British Ambassador to the UN Sir David Hannay was hoping to put to a vote Thursday, demands that Libya cooperate fully with the probe into the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 and a French Uta Plane over Niger the following

The death toll from the two attacks reached 440.

France, Britain and the United States have said they will call for an air and oil embargo against Libya if it refuses to cooperate and hand over two Libyan nationals they are accusing of responsibility in

the explosions. The sources, which spoke at the end of Security Council consultations on the issue, said the postponement was requested by Cape Verde with the Backing of China, a permanent council member

wielding Veto power. Cape Verde's UN Ambassador, Jose Luis Jesus, called for a consensus on the language of the draft, nothing that while the council could condemn international terrorism, it had no competence to judge terrorist acts.

Security Council to CIS invited to join East-West Cooperation Council

BRUSSELS, Jan 16: NATO agreed on Wednesday to offer formal ties to all republics of the old Soviet Union by invit ing them to join a new East-West "Cooperation Council" that will meet next month at the alliance's headquarters, reports Reuter.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a meet ing of alliance ambassadors that he would also outline NATO's plans for helping to ship humanitarian aid to its former cold war foe at an international conference in Washington next week.

Ambassadors from the 16 alliance nations rejected a German proposal that the Cooperation Council, which

links NATO members with members of the former Warsaw Pact, should hold a special meeting of foreign ministers in Prague at the end of this month.

A North Atlantic Treaty Organisation spokesman said there would instead be a meeting in Brussels next month. It was not clear whether it would be at the level of foreign ministers.

There was consensus that all independent states on the territory of the former Soviet Union would be invited to join the North Atlantic Cooperation

Council," the spokesman said. The new body will now include 36 nations -16 NATO

members, five eastern European countries that were in the former Warsaw Pact, the three Baltic states and 12 republics of the former Soviet

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had suggested holding a meeting of foreign ministers in Prague at the end of this month, to show that the West was eager to forge ties quickly with the states replacing the Soviet Union. It would have coincided with a foreign ministers' meeting of the 38-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Some NATO members thought it would be better to hold a separate meeting, while others

said their ministers would be unable to stay in Prague for a extra gathering.

The Cooperation Council, which had its first meeting in Brussels last month, is intended to strengthen stability in Europe by creating formal links for the first time between NATO and its former

Through it, NATO in offering Eastern European nations and now former Soviet republics help with planning smaller defences and converting their military industries to civilian production.

NATO agreed last month to coordinate the airlift of some humanitarian aid to the Soviet

Woerner told Wednesday's meeting at NATO headquarters that he would outline the offer to the international conference on Soviet aid called by the United States on January 22 and 23.

Alliance experts have already been to Moscow to discuss what is needed and NATO has coordinated the use of military planes for airlifting some food to Moscow and Saint Petersburg

It marks the first time the alliance has undertaken a humanitarian mission since it was created in 1949 - to counter the Soviet military

leader of the nonaligned na-

Democrat, said talks on re-

vamping the United Nations

could begin at a heads-of-state

meeting due to be held in New

York this month, but discus-

sions would take an long time.

Moynihan, a New York

citizenship of 15000 dissidents ANKARA. Jan 16: Turkey will restore the citizenship of

Turkey to restore

some 15,000 political dissidents and Kurdish separatists who fled the country after a 1980 military coup, interior Minister Ismet Sezgin said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Penalties for crimes are laid down in law. Giving people a second punishment by loss of citizenship contradicts universal laws". Sezgin said in a

Many of the exiles, mainly leftwing writers, trade unionists and artists, were stripped of their citizenship and had their property seized after they failed to return to Turkey to face charges of Communism or anti-secularism.

Slovenia wants to become part of Europe

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia, Jan 16: The tiny republic of Slovenia, recognised as an independent state for the first time in modern history, is already bracing for the struggle to become part of Europe, its president said, reports Reuter

The priority now that the battle for recognition is over is to being the fight for cooperation with Europe," Milan Kucan said in an interview yesterday in the capital, Ljubljana.

Teresa leaves hospital

LA JOLLA (California), Jan 16: Mother Teresa left hospital on Wednesday to the cheers of well wishers after recovering from life-threatening heart and lung ailments, reports Reuter.

As the 1979 Nobel Prize winner for her work with the poor emerged from the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation here, a crowd of more than 100 broke into cheers and applause.

