

## Jakarta police disperse rally for press freedom

JAKARTA, June 27: Indonesian security forces broke up demonstrations in central Jakarta for press freedom today, kicking and beating protesters with long rattan sticks before leading them away, reports Reuters.

Up to 40 people, some with cuts and leg injuries, were detained after two separate demonstrations over last week's ban on three publications brought central Jakarta to a halt. Traffic jammed and hundreds of curious onlookers milled about.

"Freedom! freedom!" screamed one protester as police beat him with rattan sticks before leading him away.

Police declined to confirm the arrests. It was the first reported violence between protesters and security forces since the government closed down the weeklies last Tuesday.

Media sources and activists said protests would increase, with a big demonstration planned for Wednesday at Indonesia's parliament building to coincide with information Minister Harmoko's scheduled appearance before lawmakers.

"There is no more openness in Indonesia. This is the amputation of openness," Prendra, a leading activist and Indonesia's most well known poet, told reporters.

"But openness is not finished. We are going to push for it. This is just the start. Openness is a struggle, if we do not struggle then we do not believe in it," he added, before being detained.

Some foreign and local journalists were jostled by police and military officials as they tried to take photographs of the clash, the latest in a string of protests to wrack Indonesia since late last year.

## Myanmar troops capture 3 Khun Sa camps: 450 killed

BANGKOK, June 27: Myanmar troops seized three positions from guerrillas loyal to Golden Triangle drugs warlord Khun Sa in the latest fighting which has so far killed almost 450 people, Myanmar state-run media reported, says Reuters.

Myanmar television, in a broadcast monitored in Thailand late on Sunday, said government forces captured three mountaintop positions from the guerrillas in north-eastern Myanmar's Shan state last Thursday after a week of air strikes and infantry attacks.

Troops found the bodies of 250 guerrillas when they finally overran the trenches, the television said, while 196 government soldiers were killed and 340 others had been wounded in the campaign against Khun Sa.

Major General Kyaw Win, commander of the army's eastern zone, took representatives from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Yangon-based diplomats to inspect weapons seized from the rebels as well as three kg (6.6 lbs) of heroin found at a captured position, the television said.

Troops began an offensive against Khan Sa's Mong Tai Army (MTA), late last year, the first ever major push against Khun Sa by the Myanmar military.

Fighting intensified last month when MTA fighters launched coordinated attacks in several different parts of Shan state in an attempt to push troops out of the area.

He said, guerrillas made initial gains, overrunning and capturing several army bases

but government forces have since managed to retake some of the lost ground.

The latest fighting was in hills overlooking the town of Mong Kyaw, which the guerrillas captured last month but subsequently lost to a government counterattack.

A spokesman for the MTA, contacted by telephone, confirmed the latest report that the guerrillas had lost three positions but said the government had exaggerated rebel losses.

"Government troops captured Doi Namon near Mong Kyaw on June 23. About 40 MTA soldiers were killed, not 250," he said.

About 10,000 government reinforcements had been brought into the area and the air force and made dozens of strikes against the guerrilla po-

sitions before ground offensives, he said.

The guerrillas were equipped with surface-to-air missiles but had so far been unable to shoot down any aircraft.

"Their jets fly too high for our Sam-7s," he said.

Meanwhile, a senior Myanmar official responsible for drug suppression said the junta was committed to the eradication of the narcotics trade, according to a Chinese news agency report from Yangon.

Home Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Mya Thinn, told a recent meeting on narcotics that armed groups controlled the cultivation and production of opium and putting an end to the groups would pave the way for the elimination of the drugs trade.

## Off the Record

### June 28 — a fateful day for Serbs

BELGRADE: For hundreds of years, June 28 has been full of meaning for Serbs. It is known as Vidovdan and originally honoured the ancient god Vid, reports AP.

On June 28, 1389, Serbs lost the battle of Kosovo to the Ottoman Turks. The defeat marked the end of the Serbs' sovereignty, but became the stuff of legend during a 500-year struggle to keep their Orthodox Christian faith alive under Muslim rule.

On that same day in 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, visited Sarajevo and was assassinated by Gavrilo Princip, a 19-year-old Bosnian Serb Nationalist. A month later, Europe was engulfed in a war that would end the Austro-Hungarian Empire and give birth to a Yugoslav kingdom.

