

UN Sanctions will lead to new complicated problems: China

SC okays oil embargo on Khmer Rouge

All parties to ME talks invited to London

WASHINGTON, Dec 1: All parties to the multilateral Middle East peace negotiations have been invited to London this week to discuss the talks by co-sponsors Russia and the United States, the State Department said Monday, reports AFP.

The two government, which helped launch the peace process in October 1991 in Madrid, invited to London on Thursday and Friday delegates from Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinians, Egypt, the Gulf Cooperation Council, North African countries, the European Community, Canada and Japan.

They will resume alongside the bilateral discussions here December 7.

Four CIS states will send troops to Tajikistan

MOSCOW, Dec 1: Defence ministers of Russia and three other former Soviet republics are drafting a plan to send peacekeeping forces to stop the civil war in Tajikistan, news agencies reported Monday, reports AP.

The plan, which must be approved by leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, was forged during a closed-door meeting in Termez, Uzbekistan, Interfax reported. The heads of state are scheduled to meet December 25 in the Belarusian capital, Minsk.

Participating in Monday's meeting were Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, as well as his counterparts from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, it said. CIS military commander Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov and a top Tajik leader, Imol Rakhmonov, also attended, it said.

Capt. Valery Myasnikov, spokesman for the commonwealth armed forces, told The Associated Press that authorities were still trying to determine the composition of such a peacekeeping force and the duration of its mission.

Tajikistan, the poorest of the former Soviet republics, has been wracked by civil war since a coalition of Islamic and democratic forces ousted former Communist leader Rakhmon Nabiyev in September.

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 1: The Security Council toughened its stance Monday against the Khmer Rouge, endorsing an oil embargo and reaffirming that UN-supervised elections will go ahead whether or not the guerrilla group takes part, reports AFP.

In a resolution passed with 14 votes in favour and China — which backed the Khmer Rouge during its war against the Phnom Penh government — abstaining, the Security Council threatened a freeze on Khmer Rouge assets abroad should they obstruct the UN peace plan.

Resolution 792 calls on the Supreme National Council (SNC) to consider suspending exports of minerals and gems, as it halted wood exports in

September, to protect Cambodian natural resources.

The trade in precious stones is thriving in zones under Khmer Rouge control along the Thai border, but the Security Council opted to allow the SNC to take its own action.

The Resolution said the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) should continue preparing for free and fair elections throughout Cambodia in April-May 1993.

UNTAC should have free access to all parts of the country from January 31, the last day of voter registration, it said.

The resolution called on "those concerned to ensure that measures are taken... to prevent the supply of petroleum products to the areas occupied by any Cambodian party not complying" with pro-

visions of the 1991 Paris Peace accord.

The embargo notably affects Thailand, which borders Cambodia, and aims to prod the intransigent Khmer Rouge back into the peace process that ended the 13-year Cambodian civil war.

The Khmer Rouge have refused to lay down their weapons in line with the peace treaty or cooperate with UN peacekeepers preparing for the elections.

Instead they demand more political power through the SNC, which groups the four previously warring factions under UN supervision, as well as the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from the country, claiming that both positions are valid under terms of the peace accords.

Western diplomats said the resolution seemed a compromise between the gradual approach on sanctions advocated by France and the punitive line endorsed by the United States, which wants tough measures against the Khmer Rouge.

Chinese Ambassador Li Daoyou, explaining Beijing's decision to abstain from the vote, said the sanctions "will further increase differences and sharpen contradictions and could consequently lead to new complicated problems."

French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee said "no party can assume the right" to cast doubt on the peace process, adding that France especially was eager to see the presidential election carried out on schedule.

US Ambassador Edward

Perkins said the January 31 deadline for opening areas to UNTAC was "of particular importance."

Washington is "gravely concerned," he said, by the failure of the Khmer Rouge to "carry out the provisions of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions or to meet its solemn obligations under the Paris accords."

Japanese Ambassador Yoshio Hatanosaid the resolution sent "a clear and firm message... (to the Khmer Rouge) to respond positively to the will of the international community."

But, he added, it left a door open for the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the peace process. Hours before the Security Council vote, the Khmer Rouge

announced they were creating a political party to contest the elections next year under certain conditions — suggesting that they too want to see the peace process work.

