

## BRIEFLY

**107 arrested in Paris:** Police said Saturday they had arrested 107 extreme-right wingers in Paris after fierce clashes during a banned demonstration against 50 years of "US imperialism," AFP reports from Paris.

The demonstration organised by the Union Defence Group (GUD) had been banned on May 3 but official notification of the ban could not be served because the organisers had gone to ground, police said.

Some 400 right wingers gathered in a square in southern Paris brandishing flags bearing the Celtic Cross emblem of the extreme-right, and a banner reading 1944-1994 50 years of American imperialism, welcome to the enemies of Europe.

**Liberian peace talks today:** Liberia's main militias whose appetite for war threatens to destroy peace prospects, are due to meet separately on Monday to try to end the fighting, Reuter reports from Monrovia.

African and United Nations peacekeepers will host the two sets of talks in Monrovia, official statements said.

One will concern the two tribal factions in the Ulimo militia who are fighting in western Liberia.

**Russian N-plant fire put out:** A fire at a Russian nuclear power plant has been put out with no damage to the environment, the country's nuclear energy officials said on Saturday, Reuter reports from Moscow.

The fire at the plant near the Russian city of Belayarsk leaked non-radioactive sodium into the atmosphere on Friday when a safety valve malfunctioned during maintenance.

**Uzbek president to visit Japan:** Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov will visit Japan on May 16-19 at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, the Central Asian republic's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, Reuter reports from Moscow.

The visit comes amid a flurry of Japanese diplomatic activity in former Soviet Central Asia.

Karimov will be the second Central Asian President to visit Japan since Kyrgyzstan's Askar Akayev in 1993. His visit follows Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's Tokyo trip in April.

**2 Israeli generals dead:** Two senior retired army generals and former ministers, including the man who gave his name to the Suez Canal defence line broken by the Egyptian army in 1973, died in hospital Saturday, AFP reports from Tel Aviv.

General Haim Bar-Lev, who was 69, and General Aharon Yariv, 74, had both been ill for some time, born in Vienna and Moscow respectively, the followed similar careers.

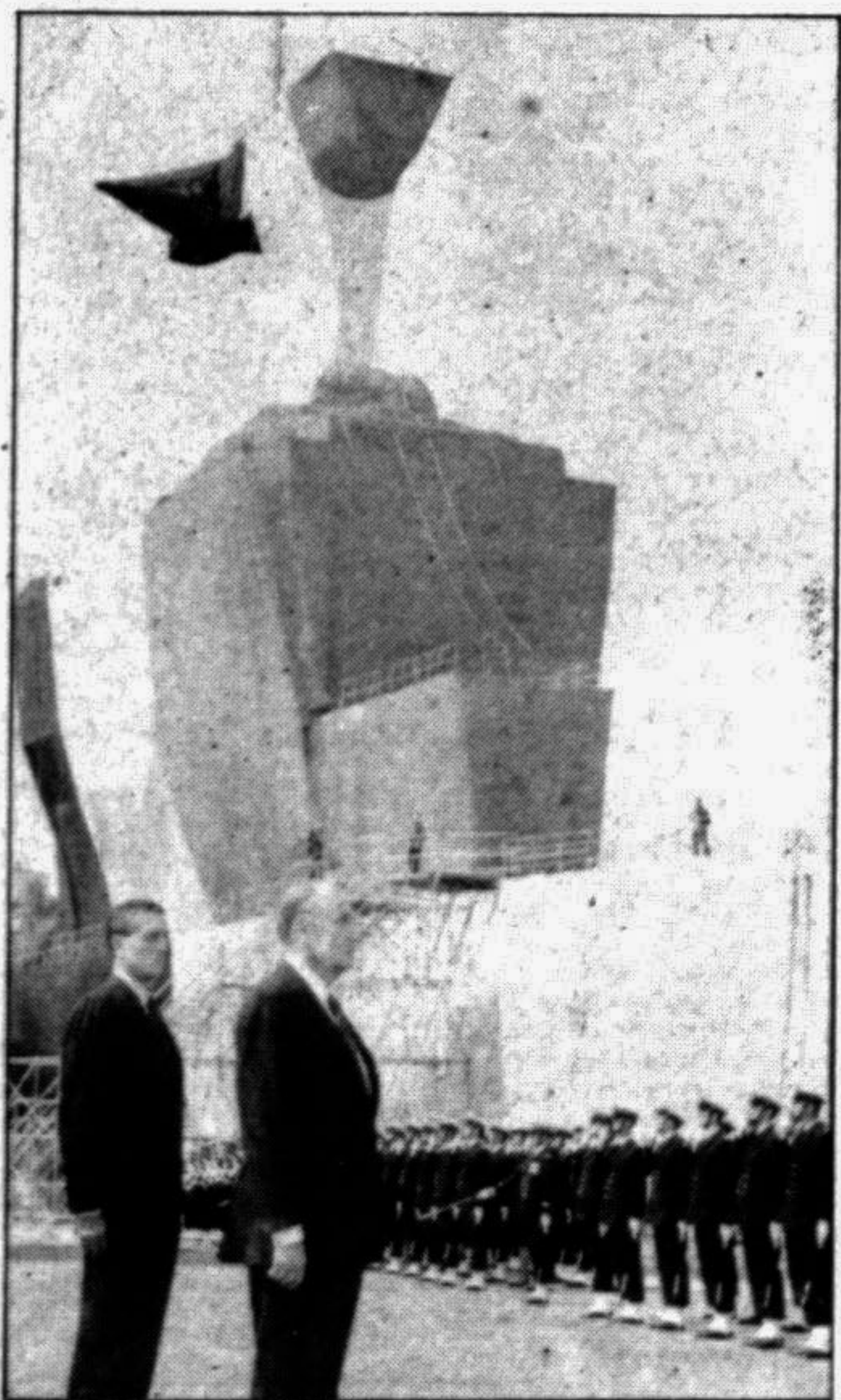
Both served in the Haganah, the Jewish guerrilla force under British occupation, though Yariv later joined the British army during World War II, and both fought in the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948, a joint Arab attack triggered by Israel's declaration of independence.

