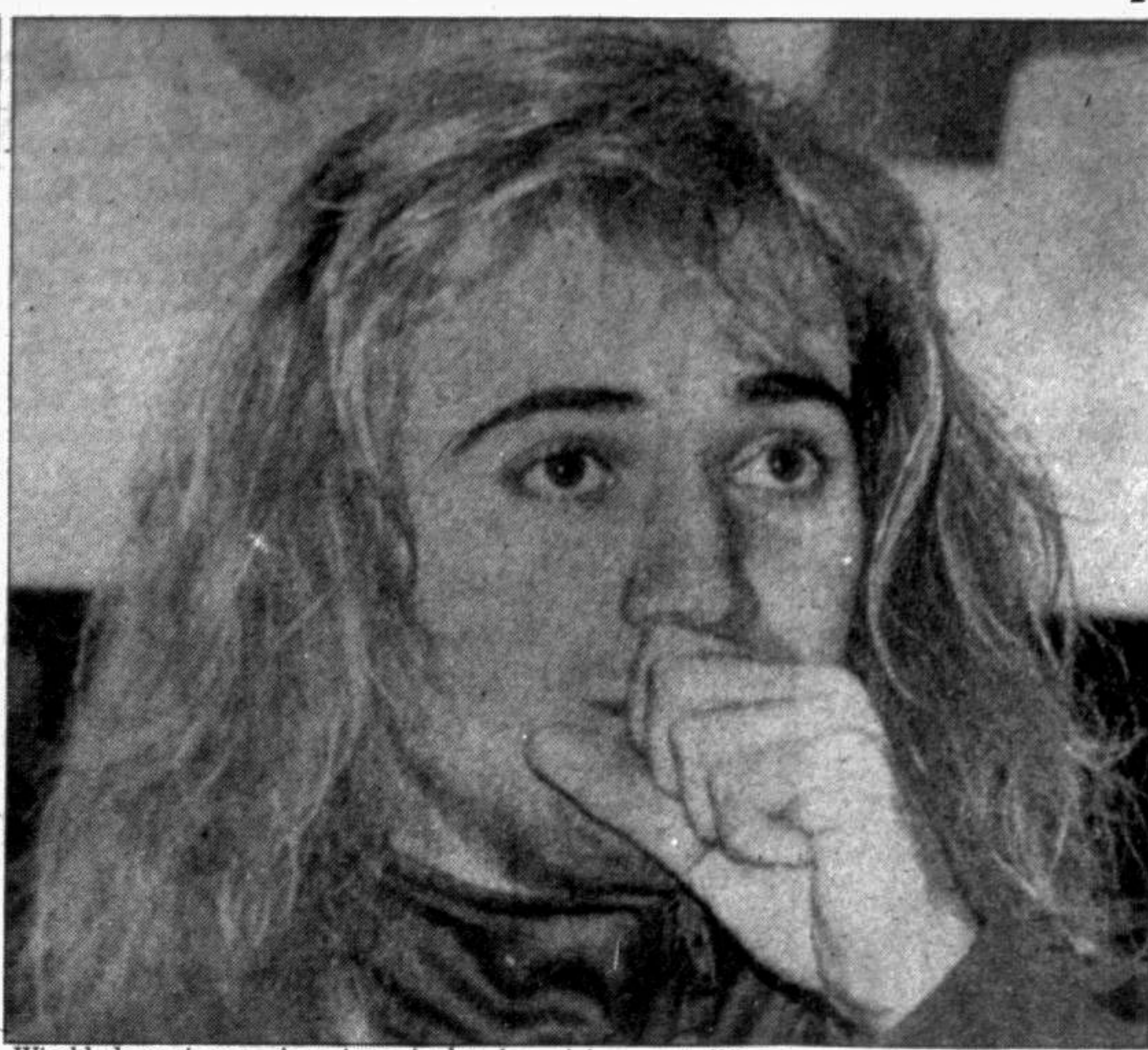


Champak wins weekly chess

Sports Reporter
FIDE Master Zillur Rahman Champak annexed the Azad Products holiday (weekly) chess tournament at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Mohsin Gold Cup chess starts

Mohsin Smriti Gold Cup, an open chess competition organised by the Narayanjanj Recreation Association in memory of late S A Mohsin, the association's founder, begins at the association auditorium this afternoon.