Meanwhile, Thailand has effectively suspended United Nations Cambodia flights via Bangkok, UN officials said in Bangkok today.

UN supply flights into the Thai capital will in future be required to obtain three days advance authorisation to enter Thai airspace, the UN officials said.

A December flights programme which had been agreed upon by the Thai military and the UNTAC has been suspended. UN officials said discussions were under way to get the curbs lifted.

Tohra re-elected SGPC chief

AMRITSAR, India, Dec 1: Sikh politician Gurcharan Singh Tohra was re-elected in this Punjab holy city Monday for a 19th term as President of a Sikh religious body regarded as Sikhdom's parliament, reports AFP.

Tohra, 68, was unanimously chosen as chief of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), Sikh temple managing committee, after his only rival Jagdev Singh Talwandi, withdrew from the contest.

The SGPC, with a total membership of 160, controls the purse strings of Sikh temples in Punjab, where Sikh militants have been leading a bloody secessionist campaign for the past decade.

It plays an influential role in Sikh politics, inextricably interwoven with religion.

Angola slides back to civil war

LUANDA, Dec 1: Fighting between government forces and UNITA rebels spread across three strategic cities in northern Angola as the military warned that the country was sliding back into full-scale civil war, reports Reuters.

Top Generals said the government was still in command of the oil town of Soyo, Uige city and the nearby air base in Negage after two days of fierce fighting.

But UN peace monitors and international aid workers evacuated from Uige on Monday said UNITA had effectively gained control of the city, 300 kms (180 miles) northeast of Luanda, and had entered Negage.

"UNITA has control of Uige," said one of the UN observers who described relentless gun and mortar fire for two days.

The government said it was fighting in defence and blamed UNITA for any resumption of their 16-year conflict. "We are essentially at war," a senior General, Cirilo De Sa "Ita" told Reuters. "UNITA is occupying territory and the government can not let this happen."

There was no word on casualties but a Brazilian military police sergeant in Uige was killed in a grenade blast on Sunday, the first UN observer

to die in Angola since the organisation began overseeing May 1991 peace accords.

The UN Special Representative in Angola — Margaret Anstee — said the violence was regrettable as it came just days after both sides agreed to honour the peace accords and a nation-wide truce.

"It is a step backwards," she told Reuters, adding that it did not auger well for a negotiated settlement.

Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio De Moura said he had appealed to UNITA Information Secretary Jorge Valentim "to let good sense prevail". There were unconfirmed reports the two sides would meet on Tuesday in the southern coastal city of Namibe.

13 extremists held in Cairo

CAIRO, Dec 1: Egyptian authorities on Monday arrested 13 Islamic fundamentalists in southern Cairo, including two suspects in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat, police said, reports AFP.

Risk Gharib Ali and his brother Nasser had been on the run for 11 years, police said. They were rounded up with 11 other suspects.



FILES: Picture dated 1989 taken in Yangon of Nobel Peace laureate Aung Sun Suu Kyi. Aung, who is in her fourth year under house arrest for her opposition activities in Myanmar, has begun a hunger strike, according to a statement made to the press by her husband Michael Aris on Monday in London. — AFP/UNB photo

Kohl not serious about neo-Nazi problem?

BONN, Dec 1: Chancellor Helmut Kohl is under fire from critics who say he has missed one opportunity after another to show his concern about the rising tide of right-wing violence, reports AP.

The Chancellor did not attend last week's memorial in Hamburg for three Turkish victims of a firebombing in the town of Moelln. Instead his government dispatched its foreign and labour ministers — sending a message, some said, that Germany's 1.6 million ethnic Turks are viewed primarily as foreign labourers.

Jochen Thies, editor of the Bonn-based foreign policy journal Europa-Archiv, said Kohl could also have acted back in September when the former concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, north of Berlin, was torched by unknown arsonists.

The chancellor should've gone there," Thies said. Critics suggest Kohl is more likely to speak of the anti-forgiveness attacks as blackening Germany's image abroad and threatening its prosperity — rather than denouncing the violence in emotional or moral terms.

They also say Kohl failed to quickly grasp the seriousness of the problem, which simmered for months before boiling over in a wave of increasingly brutal attacks. "The problem is that this

government acted to late. I would have taken much more seriously the early warning signs," said Thies.