Serb nationalism was rekindled on June 28, 1989, the 600th anniversary of the battle of Kosovo, when President Slobodan Milosevic vowed that Serbia would rule the old Yugoslav federation.

On June 28, 1992, Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic told a large anti-government rally the date "will be the start of our bright future." Two years later, the changes he proclaimed have not occurred.

On Friday, the Tanjug news agency reported that the Bosnian Serbs had proclaimed June 28, 1994, their first Statehood Day.

### Peacekeepers are heroes in children's eyes

KIGALI, Rwanda: Thick as flies, children hover around two UN peacekeepers. Shyly, they touch the camouflage uniforms of the men who tower above them, and share their only common language — smiles and gestures, reports AP.

"Everyone loves the soldiers," said Kayuruba Innocent, a 14-year-old whose family was killed in a night of carnage. "They take care of us."

Innocent is among an estimated 2,500 refugees camped out at Kigali's football stadium, a chaotic scene of makeshift tents, smoky campfires and families broken by a horrible civil war.

In the open air, the lilting voices of the refugees filled the stadium Sunday as they sang hymns accompanied only by drums. Umbrellas shielded them from the hot, glaring sun.

"This is all that is left for us, our prayers. We have nothing else," said Balisa Bountha, 33, cares for her 5-year-old daughter who was made fatherless by the war.

UN soldiers, 485 from 18 countries, have tried to lessen the misery that has gripped this central African country since civil war erupted April 6.

"They think we're heroes because we protect them from the killing squads," said John Opolu, 33, of Ghana. "They feel safer with us here." So many of these children have lost their fathers, and now I think they look to us for fathering," said John Asamoeh, 32.

### Mummy duplicated

BALTIMORE: It's a mummy, right down to the drying technique and the linen wrappings. But this body has never been near Egypt and is strictly a 20th-century project, reports AP.

The final step in the project to duplicate ancient Egyptian mummification practices came Saturday.

"We are seeing a pretty good replica of what the ancient embalmer would have seen 2,000 years ago," said Bob Brier, professor of ancient philosophy at CW Post University.

Brier and his partner, Dr. Ronald S. Wade, head of anatomical services at the University of Maryland medical school, used as their subject a 76-year-old local heart attack victim man who died last spring and left his body to science.

The body, with its internal organs removed, spent 35 days covered with 600 pounds of powdered natron, a naturally occurring salt that Egyptian embalmers used to dry the bodies of pharaohs.

When the salt was shoveled away, the body had lost more than half its weight and the skin was leathery brown.

The body was then stuffed with wood shavings to help keep its shape, and it was rubbed with oil.

The process was completed Saturday when the mummy was wrapped from head to toe in 100 yards of linen.

## S Yemen repels North's offensive

ADEN, Yemen, June 27: A total of 50 soldiers were killed today as southern forces repelled a large-scale tank and artillery offensive on Aden, southern military officials were quoted as saying, reports AFP.

Northern forces mounted the attack after receiving reinforcements, but southern troops, backed by warplanes and naval ships drove them back, according to a military statement carried by the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA.

KUNA, monitored by the BBC, did not say where the attack took place.

Meanwhile, hospital officials told AFP that eight southern soldiers were killed and 69 wounded in a battle to drive northern forces from Aden's western suburbs.

Southern artillery gunners pounded northern forces which on Saturday occupied areas around the Hisswa power station and Aden Radio station, about 10 kilometers (six miles)

west of the city.

Thick black smoke also billowed skyward from the area around the South's sole oil refinery in Little Aden further to the west, where artillery duels were taking place. Battles involving automatic weapons and mortars raged in the north-western suburb of Madinat Ash-Shaab.

People formed long lines at the city's wells after running water stopped on Sunday, with some bringing camels to help

them transport as much water as possible.

Eighteen civilians were killed and 114 wounded in shelling and rocketing of the southern stronghold on Sunday, hospital officials said.

Four of those killed were children hit in a Katyusha rocket attack on the Tawahi district near the port, workers at the Basahib military hospital said.

