

## BRIEFLY

**Mandela agrees to visit Israel:**

ANC President Nelson Mandela on Monday met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, accepted an invitation to visit Israel and thanked South African Jews for fighting against apartheid, AP reports from United Nations.

A statement by Israel's UN mission said it was the first time that the ANC president had met an Israeli leader, who extended the invitation. Mandela accepted with pleasure, it said.

The date of the visit was not set.

**Five killed in Kashmir violence:**

Muslim rebels killed five civilians in Kashmir after dubbing them police informers, as five militants died in unending violence in the Indian state police said Monday, AFP reports from Srinagar.

The civilians included a 67-year-old man and a Hindu, police said in this summer capital of Kashmir. The five were killed on Sunday and Monday after being accused of passing information to Indian security forces.

They were the first reported killings after New Delhi named a Hindu, M M Sabharwal, as the new police chief of Kashmir, where a four-year-old separatist campaign by Muslim guerrillas has left thousands dead.

**IRA bombs rock Belfast:**

Two IRA bombs exploded Monday in Belfast, causing no injuries but underscoring that peace may be a long way off despite a flurry of reports suggesting progress in ending the conflict, AP reports from Belfast.

The first bomb exploded early Monday in central Belfast, causing minor damage to some buildings. A second bomb went off Monday night at a shopping centre in the south of the city. No damage was reported.

More than 3,000 people have died in 23 years of political and sectarian violence in the troubled province.

**Road mishap claims 2 in China:**

Two people died and one was injured when a truck collided with a passenger train in China's eastern Jiangsu province, the China Daily reported Tuesday, AFP says from Beijing.

The brakes of the truck failed and it smashed through the barrier at a railway junction near the town of Xinzou on Friday, colliding into the side of the passing train, the English language daily reported.

The train was a one of China's latest double-decker tourist services, travelling from Shanghai to the Jiangsu capital Nanjing, 300 kilometres (180 miles) to the west.

**James Doolittle dead:**

Retired Lt. Gen. James H Doolittle, who became a national hero when he led the first World War II bombing raid on Japan in 1942, died Monday at 96, AP reports from Pebble Beach.

Doolittle died at his son's home after suffering a stroke earlier this month.

He established an unparalleled string of aviation records in the 1920s and '30s, first as an army pilot and then as an employee of the Shell Oil Co. In 1925, he became one of the first people to earn a doctorate in aeronautics.

But he was remembered above all for leading the April 18, 1942, raid on Japan.

**Maoists kill 5 in Peru:**

Maoist Shining Path guerrillas killed five people and seriously wounded two others in attacks around the country, police said Monday, AP reports from Lima.

In the worst attack, the rebels on Sunday shot dead three traders in Lima's working-class Canto Grande district, police said. The rebels accused the three of being drug addicts.

Also Sunday, he rebels overran the Andean community of Larraquiri in the department of Puno, 525 miles (845 kilometres) southeast of Lima, killing a policeman and destroying the police station and government buildings.

In other violence, rebels killed an eight-year-old girl and seriously wounded her parents last Thursday near the central jungle town of La Merced, 145 miles (230 kilometres) east of Lima.

**Lankan planes bomb rebel bases:**

Shri Lanka air force planes bombed suspected rebel bases in two northern districts Tuesday, the military spokesman said, AP reports from Colombo.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the attacks in the districts of Jaffna, the rebel stronghold on the northern peninsula, and Kilinochchi on the mainland, eight miles (12 kms) south of the peninsula.

An indefinite curfew was imposed Monday in the districts of Mannar and Mullaitivu, on the northwestern and northeastern coasts, after five soldiers were killed in battles with Tamil guerrillas, said spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angamunna.

**Commission to study grievances of Pak non-Muslims**

ISLAMABAD, Sept 28: Pakistan's caretaker government set up a commission on Monday to study the grievances of the Islamic country's non-Muslim minorities and recommend remedies, reports Reuters.

The commission, headed by Religious Minority Affairs Minister Abdul Shakoor-Ul-Salam, will look into laws, executive orders and procedural practices that may be discriminatory towards the minorities, a government statement said.

It will recommend steps to ensure an "effective participation" of the minority communities in all aspects of the national life and to ensure their full and effective participation and association with their religious and cultural festivals and celebrations," the statement said.