"Ironically, though, few analysts think Kohl's long-term political standing will be hurt by the rightist threat.

"This brings no voter from one to another party because all of the democratic parties are confronted and afflicted by this problem," said Fritz Flitzsar, head of the political think tank affiliated with the centrist Free Democrats, Kohl's junior coalition partners.

"First, there would have to be someone who is able to replace to him, and second there'd need to be someone who could convince others he could solve the problem," said Roland Freudenstein, an analyst at the German Society for Foreign Policy. "I don't think we have that someone."

Some doubt the value of the government's highly publicized move banning a small neo-Nazi group not known to have participated in any recent attacks.

"The question is whether it will help anything aside from improving our image abroad," said Freudenstein. "We shouldn't expect any miracles from the prohibition of groups. It's not going to end the violence."

US turns over command of jt forces to ROK

SEOUL, Dec 1: The United States turned over command of joint US-South Korean ground forces to a South Korean General today, a US military spokesman said, reports Reuters.

The move is part of a plan to give South Korea more responsibility for defending its heavily-guarded border with communist North Korea.

General Robert Riscassi, US Military Commander in South Korea, presided at a ceremony at the US military headquarters in Seoul to mark the transfer of ground command to South Korean General Kim Dong-Jin.

Seoul and Washington also established a Combined Marine Forces Command (CMFC) to boost the ability of joint amphibious operations and to improve marine capabilities.

The marine force will be under the command of South Korea's marine corps, although a US lieutenant-general from the US Pacific command would lead the CMFC in the event of war, the spokesman said.

An American general has headed the combined forces since the 1950-53 Korean war. Riscassi also leads a United Nations command based in South Korea.

About 37,000 US servicemen currently serve in the south.

BRIEFLY

India takes over SC presidency:

Indian UN representative Chinnaya Gharekhan takes over the presidency of the Security Council Tuesday for the month of December, succeeding ambassador Andre Erdos of Hungary, reports Reuters from UN.

The post rotates monthly according to the English alphabetical order of the council's 15-member delegation.

UN extends Salvador operation:

The Security Council on Monday extended the UN peacekeeping operation in El Salvador to May 31 in recognition that peace accords in the central American country have fallen well behind schedule, reports Reuters from UN.

At the same time, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told reporters he had received a letter from the Salvadorean government, presumably containing President Alfredo Cristiani's crucial plan to purge army officers accused of gross human rights abuses.

Seoul, Pretoria set up ties: South Korea and South Africa set up diplomatic ties for the first time Tuesday in an agreement signed in Tokyo, reports AP from Seoul.

Envoys from the two countries signed the accord at the South Korean Embassy. A South African Embassy official said the signing took place in Tokyo because Pretoria has no diplomatic mission in Seoul.

Palestinian shot dead

JERUSALEM, Dec 1: Israeli troops shot to death a 14-year-old Palestinian and wounded five Arabs Tuesday when stones were thrown at the soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip, Arab reports said, according to AP.

The stoning erupted after the army temporarily lifted a three-day curfew on the Sheik Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City so residents could buy food, Arab reporters said.

The curfew was imposed Friday to maintain quiet after one resident was killed and five wounded in another stoning of troops in the neighbourhood.

The army said it was checking the reported death. According to military orders, troops can only fire when their lives are in danger and then only at suspects' legs.

The dead youth was identified as Amer Abu Sharkh, who was shot in the head. His death brought to 986 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians in the five-year revolt against occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

UN approves chemical arms convention by consensus

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 1: The UN General Assembly on Monday endorsed by consensus a crucial chemical weapons convention, clearing the way for signature early next year, reports Reuters.

"The United States government believes that the United Nations General Assembly has made history today... by adopting the chemical weapons resolution without a vote," said US Deputy Representative Alexander Watson.

The treaty would ban the production, use and stockpiling of chemical arms and includes intrusive inspections to verify compliance.

A total of 146 states sponsored the resolution prerequisite to opening the treaty for signature at a ceremony in Paris, scheduled for January 13.

The landmark convention is expected to become interna-

tional law in 1995 and needs at least 65 states to ratify it after the initial signing. The unusual two-year delay permits a new organisation, to be based in the Hague, to set up procedures to monitor compliance.

While the treaty is certain to get the minimum number of signatories, its advocates aim at convincing nearly every country in the world to ratify it.