**Polling starts in Hungary:** Hungarians go to the polls on Sunday to decide whether their country will be the next in Eastern Europe to entrust its future to politicians with roots in the communist past, Reuter reports from Budapest.

The Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP), encouraged by the success of new left counterparts in Lithuania and Poland, has capitalised on Hungary's difficult transition to market democracy under four years of conservative government to emerge in opinion polls as the country's most potent political force.

**Angolan talks end:** The Angolan warring parties have completed negotiations on the holding of a new round of presidential election in that country, Xinhua reports from Lusaka.

Jorge Valentim, spokesman for the National Union for the total independence of Angola (UNITA), told reporters in Lusaka Saturday that the UNITA delegation and the government delegation have agreed on the general principles and specific principles on the new round of presidential elections in Angola.



French President Francois Mitterrand and Defence Minister Francois Leotard (L) preside the launching ceremony of the "Charles de Gaulle" nuclear aircraft carrier, France's first, at the port of Brest in France on Saturday. —AFP photo

## Fears of ferry disaster grip Mombasa

**NAIROBI, May 8:** Fears of another ferry disaster gripped Mombasa port after a vessel carrying more than 1,000 passengers and 40 vehicles across the Likoni channel stalled midstream, the Kenyan press reported here today, reports AFP.

Frightened commuters, including tourists who were sailing aboard the MV Nyayo from the southern mainland to Mombasa Island, screamed for help when the ferry's engines stalled and the vessel started drifting towards Kilindini Port.

## Horror of '89 crackdown on Tiananmen Square still lingers

**BEIJING, May 8:** Five years have passed since Ding Zilin's gentle soul was scarred by the death of her beloved teen-age son, shot down by magisterial law troops sent to crush the 'democracy spring' of Tiananmen Square, reports AP.

To speak with Ding today is to know that her pain remains undiminished.

"My son was full of love," she recalled in an interview, at times struggling against tears or breaking off with an unconscious sigh.

"This was a son who didn't know hate. He didn't have an enemy. He loved his school. He loved his pals. He loved his family."

## India unhappy over US pressure on nuclear non-proliferation

**NEW DELHI, May 8:** India is unhappy over US insistence on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, but Premier P V Narasimha Rao will go ahead with his trip to Washington, a spokesman said in remarks published today, reports AFP.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said here late Saturday that the United States was aware of India's consistent support of disarmament measures which are global, non-discriminatory, comprehensive and verifiable.

