

## BRIEFLY

## De Klerk goes to Britain May 18:

South Africa's new Deputy President, Frederik de Klerk, will meet Prime Minister John Major as part of a four-day visit to Britain that starts on May 18, his office said on Wednesday. AFP reports from Pretoria.

De Klerk was invited to Britain in his capacity as joint Nobel Peace Prize to give a lecture at the Royal Albert Hall on May 20, said his spokesman.

De Klerk, and the man who replaced him Tuesday as President, Nelson Mandela, received the award for 1993.

## Chinese dissident freed on parole:

Zhang Ruiyu, a Chinese dissident sentenced to four years jail in 1991, has been released on parole, the official news agency Xinhua said Thursday. AFP reports from Beijing.

Zhang, a physical education teacher and Roman Catholic, had been arrested in August 1990 on charges of seeking to overthrow the government through her religious activities, it said.

She was released from jail in Fujian province, Southeastern China, for good behaviour, it said.

## Christopher to visit ME:

Secretary of State Warren Christopher plans another visit to the Middle East for more talks with Syria and Israel but expects no imminent breakthrough in the peace process, the State Department said Wednesday. AFP reports from Washington.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry gave no date for Christopher's next round of discussions nor his itinerary.

After his last visit to the region, Christopher said he believed Syria and Israel were moving into a new phase in their discussions despite the lack of an accord on the Golan Heights, which Israel seized in 1967 and later annexed.

**Quakes shake W Sumatra:** Two earthquakes measuring 6.2 and 5.9 on the open-ended Richter scale have rocked Indonesia's West Sumatra province but there were no reports of casualties, an official said yesterday. Reuter reports from Jakarta.

Both quakes were centred in the Indian Ocean southeast of Padang, the capital city of west Sumatra province, which was jolted by two big quakes earlier this month, Saudi, a meteorological and geophysical agency official in West Sumatra's Padangpanjang, told Reuter.

"There are no problems as far as the main province of West Sumatra is concerned. But all communication with Siberut Island, which lies closer to the epicentre of both quakes, has been cut off," he said by telephone.

**Serbs to free 11 Frenchmen:** Eleven French aid workers detained by Bosnian Serbs will be released soon, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was quoted as saying Thursday. AP reports from Belgrade.

The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA quoted him as promising the release of the 11 after appeals by Lord David Owen, the European Union mediator for Bosnian peace talks.

The 11 detainees were working for the private relief group Première Urgence.



Haiti's Supreme Court President Emile Jonassaint takes the oath as he is sworn in as Haiti's interim president Wednesday during a solemn ceremony at Parliament. Jonassaint, 81, was appointed by a Senate faction opposed to the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

— AFP photo

## UN may airlift 5500 troops to Rwanda

UNITED NATIONS, May 12: Horrified by genocide in Rwanda, the United Nations is considering airlifting at least 5,500 troops into the country to ensure the safety of refugees and delivery of humanitarian aid, reports AP.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali announced that Nigeria, Ghana and Tanzania had offered the troops and the 15-nation Security Council began discussing the plan Wednesday evening. A final decision was not expected until week's end.

Despite the urgency, the troops will be able to do nothing to stop the slaughter, which has already claimed up to 200,000 lives in month. In making recommendations to the Security Council, Boutros-Ghali said the UN troops would not be authorised to use force to stop the fighting, only to defend themselves. And under the best-case plan, the troops would not begin arriving for a month.

The United Nations withdrew all but a token force of about 400 peacekeepers from Rwanda last month when fighting made their mission — monitoring a cease-fire and peace accord — futile.

Boutros-Ghali said the new troops would put the airport at Kigali, Rwanda's capital and lifeline for supplies, under exclusive UN control.

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Iraq, he said, "In our view, Iraq is considered to be in violation of every single resolution, first and foremost, in the act of non-compliance. Iraq has still not recognised the independence of Kuwait or its sovereignty of its territorial integrity or its borders, nor has Iraq agreed to account for missing Kuwaiti citizens."

He said it was important to renew the sanctions on Iraq. On the current situation in Yemen, the US envoy expressed his country's support for the Arab League's efforts, together with the Gulf states, to persuade the warring leaders in Yemen to end the fighting and renew political dialogue.

There is no military solution to the conflict in Yemen. The United States continues to

support the unity of Yemen, the unity is in the interest of the people and is supported by the people, the unity should be rebuilt by ending the fighting and restoring political dialogue," he noted.

If the fighting goes on, the US official said, there will be more civilian casualties and potential instability in the region that could open doors for outside intervention.

The official warned of a danger of an outflow of Yemeni refugees.

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