One rocket destroyed a house and another exploded near a school where refugee families were sheltering.

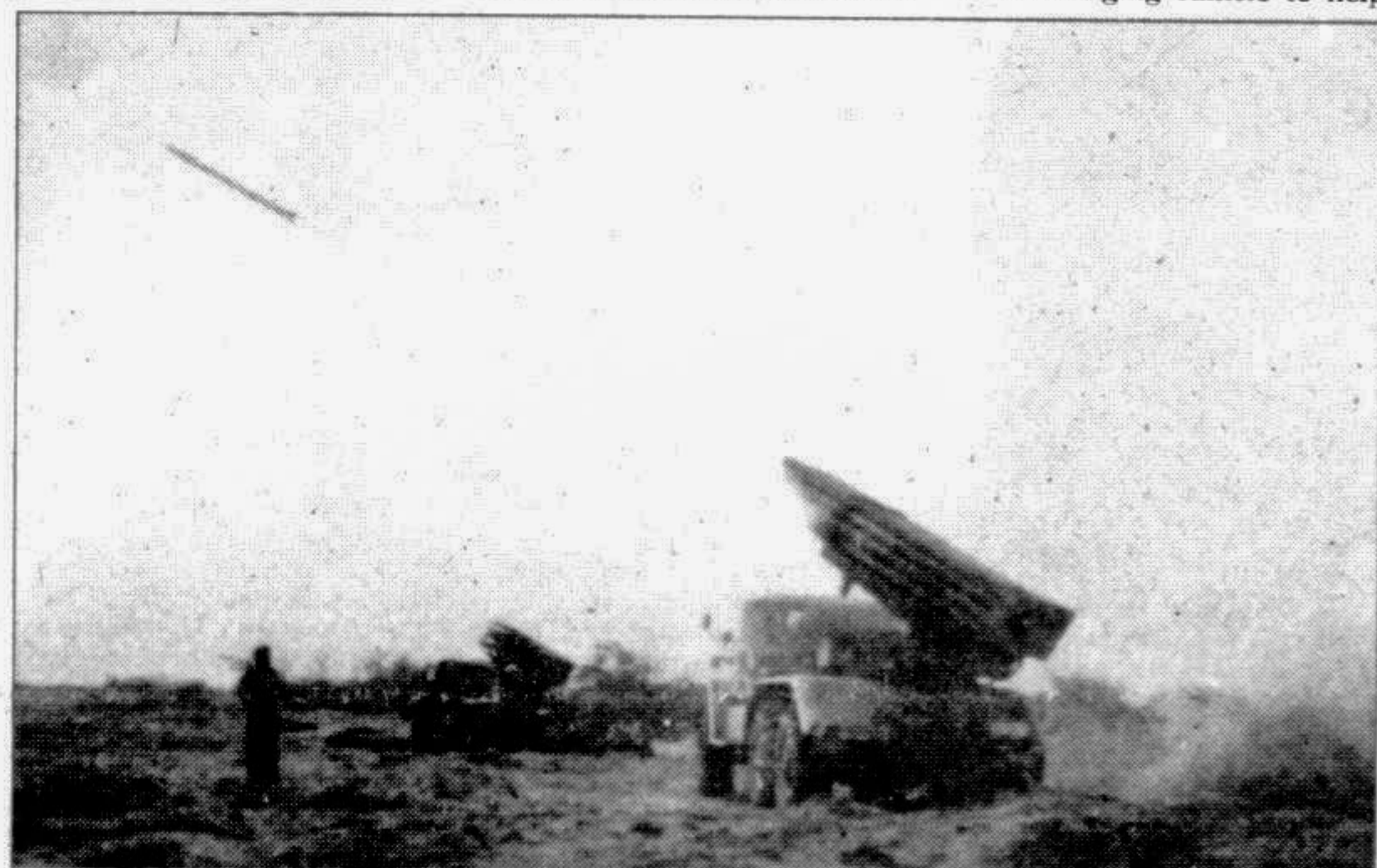
At least 409 civilians have been killed and nearly 1,000 wounded in the bombardment of Aden and fighting near the city centre since June 11, according to AFP figures based on hospital and official sources in the South.