Accordingly, India will not agree to any proposed multilateral forum on security, disarmament and non-proliferation which has focus only on South Asia.

"India is equally disappointed that the US approach has not accepted India's position so far and persists with its 'all-or-nothing' approach," the spokesman was quoted as saying in today's newspapers.

The comments followed news reports here that Rao's planned visit to the United States this month was in jeopardy because Washington wanted New Delhi to announce

"realistic proposals" for nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia.

The Indian spokesman denied that the US administration was attaching conditions ahead of the trip by Rao, who is scheduled to meet US President Bill Clinton at the White House on May 19.

"There is no question of any ultimatum or preconditions laid down by the US for the visit of Rao," the spokesman said.

The United States has been pressing arch foes India and Pakistan to freeze their nuclear programme. Both countries are suspected of developing nuclear weapons and have refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, says the NPT discriminates between nuclear haves and have-nots.

Meanwhile Reuter reports: India denied today it postponed a missile test so as not to worsen the atmosphere with Washington before Rao's visit there.

The respected Times of

India said the test of the Prithvi missile scheduled for this weekend was postponed on instructions from the prime minister's office less than a week before Rao was to leave for Washington on May 14.

"No such instructions were given," a Rao spokesman said. "The report is absolutely false."

The United States has frequently expressed concern at India's development of missiles it fears could be tipped with nuclear warheads if Delhi's poor relations with Pakistan triggered a war.

India denies any such plans or warheads, despite exploding a nuclear device in 1974. Officials in both Pakistan and India say they see no danger of war erupting.

A series of high-level US-Indian meetings in the past two months have brought the nuclear issue to the forefront but no apparent narrowing of differences.

A two-day meeting between Indian and US officials in London this month broke up after the first day with neither side budging from their positions.

The Indian Foreign Ministry revealed that the American embassy had delivered a note expressing disappointment at the meeting.

US asked India to join talks with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — plus potential members Germany and Japan, and Pakistan.

India has not accepted the idea, saying it would not deviate from its long-held policy of shunning regional solutions in favour of global talks on disarmament.

Relations between India and Pakistan are again extremely tense over a rebellion in Jammu and Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in mainly Hindu India.

Washington's efforts to end the impasse have caused resentment in New Delhi. The media has accused it of trampling on Indian sensibilities and some commentators urged Rao to cancel his visit.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the trip would go ahead.

## PPP loses two seats in NWFP by-elections

**ISLAMABAD, May 8:** After a defeat in polls for the post of senator chairman last month, the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) received another setback Saturday when its candidates lost two seats in the provincial assembly by-elections in North West Frontier Province, reports Xinhua.

The candidates of the opposition alliance of the Awami National Party and the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) (Nawaz-group) won the two seats with a big margin, bringing the opposition alliance's strength in the provincial assembly to 40.

PPP is presently enjoying the support of 43 members in the provincial assembly, including two members who switched sides from the PML (N) to PPP last month.

## 38 die in Chinese coalmine blast

**BEIJING, May 8:** An explosion at a coalmine in south-eastern China has claimed 38 lives, marking the gravest accident so far in what is fast becoming the worst safety year on record for China's coal industry, the Legal Daily said today, reports AFP.

The accident occurred May 1, when a gas explosion ripped through a mine in Jiangxi province, killing 38 miners instantly, the newspaper said, adding that initial investigations had attributed the disaster to poor management and substandard safety procedures.

Following the blast, the Ministry of Coal convened an emergency meeting on May 5 to discuss the recent series of disasters that has afflicted the industry and issued an urgent call for stricter adherence to safety regulations.

A total of 724 miners have died in accidents in the first three months of this year alone, compared with 1,058 for the whole of 1993.

## Nakai Japan's new justice minister

**TOKYO, May 5:** Japan named a new justice minister Sunday, a day after Shigetomo Nagano resigned over a furor he caused with remarks defending Japan's role in World War II, reports AP.

The hurried appointment of Hiroshi Nakai was submitted to the Emperor Sunday morning, the usual formality for Cabinet members.

Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata made the appointment late Saturday night. Nakai is a lawmaker from the Democratic Socialist Party, a small left-leaning party, while Nagano is from the conservative Shinseito party which dominates the new government that took office April 28.



Leader of the ANC in the Western Cape Regional Assembly, Alan Boesak (1st L), smiles for photographers during a photo session before adjourning after the first historic session of the all-race regional parliament in Cape Town on Saturday. The Western Cape is the only region where the National Party which ruled South Africa for forty years has a majority. Other deputies are unidentified. —AFP photo

## Congress leaders responsible for '84 Sikh pogrom?

**NEW DELHI, May 8:** Nearly 10 years after almost 3,000 Sikhs were murdered here following the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the police are beginning to move against those responsible for the massacre, reports AFP.

The New Delhi police Friday registered cases of murder and arson against an unspecified number of suspects, including members of the ruling Congress Party, after years of dilly-dallying.

A Sikh lawyer called it the first significant step in a decade to bring to book the murderers of 2,733 Sikh men and women by Hindu mobs in four days after two Sikh bodyguards shot dead Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

At last the wheels of justice have started moving, said

Harvinder Singh Phoolka, an activist-attorney who has been championing the cause of justice for the victims of the Sikh pogrom.

It gives hope that no one is above the law, he added.

Phoolka was referring to the alleged involvement of leaders of the Congress Party of premier PV Narasimha Rao in the massacre — the worst carnage of its kind since India's independence in 1947.

Mobs armed with swords, crowbars and petrol bombs virtually took over New Delhi after the Gandhi assassination, burning and looting Sikh homes and shops, and butchering their residents while the police stood by.

Nearly a decade later, not a single killer has been punished in hundreds of murders, the police have not even filed cases, Sikh leaders say the au-

thorities disinterest borders on apathy.

One reason has been the alleged involvement of high ranking Congress Party officials in instigating and leading mobs against Sikhs in 1984.

Two Congress Party leaders have been widely accused by Sikhs of taking part in the pogrom. Both have denied involvement but are guarded around the clock by elite commandos.

At least two Congress Party politicians, including a son in law of President Shankar Dayal Sharma, alleged by independent citizen's groups to have taken part in the massacre, have been assassinated by Sikh separatists.

Police sources said at least two Congress members had been implicated in Friday's cases.

## Another Toryman resigns over sex scandal

**LONDON, May 8:** British Prime Minister John Major's Conservative Party, uneasy after a trouncing in local elections, today faced another sex scandal, reports Reuter.

Michael Brown, a "ship" responsible for managing Conservatives in parliament, resigned on Saturday after the news of the World Newspaper published allegations he had had a homosexual affair.

Brown said he was resigning "with a view to instituting proceedings following allegations made against me," he said. "This will require my personal attention which I could not pursue as long as I remained a member of the government."

Adding to Major's woes, the Sunday Times said in a forecast of June's Euro-elections. "Major's prospects of surviving as Prime Minister suffered another setback with the prospect of the Conservatives facing a crushing defeat in next month's European parliamentary elections."

A rallying cry from ministers after Thursday's local elections failed to silence any of Major's critics including former premier Sir Edward Heath who on Saturday called for a cabinet reshuffle and a policy review.

The local elections rebuffed forced Major to acknowledge the possibility of a leadership challenge.

## Off the Record

### Winnie not invited to lunch with Mandela

**JOHANNESBURG:** President elect Nelson Mandela's estranged wife Winnie has been snubbed in arrangements for the presidential inauguration this week, a newspaper reported yesterday, says Reuter.

The Johannesburg-based Sunday Times said Winnie Mandela, a convicted kidnapper, has not been invited to a 1,200-guest lunch with Nelson Mandela and other world leaders after the inauguration on Tuesday.

The paper said Nelson Mandela himself has asked organisers to ensure Mrs Mandela did not attend the main lunch.

No immediate comment was available from the Mandelas.

The couple separated two years ago following Mrs Mandela's conviction for kidnapping four black youths. Despite the conviction, she was included in the African National Congress list for South Africa's first all-race elections last month.