Several Arab Nations have reservations to eliminating chemical weapons from the Middle East while Israel is in possession of nuclear weapons. And China has objected on grounds that the definition of chemical weapons was so broad inspections could be open to abuse.

Chemical weapons were used extensively in the 1980-88 Gulf War between Iran and Iraq. Iran was one of the co-sponsors of the resolution.

Watson, in his address to the Assembly, said "Universal participation" was key to the "viability of this convention."

All signers of the accord, hammered out in painful talks in Geneva which began 24 years ago and ended in September, would be obliged to destroy poison gas supplies by the year 2,000 unless they received permission to extend by five years for technical reasons.

The United States and Russia have the largest chemical weapons stockpiles and among the few countries to admit to their existence.

Washington and Moscow two years ago agreed to eliminate about 80 per cent of their chemical arms but Russia has no operating installations to destroy them. The US army plans to take until the year 2,000 to destroy stockpiles.

Pakistan seeks China's help in space science

KARACHI, Dec 1: Pakistanis seeking Chinese cooperation in space science and technology, officials said today, reports AFP.

A delegation of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) left for Beijing Monday to meet Chinese space scientists and engineers.

The delegation comprising Dr M Ishaq Shah and Dr M Nasim Shah will also participate in a workshop on multinational cooperation in space technology and applications, being jointly organised by SUPARCO and the Chinese Society for Astronautics (CSA) December 1-5.

Scientists belonging to the China International Exchange Centre for Space Science and Technology (CIECS) will also participate.

AIDS may run out of control by end of the century

WASHINGTON Dec 1: World Experts on AIDS fear the disease could run out of control by the end of the century and are pleading with governments to spend billions of dollars more for prevention as the only practical way to stop it, reports Reuters.

The global AIDS policy coalition centred at Harvard University reported there are signs the disease is entering a new, more dangerous phase because many countries are becoming complacent and denying the size of the problem.

"Nobody believes what we are doing now will bring the epidemic under control," Dr Jonathan Man, Coordinator of the AIDS policy coalition, said, he has predicted the number of people infected with the AIDS virus could reach 110 million by the year 2000.

In a 1,037 page report called "AIDS in the world", the coalition said world financial commitment for AIDS prevention and control fell for the first time in 1991.

The lack of money was par-

ticularly noticed in developing countries where about 0.07 per person was spent in sub-Saharan Africa on AIDS prevention, 0.03 per person in Latin America compared to 1.18 per person in Europe and 2.71 in the United States, it said.

"When you see that response plateauing or declining at the same time the epidemic is expanding and intensifying, that is a kind of a call to arms," Mann said in a telephone interview.

The report, which was prepared for the 1992 World AIDS Day on December 1, said there have been some successes at the local level which need to be expanded.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome weakens the body's immune system and leaves it open to tuberculosis, pneumonia, cancers and other infections which ultimately prove fatal. Discovery of a cure or vaccine is far in the future.