Omani Foreign Minister Yusef Ben Alawi Abdallah called Sunday on behalf of the six Gulf states for a halt to the civil war in Yemen.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are eager to see Yemeni brothers put an end to their destructive war," Abdallah said during a stopover in Abu Dhabi.

Abdallah met with his United Arab Emirates counterpart Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al-Nahyan following a meeting in Jeddah with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faysal.

Abdallah said the UN Security Council, currently chaired by Oman, is examining a draft resolution on Yemen.



A southern Yemeni "Stalin organ" on the beach of Maadin Ab-Shaab, 10 km from Aden, fires a shell towards northern positions on Sunday. — AFP photo

## Li calls for new world order

BEIJING, June 27: Premier Li Peng called Monday for a new world order based on Chinese foreign policy principles to ease tensions left over from the end of the Cold War, reports AP.

Li spoke at a meeting to mark the 40th anniversary of the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence," a set of foreign policy guidelines that China formulated with India and Myanmar in the 1950s.

The guidelines stress mutual respect and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, a favourite theme of Chinese leaders as they head off international criticism of their human rights record.

"We think these principles should be taken as the basis of a new international political and economic order that responds to the changing international situation," Li said in an address to 500 diplomats, government officials and reporters in the cavernous Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

He added that only when different countries respect each other's differences "will it be possible to expand cooperation, increase exchanges and

live in harmony."

Li said China needed world peace so its economic reforms could continue unimpeded, and he pledged that China would never practice "aggression and expansion in



Li Peng

any form." Several southeast Asian governments have expressed concern at China's growing military might. The Chinese military has embarked on a modernisation programme that includes building up a deep water navy and equipping its air

force with jets bought from Russia.

Li said richer nations could help foster peace by helping poorer nations, because "the worsening abject poverty in some undeveloped countries is an important cause for turmoil."

Developed countries should open their markets further to developing countries, provide them with funds and technology, and reduce their debts, he said.

China says that as a developing country, it must be allowed to follow its own human rights standards. Beijing has responded to international criticism of its human rights practices by trying to rally Asian nations against what it calls Western standards of human rights and democracy.

To impose one's values and model of society on others is bound to lead to tension and confrontation between states," Li said.

"Any country which tries to impose a kind of human rights standard on another...will naturally meet with the opposition of the vast number of developing countries, including China," he added.

### Prince Edward's wedding plans cancelled

LONDON, June 27: Prince Edward, youngest son of Queen Elizabeth, and steady girlfriend Sophie Rhys-Jones have ended their romance and cancelled wedding plans, the mass-circulation Daily Mirror said today, reports Reuters.

The courtship collapsed because the bride-to-be did not want to submit to pressures of royal life, the newspapers said.

Advanced wedding preparations were dropped after she had second thoughts about following Princess Diana and the Duchess of York into royal matrimony, both ending in separation.

The 30-year-old prince and his publicist girlfriend, 29, hit newspaper front pages last month, photographed kissing in a fond embrace during a holiday break at a Scottish royal estate.

The paper, a populist critic of the monarchy, quoted one of the Queen's courtiers as saying Rhys-Jones was "far too spirited to submit to the rigorous self-discipline required of a member of the royal family."

## Palestinians observe strike in West Bank

JERICHO, West Bank, June 27: Most stores and businesses shut down in Jericho and across the West Bank Monday in the first major strike since the start of self-rule in this tiny enclave a little over a month ago, reports AFP.

The stoppage, in solidarity with the 7,000 Palestinians still in Israeli jails, was organised by freed prisoners.

However, while Bethlehem, Nablus and Ramallah joined the strike, East Jerusalem, Hebron and the Gaza Strip ignored the call which was issued late Sunday.

Palestinian leaders scrapped regular strikes, a main weapon of the intifada or revolt against Israeli occupation, when Israeli forces pulled out of Gaza and Jericho and transferred power in mid-May. Shopkeepers and Palestinian officials in Jericho said Monday's was the first strike since autonomy began.

According to the autonomy agreement signed May 4, Israel was to free 5,000 prisoners. It says it has so far freed about 4,000 while the rest remained in jail because they re-

fused to sign an oath renouncing violence.

