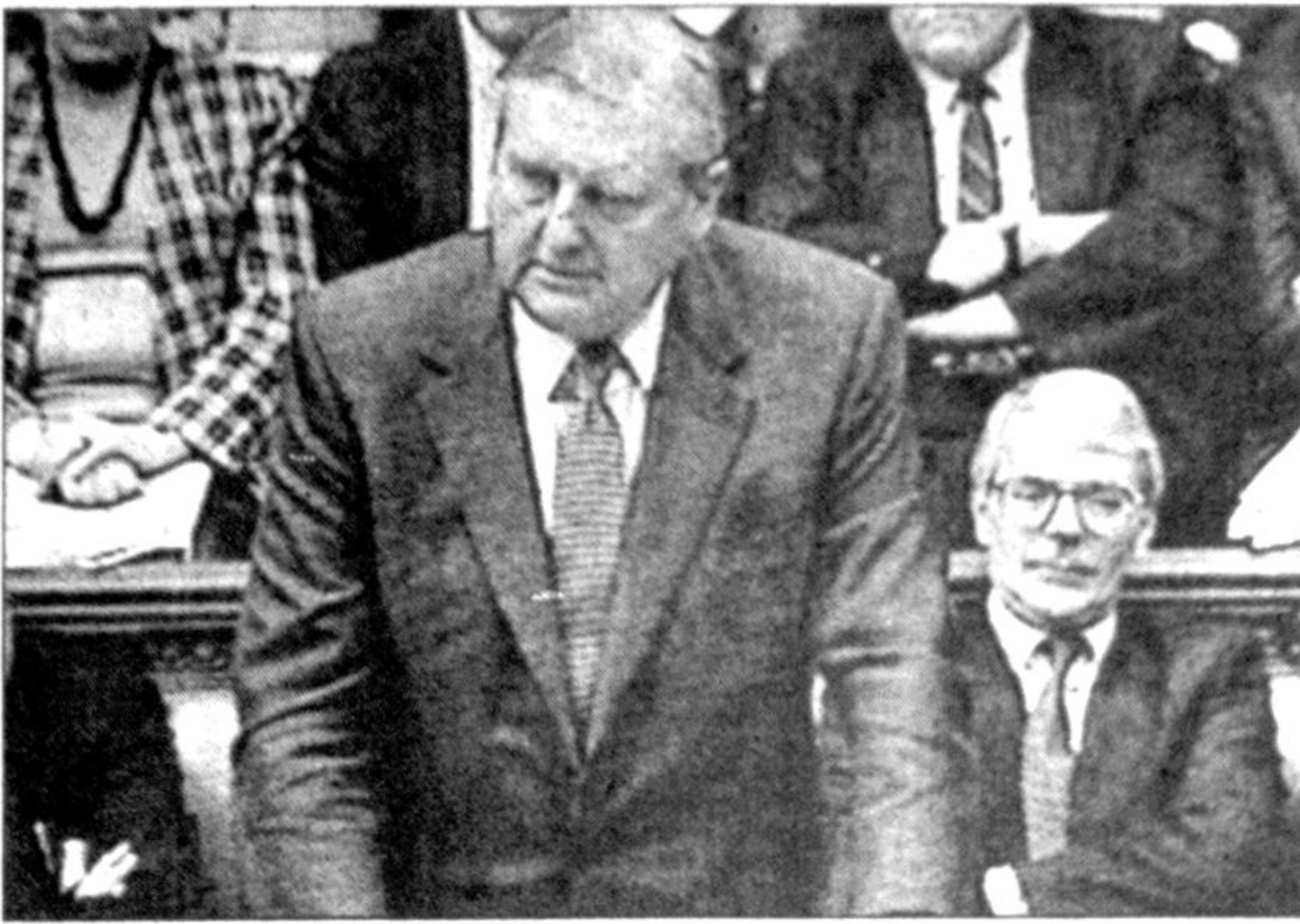


Kidnapped US diplomat freed

SANAA, Nov 30: Kidnapped US diplomat Haynes Mahoney was released after five days of captivity following the Yemeni government's agreement to respond to his abductors' financial demands, an official source said today.



Ulster Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew makes a statement in Parliament on Monday on Ulster and the news which came to light recently about communications between the British government and the IRA. — AFP photo

UK ready for more talks with IRA

LONDON, Nov 30: Britain, forced into revealing secret exchanges with the IRA, appears to have kept the door open for more dialogue with Republican guerrillas in Northern Ireland, reports Reuter.