The commission will also ensure preservation and upkeep of the shrines and temples of the minority communities, it said.

It said the commission would hold its first meeting on October 2, but set no deadline for the recommendations.

Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi's caretaker government must hand over to an elected government after the national elections set for October 6.

Just over three per cent of Pakistan's predominantly Muslim population of more than 120 million are non-Muslims, including Christians, Hindus, Parsees and Buddhists.

A process of Islamisation of Pakistan society started in the 1980s by the late military ruler, General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, led to complaints of discrimination.

**DPRK beefs up border forces along South**

TOKYO, Sept 28: North Korea has beefed up its forces along the border with South Korea and tripled the number of military flight drills, Japanese media said Tuesday, reports AP.

The national Yomiuri newspaper, quoting sources in Japan's defence agency, said North Korea's military buildup began early this year.

A similar Washington-dated report in the Mainichi newspaper's Monday evening edition said the information came from analyses by the U.S. Pacific Army and the U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency.

**Clinton, Ghali mildly clash on the role UN should play**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 28: President Bill Clinton and UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali politely clashed on Monday on the role the United Nations should play as the world's policeman, reports Reuters.

Clinton wants the United Nations to limit its actions, Boutros-Ghali wants the world to realise that the UN is playing a new role in bringing peace to a troubled world and wants patience and support for peacekeeping efforts that circle the globe.

In his first speech before a UN General Assembly, Clinton, the bright new President of the United States with a massive

**One million disenfranchised in electoral rolls  
Fresh violence feared in Assam**

GUWAHATI (India), Sept 28: India's northeastern state of Assam, beset by separatist insurgencies and tribal bloodshed, faced a major new problem today over who is entitled to vote, reports Reuters.

Muslim leaders in the majority Hindu state said up to one million people had been disenfranchised in new electoral rolls, originally due to be published today. Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia said he feared the issues could cause fresh violence.

"My party leaders and legislators from minority areas are giving me alarming reports," Saikia told Reuters.

Domestic intelligence officials said they were worried the issue could prove explosive.

"Muslim youths who lose

their vote might well become headline recruits for Pakistani-sponsored terrorist outfits. Assam is one area Pakistan wants to destabilise," alleged one official who asked not to be identified.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training separatist militants in Kashmir and Punjab. Islamabad denies the charge.

The Assam High Court, ruling on cases brought largely by Muslims, ordered the suspension of publication of the new rolls, court officials said.

The last time the rolls were compiled, in 1990, there were 19.8 million names on them. The intelligence officials said at least 500,000 names had been dropped.

"Most of the names elected from the draft electoral rolls now under preparation in Assam belong to Muslim immigrants but some Bengali and Nepali-speaking Hindus have also been dropped," one election commission official said. He declined to give further details.

The issue of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, who are mostly Muslims, and from Nepal, mostly Hindus, has been a contentious one in Assam for years.

It returned to the forefront after the election commission in New Delhi issued "special guidelines" for registration in Assam. It said people had to possess a valid Indian passport, a citizenship certificate or an Indian birth certificate.

T N Sesham, the Chief

Election Commissioner, said the guidelines had been framed to identify and disenfranchise illegal immigrants who entered India after March 25, 1971.

That cut off date was agreed to end a sometimes bloody agitation led by Assamese students in the 1980s against illegal immigrants.

"The Assamese bureaucracy is misusing these directives to deny voting rights to thousands of genuine Indian citizens who have lived in Assam for three or four decades or more," said Gholam Osman, Chairman of the United Minorities Front.

The All Assam Students Union, which led the 1980s agitation, said the new rolls had not gone far enough in weeding out foreigners.