### Clean T-shirt with dirty message

**FONDA, NY:** A clean T-shirt with a dirty message has earned a trial witness 30 days in jail, reports AP.

Patrick Doyle was tossed into jail for contempt of court Friday because he showed up to testify wearing a shirt emblazoned with a profanity.

The shirt read: "If (expletive) could fly, this place would be an airport." Doyle, 23, said the shirt was the only clean one he had.

Montgomery County Judge Howard Alison took one look at the shirt and ordered the jury removed from the courtroom and Doyle put in jail. Doyle was supposed to testify as a defence witness in a murder trial.

Alison said the shirt "destroyed or undermined the dignity and authority of the court."

### Drill baboon born at Atlanta zoo

**ATLANTA:** A drill baboon, one of most endangered primate species in the world, was born Saturday at Zoo Atlanta, reports AP.

The zoo did not immediately disclose the sex of the newborn. It is the second child of Inge, a 7-year-old drill baboon who has been at the zoo for four years. Inge had given birth to her first child, a female, in 1992.

The father is Adonis, also 7 years old. Drill baboons occupy a small natural range in rain forests in Africa. The Atlanta drills are among 23 in four zoos around the United States.

### Because the time is not enough to meet fiancé

**RAGUSA, Sicily:** A 63-year-old woman in jail for the murder of her husband has refused parole so as not to be separated from her husband-to-be, whom she met behind bars, prison authorities said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Lucia Pignato, serving 24 years, declined limited parole that would have let her leave jail during the day, because she wanted to spend as much time as possible with fiancé Angelo Trulsi who is doing seven years for attempted murder.

The two met during services in the prison's chapel, the only time men and women are allowed to mingle, said prison Governor Biagio Sapadaro. They have sought permission to marry.

"Everyone has, the right to another chance in life if their repentance is sincere," said Gioanni Cavallieri.

Towards the end of their sentences, prisoners in Italy are offered a regime of "semi-liberty" under which they can work outside the prison, but must return behind bars at night.

## Dalai Lama may shift to Bangalore

**NEW DELHI, May 8:** After 34 years, the Dalai Lama of Tibet may leave his home in exile the Indian mountain town of Dharamsala because of anti-Tibetan riots last month, reports AP.

In an interview published Sunday, the Dalai Lama accused Hindu right-wing politicians of inciting the trouble, and said he may relocate his self-proclaimed government-in-exile to the southern Indian city of Bangalore.

Riots erupted in the scenic Himalayan town after a Tibetan stabbed and killed an Indian on April 17 in an argument over a cricket match broadcast on television.

Hindu mobs stormed the Tibetan quarter, setting fire to shops and trashing offices. The Dalai Lama was in the United States at the time preparing for a meeting with President Clinton.

"I am very, very sad that an individual incident has unfortunately been allowed to be manipulated by local politicians, and this makes it very serious," the Dalai Lama was quoted as saying in the Sunday Times of India.

On Saturday, pamphlets were strewn through the quar-

ter threatening to "bomb you out" if the Tibetans do not leave by July 25.

The troubles reflect deep-seated resentment among poor against the Tibetan refugees, who have prospered with the help of the Indian government, foreign supporters and by their own hard work. Many of Dharamsala's Indian residents are traditionally low-caste herdsmen.

There are about 4,000 permanent Tibetan residents in the town of 17,000, but the Tibetan quarter swells with foreign and Tibetan visitors when the Dalai Lama is in town giving audiences.

The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of 6 million Tibetans, fled his homeland to India after a failed uprising against China in 1959. He moved to Dharamsala at the urging of the Indian government in 1960.

About 120,000 refugees have followed the Dalai Lama from Tibet. Many of them live in communal settlements in southern India near Bangalore.

AFP reports: The Dalai Lama said in remarks published here today that he might seek a referendum concerning Tibet's future if China continued to ignore his moderate approach.

## RPF opposes foreign army intervention

**LONDON, May 8:** Rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) Vice-Chairman Patrick Mazimpaka said a foreign military intervention in the country would be treated as an invasion, the rebel RPF radio Muhabura said Saturday, reports AFP.

Speaking at a press conference in the eastern Rwandan town of Kibungu, close to the Tanzanian border, Mazimpaka also said the RPF would have no dealings with the United Nations until it replaced UN special envoy to Rwanda Jacques Roger Booh-Booh.