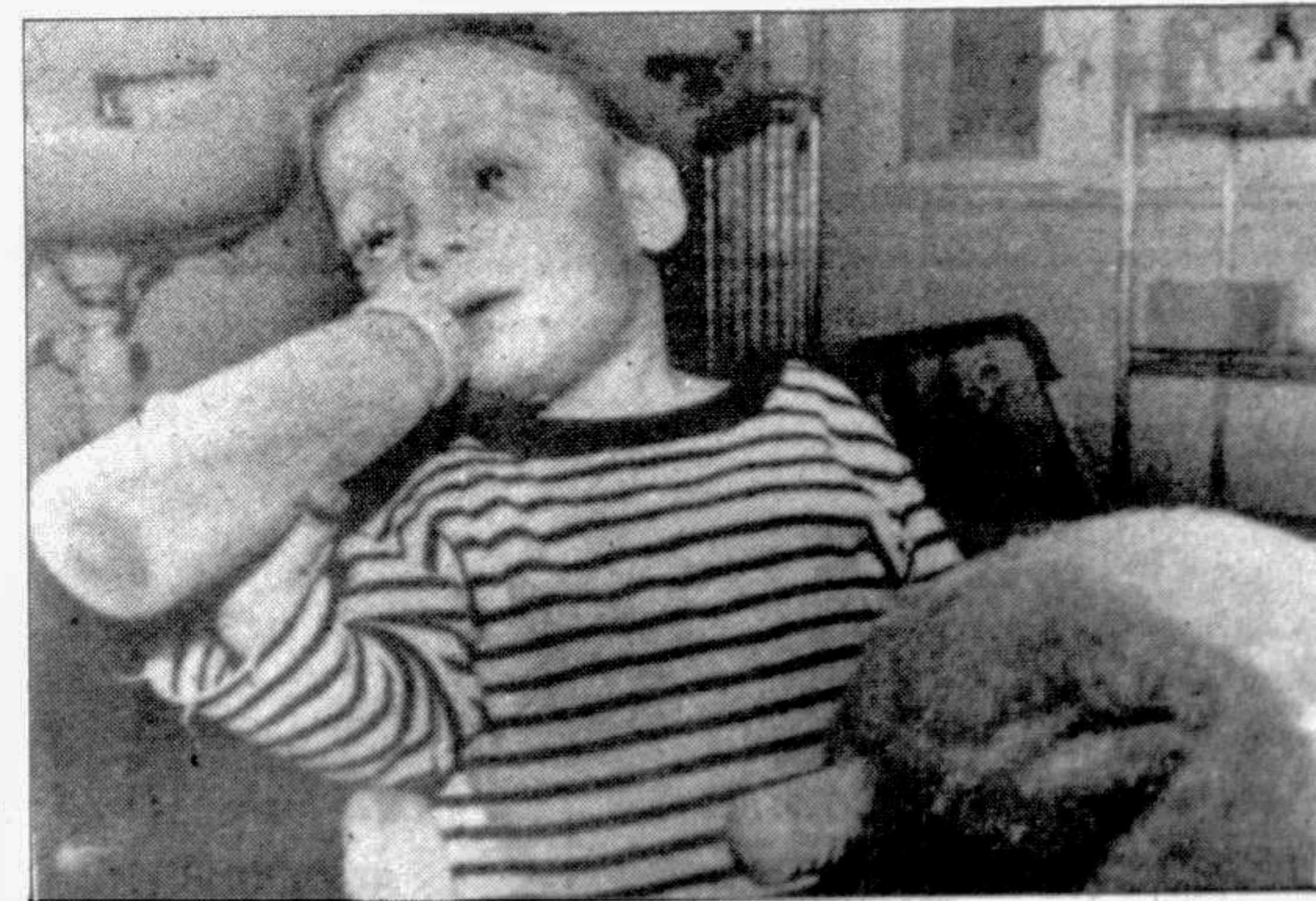
The AIDS virus is spread through sexual contact, blood and sharing of contaminated needles by intravenous drug

users. The head of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) AIDS effort, Dr Michael Merson, said he is campaigning for a 2.5 billion commitment by governments and businesses in wealthier countries to prevent the spread of the disease.

"The poorer countries need help. 2.5 billion is not that much money, compared with the cost of the disease," he said in a telephone interview. Merson, based at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, was in Washington for World AIDS Day activities.

Prevention would include more money spent to provide condoms to the poor and education on safe sexual practices to protect against AIDS infection.

Developing countries spent about 120 million on AIDS prevention last year. Merson noted that Thailand alone spent 46 million and has had some success, especially with its work to mandate use of condoms in brothels.



BUCHAREST: A five-year old AIDS patient showing symptoms of the disease, drinks from a bottle while on a rocking horse at Victor Babes Hospital in Bucharest on Monday. — AFP photo

Plane collision kills 13 in Montana

HARLEM, Mont, Dec 1: Two military cargo planes collided Monday night over Montana and crashed, authorities said. An Air Force spokesman said all 13 people aboard apparently were killed, reports AP.

The collision occurred during a refueling training mission involving four Air Force C-141s and a tanker, said Ray Martell, a spokesman for McCord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Wash, where the cargo planes were based.

Two of the C-141s collided over north-central Montana and crashed near Harlem, about 30 miles (48 kms) south of the Canadian border, authorities said.

There was a major collision and two fireballs were observed by the crews of the other two (C-141) aircraft and we have reports of aircraft parts near the town of Harlem," Martell said.

There were six people on one of the C-141s and seven on the other, said Gloris Rayford, spokeswoman for the 62nd Airlift Wing at McCord.