**Japan to clamp down on illicit political payoff**

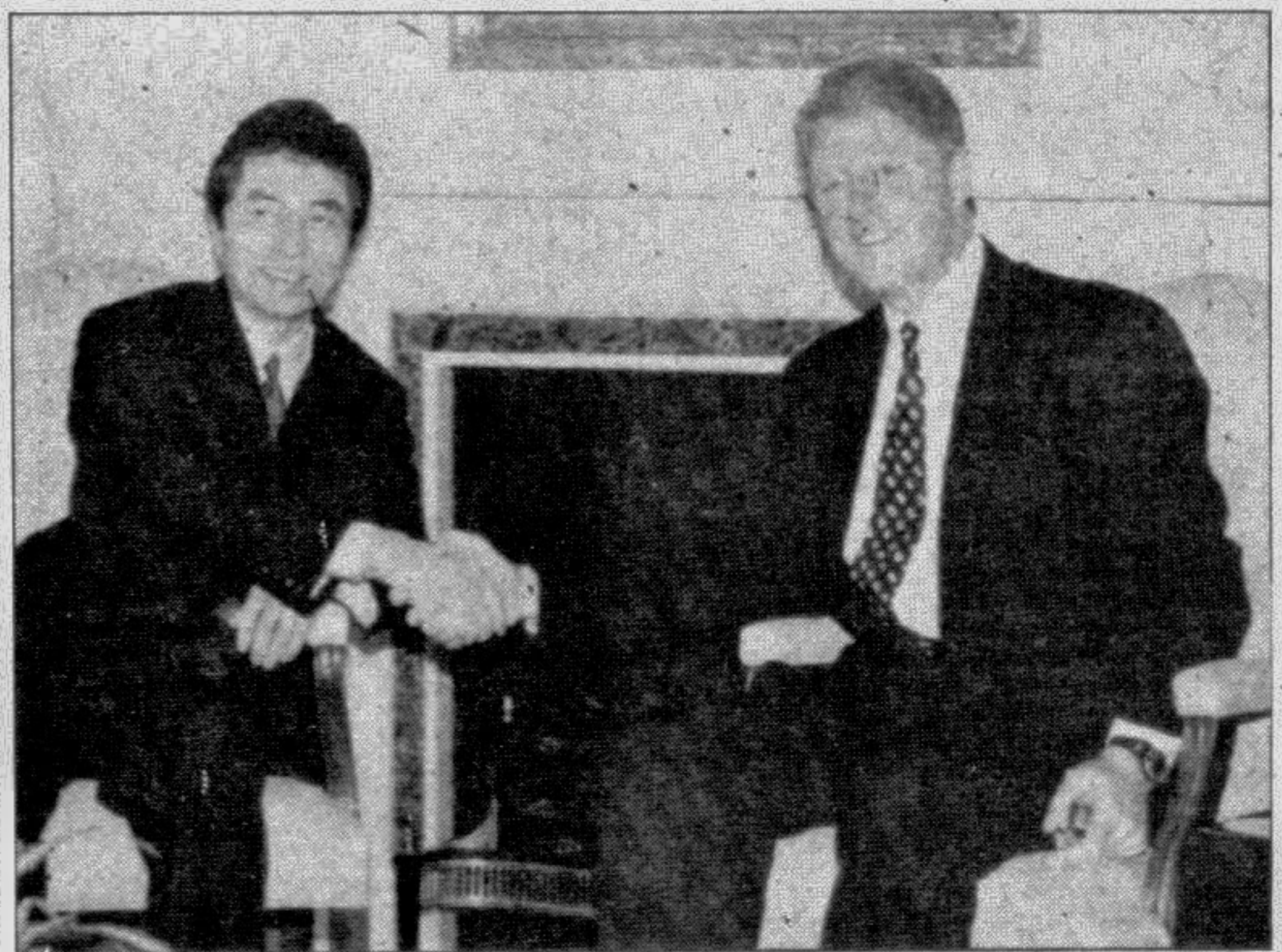
TOKYO, Sept 28: Japan's Acting Prime Minister said today the government would clamp down on illicit ties between politicians and construction firms as a growing scandal brought the arrest of a second regional Governor, says Reuters.

"It is extremely regrettable that a second incumbent governor has been arrested," commented chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, deputising for Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa who on Monday addressed the United Nations.

"We will make serious efforts to improve this system."

Television news showed Shuntaro Honma, Governor of Miyagi prefecture in northern Japan, being hauled off in the middle of the night on suspicion he took a 20 million yen (188,000 dollars) payoff from Taisei Corp, a leading construction firm.

News reports said prosecutors also arrested two Taisei executives and a regional official of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).