'India deserves permanent membership of UN Council'

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: India deserves a place as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council as the world's largest democracy, US Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynthan said Thursday, reports AP.

Moynthan, who became the chief US delegate to the United Nations in 1975 after completing a two-year terms as ambassador to India, said the world body should begin reviewing its structure to reflect the changing world.

"It's time to take a look at that charter," which he said still described Germany and Japan as enemy states and was drafted when the organisation was one-third its current size.

India has long campaigned for an expansion of the 15-

ROK to probe into

would give more weight to developing countries and would revise the veto powers of the five permanent members: the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia, which took the seat previously held by the Soviet Union. With 844 million people,

member Security Council that

India is the world's second largest nation after China and the largest with a democratic system of government, Moynthan said, arguing India's case for a permanent seat. Despite its size, however,

India's economic power is limited and its influence has declined since the height of the Cold War in the 1960s and 70s when it was as a spokesman for the Third World and a

was directly involved in draft-

ing young Korea, women to

serve a corps which included

sex slaves for front-line troops.

with a state visit Thursday by

Japanese Prime Minister

Kitchi Miyazawa. Publicity sur-

rounding the issue threatens

to mar his trade and economic

talks with President Roh Tae-

and 12-year-old girls were

forced to serve in a corps that

included sex slaves has been

followed by new evidence that

dozens more primary school

girls were drafted, according

to newspaper reports Thurs-

The Seoul government said

a special committee headed by

the Prime Minister would

make a public finding by June

on reports that from 70,000 to

200,000 young Korean women

were forced into prostitution

into prostitution before 1944.

but the newspaper said the

Korean women were forced

for Japanese troops.

Confirmation that six 11

The revelations coincide

This would be a good decade to start thinking," he told a news conference at the end of a two-week visit. He said he brought Prime

letter from President Bush thanking India for its vote in favour of repealing the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. Moynthan said that the vote was "almost catalytic" for India, an ardent advocate of the Palestinian cause.

Minister P.V Narasimha Rao a

Off the Record

Is it only a play?

CAIRO: An Egyptian play that calls Arabs dictatorial and ignorant is thrilling audiences in Cairo and breaking new ground in what may be said on stage in the Arab world, reports Reuter

In plain Arabic 'by Lenin EL-Ramly portrays Arabs as overemotional and backward people who cannot compete with West because they waste their time chanting slogans and fail to deal with reality

it says little the educated classes have not muttered to each other privately in moments of despair for years. But airing such opinions in public is a breakthrough for

theater in the region. It reflects a political relaxation in Egypt over the 10 years of President Hosni Mubarak's rule. He has legalised opposition parties and allowed them to publish newspapers which

routinely criticise the government In plain Arabic tells the story of 14 Arab students, each a stereotype of a different Arab country, who pretend to be pi-

ous Muslims but sneak off to a fancy dress part in a discotheque at night .

'She rarely does right'

LONDON, Jan 16: The Duchess of York, the royal who rarely does right in the eyes of Britain's tabloids, was a at the centre of yet another brouhaha Wednesday, reports AP.

This one involved some vacation snapshots that allegedly show the former Sarah Ferguson on vacation in a sunny clime two years ago with Steve Wyatt, described as the millionaire son of a Texas oil baron. Doing what?

None of the papers had the pictures, but they agreed that one shot showed the 32 -year-old duchess and Wayatt with his left arm around her left shoulder and her right arm behind his back.

The tabloids said some pictures showed other people, including the Duchess's daughter Princess Beatrice, in the

Reports said the pictures were found by a cleaner in a London apartment allegedly vacated by Wyatt, and were handed over to police.

Scotland Yard confirmed a number of photographs had been handed in on Jan.7. There will be no investigation and no charges would be filed, a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said.

Scotland Yard wouldn't say who gave them the pictures, what they showed or where they were found. But the British tabloids had all the answers - Tycoon's Fergie Pictures Stolen, blared the front page of

the Today tabloid Fergie Photos with Texan Shake Palace, London's Evening

standard newspaper headlined. Sounding distinctly unmoved, a Buckingham palace

spokeswoman said, it is in the jurisdiction of the police and we have nothing to say. Wyatt was described in two papers as 'a cross between

Bobby Ewing and the incredible Hulk', the adopted son of Houston oil tycoon Oscar Wyatt who lived in London while he worked for Delaney Petroleum . The duchess, of course, is the daughter-in-law of Queen

Elizabeth II and the wife of Prince Andrew, the Duke of York.

