

Non-proliferation of nuclear arms

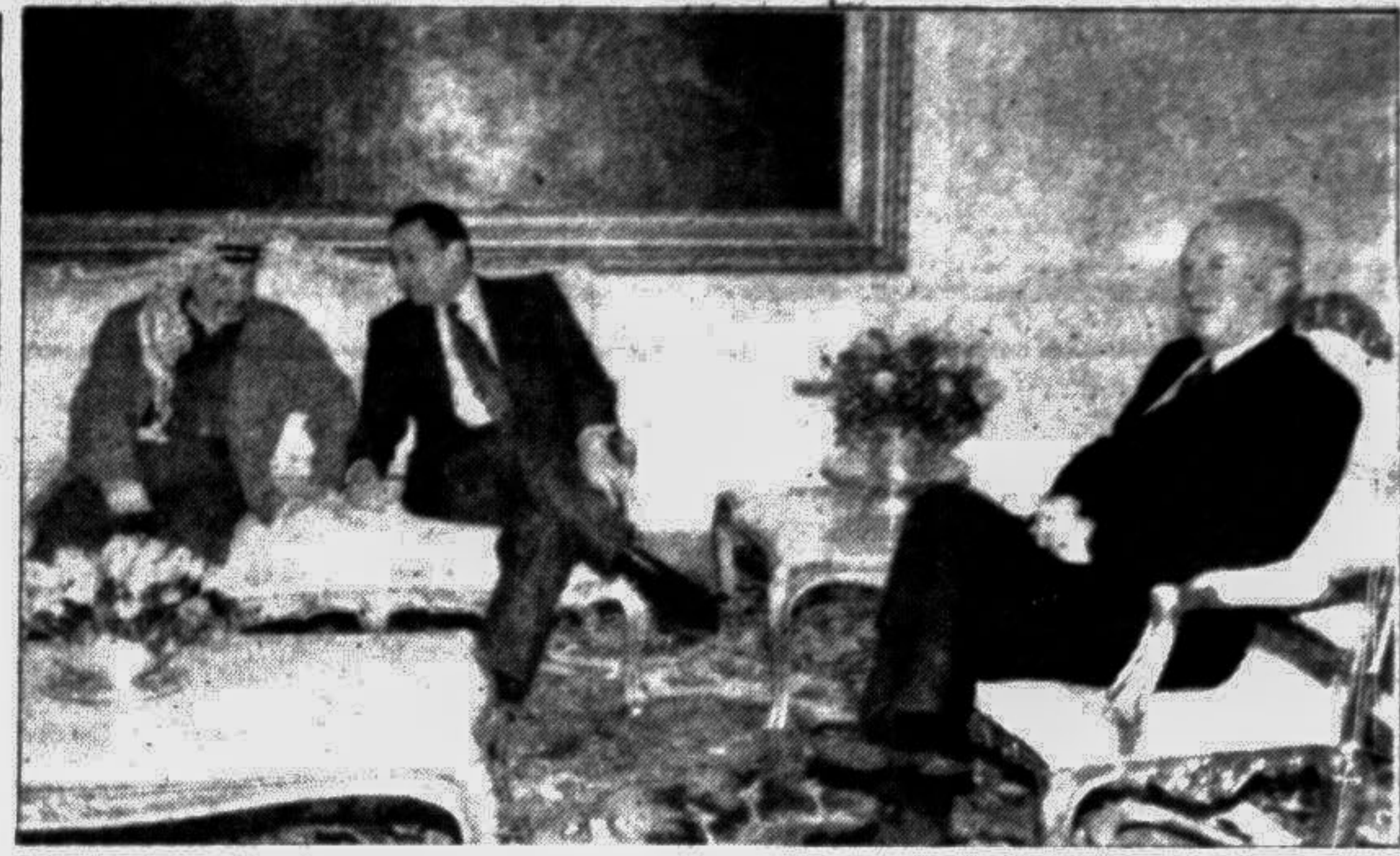
Pressler wants US to maintain threat of aid sanctions

NEW DELHI, Dec 13: Senator Larry Pressler said Monday he will fight to maintain the threat of US aid sanctions to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons, reports AP.

proliferation objectives in South Asia. One week later, the department reversed itself and said Pakistan would remain ineligible for aid, even if it is not specifically mentioned in the new policy.

Pressler said that China "is a much greater long-term problem in non-proliferation than any other country" in Asia, and said Japan "will react in five or six years" China's nuclear capabilities.

Pakistan received hundreds of millions of dollars during the 1980's when it was the main supporter of Muslim rebels fighting the Soviet-backed regimes in Afghanistan.



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat (L), Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (C) and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (R) meet in Cairo on Sunday. The three leaders began talks in a bid to strike a last minute deal to launch Palestinian self-rule on schedule.