President Bill Clinton (R) and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa (L) shake hands as they pose for photographers during the 48th opening session of the United Nations General Assembly Sept 27 in New York. Both the leaders addressed the opening session. — AFP photo

**Japan drops candidacy for UNSC****China backs Bonn's bid for SC seat**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 28: China on Monday for the first time clearly supported a seat for Germany on the Security Council, a German official said, reports Reuters.

He said Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, in discussions with his German counterpart, Klaus Kinkel, "responded positively" to Bonn's bid to become a permanent member of the council.

China previously said they viewed Germany's quest for seat on the 15-member body favourably. "But I think they were more outspoken today," said the official, who asked that he not be named.

Germany as well as Japan is

seeking to join the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China as a permanent council member with veto powers before the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in 1995.

Germany is the third highest contributor to the UN budget, following the United States and Japan.

AP adds: German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel repeated Germany's desire for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council on Monday, two days before he addresses the world body.

"Germany deserves permanent membership as the United Nations' third-largest contributor and Europe's most populous

and economically powerful nation," Kinkel told ZDF TV.

Kinkel, who is scheduled to address the UN General Assembly in New York on Wednesday, brought the issue up before parliament last week and then took his crusade to the news media.

"The decisive foreign policy and security questions are being discussed in the Security Council today. That's where the action is," Kinkel said in an interview published Monday by the magazine Der Spiegel.

"The Germans must — after reunification and their newly won full sovereignty — come out of the gallery and become fully empowered negotiators."

Meanwhile, Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa played down his nation's hopes for permanent membership on the UN Security Council on Monday, telling the world body only that Japan would do its bit in a reformed UN.

Hosokawa urged the UN General Assembly to strengthen the functions of the Security Council and noted many countries, including Japan, favoured an expansion of the council's membership.

Hosokawa also used his first speech to the General Assembly to proudly proclaim a new era in Japanese politics free from the corruption of the past.

**US Navy ships in Taiwan**

TAIPEI, Sept 28: Three 20-year-old frigates leased from the US Navy have arrived in Taiwan, giving a boost to the island's navy against arch-rival China, officials said Tuesday, reports AP.

The anti-submarine frigates, equipped with missiles and other advanced weapons systems, arrived at Choyin port, 860 kilometres (215 miles) south of Taipei, on Monday, Defence Ministry officials told reporters. They gave no details.

Taiwan will buy the frigates outright after five years in a deal structured to comply with a US government ban on selling warships less than 25 years old. The Broadcasting Corp of China said, Taiwan plans to lease up to nine more frigates from the US Navy, it said.

The cost of 236 million dollar includes 75 million dollar for refitting the three vessels, according to earlier newspaper reports.

The vessels are part of an ambitious plan to modernise Taiwan's navy and replace its 24 aging destroyers.

**UK unhappy over HK talks with China**

BEIJING, Sept 27: Britain's chief negotiator in talks with China on Hong Kong's last elections under British rule expressed disappointment Monday over the slow pace of progress, reports AP.

"I think it is no secret to say that we have not made as much progress as we would have wished," said Sir Robin McLaren, Britain's ambassador to China. "There is still a substantial gap" between the two sides despite five months of talks.

McLaren spoke at the end of the two-day 12th round, the final negotiations before the British and Chinese foreign ministers were to meet Friday in New York at the opening of the UN General Assembly.

The ambassador said he hoped the meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd "will serve to give new impetus to our talks."

A 13th round of talks is scheduled October 11-12.

The dispute over Hong Kong began last October when the colony's British-appointed governor, Chris Patten, announced plans to expand voter participation in the colony's 1994 and 1995 local elections, the last before Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997. China's authoritarian Communist rulers were outraged by the proposal.

Patten has warned China that should the talks fail, he is ready to go ahead with the plans to broaden democracy. Chinese leaders have threatened to remove any elected officials they dislike after they regain sovereignty.

McLaren was asked Monday if Britain would consider giving up its position that those elected in 1994 and 1995 must be allowed to serve out their four-year terms — a concept known as "the through train."

**Rabin meets King Hussein secretly**

JERUSALEM, Sept 28: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Jordan's King Hussein secretly aboard a boat with the curtains drawn to discuss Middle East peace strategy, Israeli reports said Tuesday, says AP.