Wimbledon winner American Andre Agassi is seen talking to newsmen after the draw ceremony to determine the pairings for the US team's Davis Cup semifinal matches against Sweden in Minneapolis 25-27 September. Agassi beat World number one Stefan Edberg in the second singles played on Friday.

Agassi beats Edberg

US two up against Sweden in Davis Cup

MINNEAPOLIS Sept 26: Andre Agassi completed a first-day United States sweep, beating the world's top-ranked player, Stefan Edberg, in four sets Friday night for a 2-0 lead over Sweden in the Davis Cup semifinals, reports AP.

The Americans can win the best-of-5 semifinal as early as Saturday, when the doubles team of John McEnroe and Pete Sampras initially were scheduled to take on Edberg and Anders Jarryd. Both Agassi and US captain Tom Gorman said late Friday that a different combinations might be used.

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Christie, Farmer-Patrick shine in Havana



HAVANA, Sept 26: British's Linford Christie solidified his claim as the world's top sprinter and Sandra Farmer-Patrick won her second consecutive title in the 400-metre hurdles Friday night in the rain-plagued World Cup track and field meet, reports AP.

The confident and cocky Christie, the Olympic 100-metre gold medalist and self-appointed No 1 in the world, won his second straight World Cup crown.

Two other Olympic gold medalists were winners Friday night in this three-day, finals-only competition among hemisphere, continental and national teams. They were shot-putter Mike Stulce of the United States and women's Olympic 400-metre champion Marie Jose Perec of France, who captured the 200 Friday night.

Competing on a wet track and against a field watered down by the absence of Olympic runnerup Frank Fredericks of Namibia and world record-holder Carl Lewis, Christie prevailed in 10.21 seconds on a hot, humid night. Fredericks was injured and Lewis chose not to compete.

After false starts by two of his key rivals, former world record-holder Calvin Smith of the United States and Robson Da Silva of Brazil, the patient Christie got a good start and carried it through to the finish, beating runnerup Olapade Adeniken of Nigeria by nearly a metre.

Games are over and the motivational level is over. In 1989, Farmer-Patrick and her husband, David, swept the men's and women's 400-metre hurdles titles in the World Cup, a first for an American couple in a major international championship.



LINFORD CHRISTIE

With Patrick absent, Samuel Matete of Zambia, ranked No 1 in the world last year, took the men's 400 hurdles in 48.88. Matete, bidding his time, didn't forge into the lead until the last five metres, passing Britain's Jon Ridgeon.

Nat Page, Patrick's replacement, finished last in the field of seven, as the United States failed to win the event for the first time in six World Cup meets.

Stulce, in his first competition since the Olympics, won the shot put at 70 feet, 1/4 inch (21.34 metres), nearly 4 feet (1.21 metre) ahead of Sergei Nikolayev of the United Team.

"This was nice," said Stulce, who was suspended for two years in the spring of 1991 after testing positive for testosterone. "It reinforced the Olympics and gave me something to build on for the future."

man's 800, as David Sharpe of Britain whipped past him with three metres left and won in 1:46.06.

Sharpe's decisive move came just after Tanui had passed Jose Luiz Barbosa of Brazil and Andrea Benvenuti of Italy and appeared to catch Tasui unaware.

Other men's winners were Olympic bronze medalist Addis Adebbe of Ethiopia in the 10,000 in 28:44.38 and Ivan Pedroso of Cuba in the long



JUMP AT 26 FEET, 1 3/4 INCHES (7.97 METRES).



FARMER-PATRICK

The other women's winners were Ekaterina Todkopaeva of the Unified Team in the 1,500 in 4:17.60, Li Huirong of China in the triple jump at 45 feet 6 1/2 inches (13.88 metres), Ioanmet Quintero of Cuba in the high jump at 6 feet 4 1/4 inch (1.94 metres), and the Americas Team in the 1,600 relay in 3:29.73.

After six men's events, Britain led with 37 points, two ahead of Africa and 12 in front of defending champion United States, tied for fifth with 25.

After six women's events, the Unified Team led with 39 points, followed by the Europe Select with 35 points and the United States with 30.

Rain forced postponement of the opening ceremonies and the women's javelin until Saturday.

Guzman wins WBA flyweight title

SEOUL, Sept 26: Aquiles Guzman of Venezuela wrestled the World Boxing Association flyweight title from Kim Yong-gang of South Korea Saturday with a unanimous 12-round decision, reports AP.

There were no knockdowns in the fight in the southeastern port of Pohang, which the three judges scored 117-112, 117-111 and 116-113 in Guzman's favour.