Shabana Azmi (L), Indian actress who with Mother Teresa received an international human rights award from French President Francois Mitterrand in 1989, kisses ANC President Nelson Mandela after presenting him with a newspaper on the year's award on behalf of a Cape Town newspaper on Monday. — AFP photo

Malaysia may impose sanctions on Australia

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30: The Malaysian cabinet is to discuss possible sanctions against Australia as the government insisted today that Prime Minister Paul Keating apologise for critical remarks against Malaysian leader Mahathir Muhammad, reports AFP.

away from the APEC summit. In a televised interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corp, Keating hinted that official demands for an apology were based on "feigned indignation" and suggested that Kuala Lumpur owed "multiple" apologies to Australia for unspecified slights.

Clinton wants UN to maintain sanctions against Iraq

WASHINGTON, Nov 30: President Clinton said on Monday it was extremely important to maintain current United Nations sanctions against Iraq until it has a track record of compliance on scrapping its weapons-building potential, reports Reuter.

His remarks were contained in a report he must send to congressional leaders every 60 days on efforts to obtain Iraqi compliance with UN resolutions. Clinton also faulted Iraq for its continued refusal to sell 1.6 billion dollars in oil, a step authorised by the Security Council.

Escobar's family returns to Bogota amid tight security

BOGOTA, Nov 30: Cocaine King Pablo Escobar's wife and two children returned to Colombia on Monday after their bid to seek refuge in Germany from underworld enemies failed, reports Reuter.

is most likely continuing to conceal weapons related activities from the UN. "It is therefore extremely important that the international community maintain current sanctions and continue its efforts to establish the long-term monitoring regime required by UN Security Council Resolution 715.

Amnesty urges Yangon to end killings, torture

LONDON, Nov 30: Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, on Monday urged the Myanmar government to end torture and political killings in the country following the presentation of a damning U.N report, says AFP.

Israel captures 3 PLO men

Israel captured three activists loyal to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in the occupied Gaza Strip, raising the specter of continued unrest ahead of the December 13 date for the start of an Israeli withdrawal, Reuter reports from Jerusalem.

DPRK returns remains of 33 US soldiers



UN honour guards carry a US soldier's remains Tuesday from northern to southern Panmunjom, the border truce village straddling the last front line of the Cold War. — AFP photo

Clinton forms Task Force to speed discovery of AIDS drug

WASHINGTON, Nov 30: The Clinton administration is recruiting top AIDS experts from government, industry and academia for a new effort to speed the discovery of drugs to stop the epidemic that is killing 92 Americans daily, reports AP.

Off the Record

Miss Poland now PM's secy WARSAW: The winner of the 1992 Miss Poland crown was named Monday as Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak's new media spokeswoman, the PAP agency said, reports AFP.

Clinton's Christmas tree?

WASHINGTON: Hillary Rodham Clinton loosened up to the music of Barbra Streisand for her Vogue photo shoot—but not enough to go off-the-shoulder with the little black number, reports AP.



Life for him an endless cycle

BEIJING: China's oldest living man, 131-year-old Gong Lifa, credits his exceptional lifespan to clean living, hard work and the benefits of bachelorhood, reports Reuter.

BA resumes flight to Aden

British Airways (BA) has resumed flights to Aden almost 25 years after the proclamation of the People's Republic of Southern Yemen, IRNA reports from London.

Rains claim 6 in Thailand

Six people were killed and at least 25 were reported missing as storms and heavy rains hit Southern Thailand, officials said yesterday, AFP reports from Bangkok.

Fiji Parliament to be dissolved in January

SUVA, Fiji, Nov 30: Parliament will be dissolved in January and elections held in March, acting head of state Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said Tuesday, reports AP.

Clinton forms Task Force to speed discovery of AIDS drug

WASHINGTON, Nov 30: The Clinton administration is recruiting top AIDS experts from government, industry and academia for a new effort to speed the discovery of drugs to stop the epidemic that is killing 92 Americans daily, reports AP.

Iraq-Kuwait border calm

BAGHDAD, Nov 30: The Iraq-Kuwait border is calm with no significant clashes reported since Iraqi demonstrators crossed into Kuwait two weeks ago, the U.N mission observing the ceasefire between Iraq and Kuwait said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Decades of nude games

GOLETA: At least 34 boys were sexually abused by a dozen Roman Catholic priests during decades of nude games, fondling and sex acts at a now-closed seminary, a panel organised by the Franciscan order concluded Monday, reports AP.