Congress recovers lost ground in three states

NEW DELHI, Dec 13: Congress (I) recovered lost ground in three of the four former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruled states in last month's assembly poll mainly because voters perceived it as a better alternative to the reunified Janata Dal, a PTI computer analysis shows.

BRIEFLY

Kurds kill 36 in Turkey: At least 36 people were killed during weekend attacks by rebel Kurds in southeast Turkey, the Anatolian news agency reported yesterday. Reuter says from Istanbul.

Tremor hits Assam: Assam-Bhutan border areas yesterday experienced a moderate tremor of 5.0 degree intensity on the Richter scale, meteorological officials said, PTI reports from New Delhi.



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed (L) and his Indian counterpart P V Narasimha Rao walk upon Mahathir's arrival at Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) on Monday in New Delhi.

10 die in Congo violence: At least 10 people, including an army colonel and his wife, have died in a weekend of political violence in the south of Congo's capital Brazzaville, witnesses said on Sunday, Reuter reports from Brazzaville.

Benazir, Tansu Ciller plan trip to Sarajevo

ISLAMABAD, Dec 13: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Turkey's Premier Tansu Ciller are planning to visit to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, Pakistan's foreign minister said Monday, reports AP.

Khamenei leads memorial service for Golpayegani

NICOSIA, Dec 13: Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led a memorial service on Sunday for a senior Shi'ite theologian whose death brought thousands of mourners on to the streets, the official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said, reports Reuter.

UN working behind scene to ruin peace move: Aideed

ADDIS ABABA, Dec 13: Somalia's most powerful warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed accused the United Nations on Sunday of working behind the scenes to wreck efforts for peace and reconciliation in his war-torn home of African country, reports Reuter.

Zhirinovskiy ready to work with President Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Dec 13: Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said after apparent successes in parliamentary elections he was ready to work together with President Boris Yeltsin, but senior ministers branded him a dangerous fascist, reports Reuter.

form a Somali government without the participation of SNA—which is totally impossible, Aideed added. Aideed said his SNA enjoys the support of 75 per cent of the Somali people.

Zhirinovskiy ready to work with President Yeltsin

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by the Addis Ababa accord in all circumstances and will also pursue dialogue with SNA to find common ground for reconciliation," it added. Aideed said his group had in fact made a number of concessions in an effort to remove barriers to a reconciliation.

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Off the Record

Rule to wear helmet LAUSANNE (Switzerland): Sikhs must wear motorcyclo helmets even if it means removing the turban that is a symbol of their faith, according to Switzerland's highest court, reports AP.

Smile for safety week LONDON: Put a smile on your face and you can prolong life by reducing stress, the British Safety Council says, reports Reuter.

Inequities shame LONDON: More than 20 per cent of British children live in poverty and state welfare payments are inadequate, a research group said yesterday, reports Reuter.

'He could not have been that man since he was 63' MANILA: An elderly Philippine Congressman denied Monday he and a girl were caught naked in a downtown parking lot and demanded a public apology from a government lawyer who made the allegation on radio, reports AFP.

Militants kill 13 Algerian cops

ALGIERS, Dec 13: Thirteen policemen, including a special forces lieutenant, were killed in attacks during the weekend, Algerian newspapers reported on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Philippines reimposes death penalty

MANILA, Dec 13: President Fidel Ramos signed legislation Monday reimposing the death penalty, terming it an essential step to protect Philippine society from "the most heinous offenders of our laws," reports AP.



President Fidel Ramos (L) signs into law a controversial bill restoring the death penalty for 'heinous crimes' at a ceremony in Malacanang Palace on Monday. At right is Senate President Edgardo Angara.

Gaddafi invites 'most feared radicals'

TRIPOLI, Dec 13: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, frustrated by two years of sanctions against his country, announced on Sunday he was inviting the Arab worlds most feared radical groups for a meeting in Tripoli, reports Reuter.

2 blacks shot dead

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 13: Several whites dressed in camouflage uniforms shot to death two blacks, including an 11-year-old boy, and wounded five Monday in what police said was a racial attack, reports AP.

Delay in Israeli pullout may prompt further bloodshed

JERUSALEM, Dec 13: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin huddled with advisers early Monday, reportedly considering an Arab prisoner release to calm nerves frayed by a delay in Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, reports AP.

Palestinian prisoners. Reports Sunday said Israel may free up to 1,200 inmates and permit three deported men to return to the occupied territories as goodwill gestures.

Herbon, a flashpoint of Arab-Israeli violence lately in the occupied West Bank. The right-wing Israeli party Tzomet said the delay proved the need for a reexamination of the peace agreement, while Palestinians said the move could encourage Islamic and nationalist opponents of peace.

Nov 11 debacle: Lankan commander to resign

COLOMBO, Dec 13: Sri Lanka's army commander has confirmed that he will resign to take responsibility for the army's worst defeat by Tamil separatist rebels, reports Reuter.