It was the second day the meeting was being reported but Monday's reports were speculative and uncertain whether Rabin had met Hussein or another Arab leader. Tuesday's reports were more specific and were carried on the front pages of news dailies.

The reports were denied Monday by Rabin, and officials at Hussein's palace in Amman. "There was no meeting," Rabin told reporters near Tel Aviv. "I won't go into further details."

Newspapers said Rabin flew secretly to the southern port of Eilat on Sunday, and was taken in a van without windows to the meeting with Hussein, off the Israeli and Jordanian coasts.

**Off the Record****People to sing and shout to scare off elephants**

YAOUNDE: The authorities in Cameroon may use drums and thunderflashes to scare off hundreds of elephants that have killed four farmers and wrecked crops in a northern valley, reports Reuters.

Steve Gartlan, representative of the world wide fund for nature, said officials were also considering getting local people to sing and shout to drive off the animals, which invaded the Logone river valley at the start of this month.

Elephants are hardly being poached or hunted any more and therefore they have lost their fear of humans, Gartlan said, adding that the local population had no experience in handling the animals and this was why the farmers had been killed.

He said another option was to use thunderflashes, which had been successful in other areas.

The official Cameroon Tribune said on Monday that Prime Minister Simon Achidi Achu, who visited the area last week, was considering allocating hunting permits. Cameroon has about 20,000 elephants.

**BA feels it dangerous to carry Rushdie**

LONDON: British Airways (BA), which bills itself "The world's favourite airline," refuses to carry British author Salman Rushdie, who has been in hiding since 1989, Rushdie told the Guardian newspaper yesterday, reports AFP.

The author was sentenced to death in 1989 by Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini after his controversial novel "The Satanic Verses" was judged by Muslims to be blasphemous.

"This has been going on for two years. They have gambled that I would not make it public, but now you have a situation where an innocent citizen is being denied passage by his country's national airline," he told the paper.

Rushdie said the British government had on three occasions asked BA to change its policy and the airline had refused each time.

BA said it had decided after "very careful consideration" that it was simply too dangerous to carry him.

"While we have every sympathy with Rushdie's difficulties with overseas travel, our ultimate responsibility is the safety and security of our customers and our staff," said a spokesman.

**Yeltsin's father was sentenced for complaining about food**

MOSCOW: The father of Russia's President, Boris Yeltsin, was sentenced to three years' hard labour in 1934 by Stalin's political police, a historian quoted by Itar-Tass Monday said, reports AFP.

The historian, Alexei Litvin said that documents concerning Nikolai Yeltsin's interrogation make note of his 26-year-old wife Klavdia Vassilievna, who died last year, and his three-year-old Boris.

The political police had opened an investigation into Nikolai and his brother Andrian who had come from the Urals two years previously to work in a factory in Kazan.

However, as police found nothing suspicious, the two brothers and four others were sentenced for complaining about the food and criticising a state loan. Litvin said.

**Clinton hears her tearful tales**

NEW YORK: With tears in her eyes, Marcia Callender told President Clinton about her fight with the health care system that ended December 1992 when her son died peacefully in his father's arms, reports AP.

Sitting knee-to-knee with her at the cramped counter of the Future Diner on Sunday, Clinton put his hand on Callender's shoulder and gently rubbed her neck.

"No family should have their grief compounded and their economic misery reinforced by this kind of problem," he said later, holding a portable microphone in his left hand, Callender's quivering hands in his right.

**Actress Davis to spend \$7 lakh on 2nd marriage**

KENWOOD, Calif: Actress Geena Davis is getting married this weekend in California's wine country and is spending 700,000 dollar to do it, reports AP.

Davis, who starred in "Thelma and Louise" and won an Academy Award in 1989 for "The Accidental Tourist", will marry director Renny Harlin at the ruins of an old winery built on the Kunde family ranch.

The 1,000-acre (40 hectares) ranch, along Highway 12 about 50 miles (80 kilometres) north of San Francisco, was chosen because Davis wanted "something scenic, secluded and private," The Press Democrat of Santa Rosa reported.

**Lankan army blamed for using Sinhalese as 'human shield'**

COLOMBO, Sept 28: The Sri Lanka army is using Sinhalese settlers in the northeast as a "human shield" against Tamil rebels, a Tamil human rights group alleges, reports AP.