Kim, attempting his third defense of the title he won in June 1991, out-punched Guzman in the first four rounds with quick straights and jabs.

But Guzman became more aggressive in the fifth round, hurling powerful uppercuts and hooks. Kim, 26, wobbled on the ropes in the sixth round, tolerating numerous punches.

Guzman, 27, now has a record of 12 wins, one draw and four defeats. It was Kim's fourth defeat against 25 victories.

Mansell holds pole position in Portuguese GP

ESTORIL, Portugal, Sept 26: Britain's Nigel Mansell held on to the pole position for the Portuguese Grand Prix Saturday after no one bettered his Friday qualifying time, Reports AP.

The Briton had the top time Friday with 1 minute 13.041 seconds on the 4.5-kilometre (2.703-mile) Autodrome circuit to average 214.4 kph (133.222 mph).

Mansell's best on Saturday was 1:13.961, fastest of the day in the windy conditions. Early rain had wet the track but it was dry by the afternoon session started.

Mansell took his 29th pole position of his career to move into third on the all-time list, breaking a tie with Argentina's Juan Fangio. Mansell's next target is the late Jim Clark with 33 pole starts, Ayrton Senna is the all-time leader with 64.

It was Mansell's 11th pole position of the season in 14 races.

Sunday's race is 71 laps. Mansell has won in 1986 and 1990.

Switzerland first into final

GENEVA, Sept 26: Marc Rosset and Jakob Hlasek combined for a doubles victory over Cassio Motta and Fernando Roese of Brazil on Saturday to move Switzerland into the finals of the Davis Cup in December, reports AP.

Switzerland will face the winner of the semifinal round

between Sweden and the United States. The United States led that best-of-five match 2-0 going into Saturday's doubles in Minneapolis.

Rosset and Hlasek, who had each won their singles matches on Friday, beat Motta and Roese 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 to give Switzerland a 3-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

An earlier Reuter report said: Switzerland were one step away from reaching the Davis Cup tennis final for the first time after Marc Rosset and Jakob Hlasek gave them a 2-0 lead over Brazil in their World Group semifinal on Friday.

Big-serving Olympic champion Rosset comfortably beat Jaime Oncina 6-3, 7-5, 7-5 in the first match while Hlasek was forced to four sets by Luiz Matter before winning 6-2, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

The winners of the best-of-five tie will play either last year's runners-up the United States or former champions Sweden in December's final.

Clay court specialist Oncina had no answer to the cannonball serving of Rosset and had to taste defeat for the first time after winning nine successive Davis Cup singles, all of his favourite surface.

Rosset hit 27 aces and 22 first-service winners in the 138-minute match while the Brazilian stood helpless on the baseline as the ball whizzed past him at an average speed of 200 KPH.

Oncina said: "There was nothing I could do. I hardly saw the ball sometimes."

Serve and volley specialist Hlasek seemed to be cruising to an easy win over Matter on the fast carpet court after taking command in the first two sets.

With a superb exhibition of attacking tennis, he dropped only four points on his serve in the first set and five in the second.

But then he squandered two break points in the fifth game of the third set by netting two easy volleys.

the match quickly. One break in the sixth game, helped by a lapse of concentration from Matter who found the 18,300 home fans distracting, was enough to give Hlasek victory.

Hlasek said: "I think I was over-confident in the tiebreak. They were stupid mistakes but I settled everything in the fourth set."

The Brazilians had sensationally beaten former champions Germany and Italy on slow clay in the previous rounds but found the fast indoor court much harder to cope with.

French Open champions Rosset and Hlasek team up in the doubles today against Fernando Roese and Cassio Motta.

CIS take 3-0 lead over ROK

MOSCOW, Sept 26: Andrei Cherkasov and Andrei Osolsky clinched a Davis Cup victory over South Korea Saturday as President Boris Yeltsin looked on, winning a doubles match that elevated Russia to the World Group next year, reports AP.

Cherkasov and Osolsky, playing for the Commonwealth of Independent States, defeated Kim Jaz-Siki and Kim Chi-Wan 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 to give the CIS an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the best of five match.

Next year's Davis Cup team officially will represent Russia, not the commonwealth, as the huge ex-Soviet sports establishment is formally broken up among its 15 former republics.