'comfort girls' issue SEOUL, Jan 16: The government announced an investigation Thursday into new reports that dozens-perhaps hundreds-of primary school girls were forced to serve Japanese troops during World War II, reports AP. Two children take part in Wednesday's celebration in On newspaper revealed evi-Zagreb of the recognition of Croatia as an independent dence indicating the Japanese -AFP photo colonial government in Korea

EC recognises Croatia

ZAGREB, Jan 16: Church the greatest understanding for Wednesday after the European Community announced recognition of the independence of Croatia and Germany established diplomatic ties, reports

Croatian President Franjo Tudiman warmly thanked Germany for having led the push for international recognition of the breakaway Yugoslav republic.

"We are grateful to Germany." Tudjman told the German television station Ard. "It is the power which showed

bells rang out here on reaching a settlement to the Yugoslav problem.

Cardinal Franjor Kuharic. primate of the Roman Catholic Church in Croatia, celebrated high mass for thousands assembled in a hushed atmosphere in the Zagreb cathe-

Tudjman Disappointed the congregation by not showing up "We pray that the fragile truce be transformed into total peace and that this day go down in Croatia's history as the start of a better and happier future," said the Cardinal, de-

ploring that his country was "still living through cruel times for war."

He thanked the leaders of Countries that had recognized Croatian independence, particularly Pope John Paul II. The Vatican officially rec-

ognized the predominantly Catholic Slovenia and Croatia on Monday. Residents of the Croatian capital were quick to praise

Germany's support. "Without Germany's perse-

verance we wouldn't have got

decree formalized the corps, here" said a young saleswoman. called "Teishintai."

Gamsakhurdia for war against army MOSCOW, Jan 16: Zviad a rebellious region of southern countryside. quoted by Tass as saying. He

Gamsakhurdia, Georgia's ousted president, secretly returned Thursday to western Georgia and declared a crusade against the military council that overthrew him, according to a council member, reports

Gamsakhurdia flew to Sukhumi, Georgia, and then drove to Zugdidi where he spoke to supporters at a demonstration, according to Tengiz Kitovani, a leading member of Georgia's ruling military council. Kitovani spoke to journalists in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

Gamsakhurdia enjoys considerable support in his native western Georgia and in the

The ruling military Council

that ousted him January 6 after a bloody, 16-day battle controls Tbilist However, it was not immediately clear whether rural parts of the mountainous country would support the

Gamsakhurdia urged his ' supporters early Thursday to start "a crusade on Tbilisi," according to a witness, and announced that a civil war is starting.

The Russian Information Agency, citing Armenian sources, reported Wednesday that Gamsakhurdia had flown from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, to Chechne-Ingushetia,

Russia. However, it was not clear whether he in fact flew there Wednesday or simply proceeded straight to western Georgia from Armenia. No further details were

immediately available. The Interfax news agency also reported that Gamsakhurdia had returned to Georgia, citing a national movement in western Georgia.

An earlier report said Gamsakhurdia, his family an bodyguards boarded a plane about 5 pm Moscow time (1500 GMT) at Zvartnots Airport in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

"I am leaving for a friendly country," Gamsakhurdia was

did not says where he was headed. Gamsakhurdia fled Tbilisi

on January 6 amid heavy fighting at the Georgian parliament building, where he was hold up. His political opponents, including a loose coalition of dissidents, intellectuals and military officers, had besieged the parliament for 16 days in a bit to oust Gamsakhurdia.

Chechen-Ingushetia is a tiny Muslim enclave in the Caucasus Mountains. Dudayev, a tough-talking former Soviet air force general, has been criticized for his authoritarian style and even was likened to Gamsakhurdia by political opponents.

'Aborting of Algerian polls example of Western hypocrisy' DUBAI, Jan 16: Many gov- certain until the authorities central Asia. Islam in the former Soviet re-Many say Tunisia could

ernments breathed # sigh of relief when an Islamic fundamentalist sweep to power through the ballot box was halted in Algeria, reports Reuter.

So did liberalised women and even some democrats, in the Middle East.