The Welio Oya settlement, in territory where the Tamils want to create an independent homeland, was "designed to protect the army" said the University Teachers For Human Rights (Jaffna) in a report.

Sinhalese families have been settled in the defensive perimeter around Welio Oya, a vast area of cleared jungles. Army camps in the interior are protected by high earthen embankments. The civilians thus face the brunt of Tamil guerrilla attacks, said the report.

The military denied the civilians were deployed as a pro-

tective barrier for the army, and in turn blamed Tamil rebels who hide in Tamil villages of using civilians as human shields.

Well Oya was captured by the army in the early 1980s and used to resettle Sinhalese families displaced by a dam project and fishermen whose villages have fallen under rebel control.

Tamils have accused the government of trying to shift the area's ethnic balance and creating Sinhalese colonies to dilute the Tamil majority.

The 21-page document, released last week, was written by a group of former professors of Jaffna University, the biggest academic institution in the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The authors, some of whom still live in the rebel capital of Jaffna, did not disclose their identities for fear of reprisals. But previous reports by the group, highlighting abuses by both the government and the rebels, have been found credible and have been cited by international human rights organizations.

Tamil rebels have repeatedly attacked the military base in Welio Oya and hundreds of Sinhalese civilians living in the perimeter villages have been killed.

In the latest attack in July, eight Sinhalese and 42 soldiers were killed. The rebels also vanished with guns and ammunition worth over 50 million rupees (US\$ 1.04 million).

Officials claim that 3,364 Sinhalese families inhabit Welio Oya, but the report says most have fled and only about 1,000 families brought there remain.

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Clinton wants the United Nations to limit its actions, Boutros-Ghali wants the world to realise that the UN is playing a new role in bringing peace to a troubled world and wants patience and support for peacekeeping efforts that circle the globe.

In his first speech before a UN General Assembly, Clinton, the bright new President of the United States with a massive

domestic agenda to fill, urged the UN to be more selective in taking on peacekeeping chores and said Washington would be cautious in joining future far-flung missions.

"The United Nations simply cannot become engaged in every one of the world's conflicts. If the American people are to say 'yes' to UN peacekeeping, the United Nations must know when to say 'no'," he declared.

But Boutros-Ghali, in a speech to a luncheon meeting of world leaders, seemed to take exception.

"The challenges the world faces will not wait. International action is needed in many fields," he said.

With Clinton to his right and waiters behind him holding open bottles of champagne for a toast to world peace, Boutros-Ghali declared, "The United Nations which you have come here to attend is not the United Nations of the past. It is a practical instrument for advancing the interests of the world as a whole."

"I hope that supporters and sceptics will understand what is required for success. First it must be understood that there will be failures as well as successes. The United Nations is not a magic wand."

"This past year has brought some discouraging setbacks. It has also brought some striking

successes. We can take pride in what has been achieved."

But he warned that the problems the United Nations faces cannot be solved quickly and said: "Staying in power is crucial. If the forces of chaos and corruption conclude that the United Nations is short of breath, they will prevail simply by waiting for the world to turn its attention elsewhere."

The UN has more than 80,000 armed peacekeepers scattered around the world, trying to help in 15 countries on four continents. Its forces are credited with stopping starvation in Somalia but not bringing peace there.

Clinton promised to pay the

US debt to the United Nations shortly: Washington owes nearly 1 billion dollar for peacekeeping and general dues, half of the total UN debt.

But he wanted the American assessment, which is 25 per cent of the overall UN budget and 31 per cent for peacekeeping to be cut back in the future.

In his speech, Clinton sought to assure the annual gathering of the world's leaders that the United States was not entering a new period of isolationism.

But he also told the world body that UN peacekeeping operations had not kept pace with its rising responsibilities and "must adapt to new times."

The president's pledge that the United States will ask "harder questions" about new peacekeeping missions provided him the political cover to answer criticism from allies and some domestic political leaders that Washington should take a more aggressive role in ending the 17-month civil war in Bosnia, in the former Yugoslavia.

From now on, he said, the United States will want to know before committing troops to a peacekeeping mission whether a real threat to international peace exists, whether the proposed mission has clear objectives, what the cost is and how the mission will end.