Another reports adds: Members of 10 Palestinian organisations opposed to the Israeli-PLO self-rule accord held a sit-in in Damascus Sunday in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in occupied territories, a Palestinian source said. Some 100 protesters held the sit-in at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) here.

### 8 Khmer rebels surrender

PHNOM PENH, June 27: Eight Khmer Rouge guerrillas defected from the radical faction in central Cambodia after killing their commander and his bodyguards, the state news agency AKP reported Monday, says AFP.

The guerrillas belonged to the Khmer Rouge's formidable 616 Division, which is based in the troubled district of contested central Kompong Thom province, about 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of the capital, AKP said.

### US-DPRK talks in Geneva July 8

TOKYO, June 27: North Korea confirmed today that it would start high-level talks with the United States on July 8 in Geneva, reports Reuters.

The Official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said the talks are expected to discuss matters for a fundamental solution to the nuclear issue in a package deal and other outstanding issues between the DPRK (North Korea) and the USA.

KCNA quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the talks would be held alternately at the North Korean mission and the US mission in Geneva. The North Korean delegation would be led by Kang Sok-Ju, First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the US side by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci.

The first day's talks will take place at the North Korean mission, the spokesman said.

## Koreas hold pre-summit talks today

SEOUL, July 27: South and North Korea prepared today for talks on an unprecedented presidential summit, with Pyongyang's nuclear history a potential stumbling block to easing tensions, reports Reuters.

Representatives of the two life-long foes are to meet at the hamlet of Panmunjom on their heavily-fortified frontier tomorrow to discuss plans for what would be the first such summit since Korea was divided after World War Two.

Summits have been proposed many times in the past but have always foundered amid continuing political enmity.

The latest proposal was made by North Korean President Kim Il-Sung during a peace mission to Pyongyang earlier this month by former US President Jimmy Carter. The South immediately accepted the offer, seeing an opportunity to ease the crisis over the North's suspected nu-

clear arms development.

But even though North Korea made conciliatory gestures during Carter's visit, important stumbling blocks remain, diplomats say.

Seoul officials say their government favoured a summit as soon as possible within the next month, but thought it unlikely the North would agree to hold it before the US talks.

They said the summit could be held either in Seoul or Pyongyang, elsewhere in Korea, or in a third country.

The ultimate goal at the moment is to make the proposed meeting of the two presidents come true," one official said.

US President Bill Clinton announced last week the United States would go ahead with a third round of talks with North Korea, after Pyongyang gave assurances of its intention to freeze its nuclear programme. North Korea has desper-

ately sought a resumption of the talks to discuss improved diplomatic ties and help rebuild its shattered economy.

Washington, which believes Pyongyang may have developed one or more nuclear bombs, had previously insisted the nuclear issue be resolved before moving to broader issues.

Diplomats in Seoul said it was unclear how far Washington planned to push the issue to North Korea's nuclear history, something South Korea says is a key to the whole dispute.

Even in the North is willing to freeze its nuclear programme, Seoul says, it must show the world whether it has ever produced a nuclear bomb or intended to do so.

There is no way the international community can overlook, can forgive and forget, the nuclear past of North Korea," Seoul's Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said last week. "North Korea's past nuclear

activity will be a key element of the third round of talks between the United States and North Korea," he said.

"I think they are trying to make the most out of the good things that came out of Carter's visit and avoid banging a drum that might frighten off the North Koreans," he said.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that Seoul's nuclear affairs ambassador, Kimsam-Hoon, would go to Washington this week for trilateral talks, including Japan, on the nuclear situation.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted an unidentified senior government official as saying the South was actively considering cancelling this year's team spirit military exercise with the United States if the Korean summit was realised.

There was no official confirmation of the report.

North Korea has called team spirit a rehearsal for invasion.



Former Miss Philippines Rufa Gutierrez is distraught after returning her best actress trophy to organisers of the Manila Film Festival on Monday as officials began an inquiry into allegations of a conspiracy to steal the major awards. Auditors alleged that an award presenter committed a possible fraud when she named Gutierrez as best actress instead of the real winner Aiko Melendez. On the left is her father Eddie Gutierrez. — AFP photo