But much in the Arab and Muslim worlds will see the aborting of Algerian elections as an example of the hypocrisy of Western-influenced liberal-

"Why is democracy good when it brings a pro-Western regime and bad when it brings an Islamic republic?" Islamic commentators have been asking for days.

A fundamentalist state in north Africa to match Iran's Islamic revolution appeared

cancelled Algeria's first free parliamentary poll. "A radical Islamic state...

could bring new instability in a region already overwhelmed by economic, political and social problems," one Western diplomat said. Iran's militancy has cooled

since the death in 1989 of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini under whom it was seen as a threat to its neighbours and a source of terrorism. But the "salvation" offered by Muslim militants in Algeria

and Iran, though, from two dis-

tinct branches of Islam, has

wide appeal. Diplomats say results like those in Algeria could be expected if the lid were taken off in other Arab and Muslim countries.



The most dramatic scenario would see fundamentalists taking power in one Arab state after another, and also in other Muslim countries such as former Soviet republics in

Western diplomats said an Islamic state in Algeria would, at least in its early years, have been expected to follow militant policies.

They see similarities between Algeria and Iran. Iran, helped by oil wealth,

had until 1979 a thin layer of westernised society at the top headed by a dictatorial Shah and a wealthy middle class. Beneath them were impoverished and ill-educated millions hankering for a better life and a say in their own affairs. Algeria's anti-colonial revo-

lution bred an educated elite that ruled the country with an iron first. They spoke French and, cushioned by the country's oil millions, grew remote from the countryside and city

eastly follow Algeria if allowed to. Tunisia's rulers take no chances - the main fundamentalist party is outlawed. King Hassan's Morocco is

not too dissimilar from the Shah's Iran, the diplomats

said. Radical fundamentalism that rejects all Western ways has also been on the rise in almost every other Arab or

Muslim country. Few are willing to predict which way the new Asia states of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan and Azerbaijan will

Iran is preaching military. Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are, with Western encouragement, trying to promote a more moderate form of

publics. But even in Saudi Arabia.

the government has to balance

pressure for liberalisation

carefully against a deep-rooted

puritanical Islamic tradition. President Hosni Mubarak appears to have kept Egypt's fundamentalist agitation largely

in check. Jordan's King Hussein seems to have controlled his fundamentalists, a least for the moment, by letting them into parliament but skilfully

keeping them from real power.

Countries as different as Libya, Lebanon and Syria have been troubled by Muslim mili-

In Sudan, fundamentalists appear to have gained power without responsibility.

ropean Community on Wednesday said it would recognise Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as independent countries, reports AP from Brussels. The Community and its 12 member States issued a statement welcoming the willingness of the two former Soviet republics to meet EC guidelines on disarmament, foreign debt and economic issues, and other international obligations. The EC also noted that all members of the newly formed Commonwealth of Independent States have now committed themselves to the EC guidelines. 3Miami men plead for life: Three Miami residents condemned to die for attempted terrorism pleaded for their life before Cuba's supreme court on Wednesday, Cuba's Prensa Latina news agency reported from Havana. The three men expressed remorse and backed up Cuban

the knowledge of the US government . The courtroom testimony was broadcast by Cuban state TV. Prensa Latina said the Supreme Popular Tribunal would rule "in the coming hours" on the mens' sentences, but no decision emerged late Wednesday night. The US State Department and President Violeta Chamorro

of Nicaragua urged Cuba to show leniency for the men identifled as Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, 38. Daniel Santovenia, 36

and Pedro de la Caridad Alvarez Pedroso, 26.

firing squad.

dealers in either country.

claims that they had been trained in the United States with

US officials have denied Cuban claims the three were backed by the US government . They were arrested December 29 after landing on a Cuban beach armed with explosives, rifles and pistol. They were convicted at a trial last week and sentenced to be executed by

Hurd in India: British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd opened a four-day official visit Thursday to discuss an anti-terrorism accord and review post-Cold War developments, reports AP from New Delhi. Reports said Hurd was to conclude an agreement allowing for the confiscation of assets of accused terrorists and drug

a separate state in Punjab. The Sikhs have a strong immigrant community in Britain, and many support the militants' cause. Hurd also was expected to press India on its human rights record in the northern state of Kashmir, where the army and paramilitary forces are combating a Muslim separatist rebellion supported by Pakistan.

The accord could most affect Sikh extremists fighting for