The CIS had taken a 2-0 lead on Friday when Cherkasov defeated Shin Han-Czhol 6-2, 6-4, 6-0, and Alexander Volkov breezed past Chang Hui-Jong 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

Yeltsin, an avid tennis fan and player, was among the spectators at the Moscow tennis complex.

Besides his love for the game, fans speculated he may have showed up as a diplomatic gesture to former foe South Korea, which he will visit in November. If the latter, Yeltsin's cause was hardly helped when, at the beginning of the match, technicians accidentally played the national anthem of Communist North Korea in honour of the team from South Korea.



Action from the classification match of the Partex First Division Basketball league between Josephites Club and Backstroke Boys Club at the Outer Stadium yesterday. Josephites won 67-57. -Star photo

The anger that drives Petranoff on



HAVANA, Sept 26: Burning anger at the US officials who banned him from competition continues to drive American-born South African Tom Petranoff, reports Reuter.

"Their insanity is the reason I'm here and why I think I can throw far," the former javelin world record holder said in an

interview on Friday.

Petranoff, 34, who is competing for Africa in the three-day athletics World Cup here, was banned from competition for six years by US officials after he took part in a rebel tour of South Africa in 1988.

He was reinstated earlier this year when the International Amateur Athletic Federation lifted its ban on South African athletes.

He will be the first South African to compete in Latin America or the Caribbean for 30 years.

"They (US officials) told me when they banned me that you can't, you won't and you never will compete internationally again," Petranoff said.

"My philosophy is that I can and I will, and I want them to watch me step back in."

Petranoff said he did not have any animosity toward the United States or the American people, but was still upset at his suspension.

"Ben Johnson was banned at the same time I was and he only got a two-year suspension for the world's great doping scandal and I was banned for six years," Petranoff said.

The former Southern California resident admitted he was mistaken in travelling to South Africa while apartheid laws were still in effect.

"I was politically naive," he said. "I didn't have the whole picture."

But he said he had no regrets in moving to South Africa.

"I'm a born-again javelin thrower," said Petranoff, who earlier this year improved his personal best to 87.26 metres, almost two metres ahead of his US record of 85.38.

A South African citizen since 1991, Petranoff, his wife and four daughters live in Johannesburg where Petranoff works as a consultant with a large mineral resources company and spends many hours running throwing clinics.

"So I've got to go another four year to Atlanta (site of the 1996 Olympics) to prove my point," he said.

Does he miss anything about the United States?

"The Mexican food," Petranoff replied.

Climbing feat

KATMANDU, Sept 26: A Nepalese Sherpa guide climbed the world's tallest peak, Mount Everest, for the eighth time, creating a record in mountaineering, reports from a base camp said Saturday, reports AP.

The message from a Spanish expedition team said 44-year-old mountain guide Ang Rita, reached the top of the 8,848-metre (29,028-ft) high mountain from the traditional southeast ridge route Friday.

Magic blames Bush for 'dropping the ball'

LOS ANGELES, Sept 26: Basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson resigned on Friday from the US National Commission on AIDS, accusing President George Bush of "dropping the ball" in the fight against the deadly disease, reports Reuter.

Johnson, whose announcement last year that he had the HIV virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome shocked the world, said in a letter to Bush he could no longer serve on a body "whose important work is so utterly ignored by your administration."

Bush appointed Johnson, one of the nation's most visible AIDS patients, to the commission in January, seven months later Johnson was on the US "Dream Team" that won the gold medal in the Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

In his letter to Bush, Johnson recalled meeting the president in January. "I have you a letter in which I expressed my hope that you would become more actively involved in the fight against AIDS," he said.

"No matter how good the team may be, I said it won't win the championship without the owner fully in the game. I am disappointed that you have dropped the ball, and that your administration is not doing everything that it must to fight this disease."

Johnson, who retired from professional basketball last year, told Bush he was sorry he had to write such a letter. "But I am afraid there is little that will be accomplished in the next four months (the remainder of Bush's current term in office)."

Magic Johnson

grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the commission "because it has given me the chance to learn so much about AIDS and what must be done to fight it."

He praised his fellow commissioners as a wonderful group of caring and dedicated people who had worked hard and effectively to develop a plan of action the nation should follow in the fight against AIDS.

"But the commission was becoming a very frustrated body," he said.

"As I think you know, along with my fellow commission members, I have been increasingly frustrated by the lack of support, and even the opposition, of your administration to our recommendations — recommendations which have an urgent priority for which there is broad consensus in the medical and AIDS communities," Johnson wrote.

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