

International

Thousands of Rwandan refugees returning home from Zaire

UNSC approves multinational force

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 16: The UN Security Council has approved the deployment of a Canadian-led force to help starving Rwandans in eastern Zaire...

"We have no illusions about the risks and difficulties involved but we are absolutely convinced that there is no alternative but to act..." Canadian Ambassador Robert Fowler told the Council.

Washington has indicated it wanted to see a regional ceasefire before the United Nations arrives.

More than 20 countries have so far offered to contribute over 10,000 troops...

The force's first contingents could be on the ground as early as next week...

The refugees' decision to leave Zaire prompted Rwanda to assert that the mission was no longer relevant...

The UN Security Council said in a resolution that it approved unanimously the creation of an intervention force of between 10,000 and 12,000 troops...

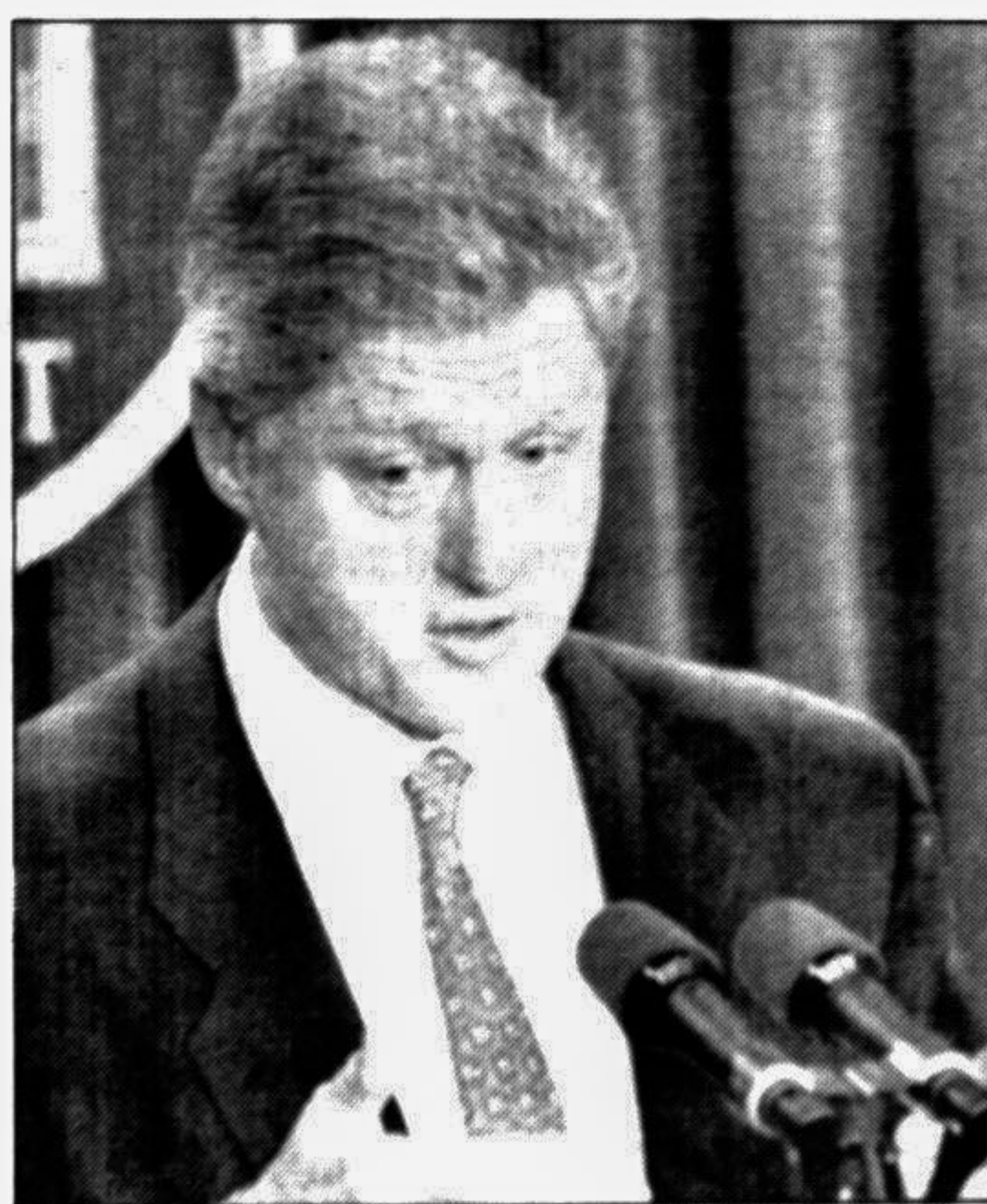
Canada however argued that while many refugees were returning home, thousands of others remained unaccounted for in the mountains and forests of eastern Zaire.

The sudden breaking of the logjam followed international moves to send a humanitarian force backed by troops to Zaire to enable the return of some 1.2 million refugees...

The potential for a humanitarian catastrophe is real, said Britain's Ambassador John Weston.

Addressing the UN session, Zaire's representative Lukabu Khabouli N'zaji thanked Canada for its offer to lead the multinational force.

Earlier report from Goma says: Thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees resumed their march back home from eastern Zaire at first light today...



President Clinton addresses a news conference on Bosnia and Zaire at the White House, Friday. Clinton said the US has agreed in principle to take part in a follow-up international military force to help cement peace in Bosnia next year...

BRIEFLY

Tudjman in US for treatment

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, a key figure in Balkan politics, is undergoing treatment in a Washington hospital...

Blast claims 2 in Florida

An explosion at a defence plant that makes ammunition killed two workers, the second fire fatal in a year...

Castro arrives in Rome

Cuba President Fidel Castro arrived in Rome amid tight security yesterday to attend the UN-sponsored World Food Summit...

Guatemalan peace talks resume

Negotiators from the Guatemalan government and leftist rebels began a new round of talks Friday in Mexico City...

Alger Hiss dies

Alger Hiss, the public servant who fell from grace in a Communist spy scandal, died Friday...

30 states invited to meet on Lebanon

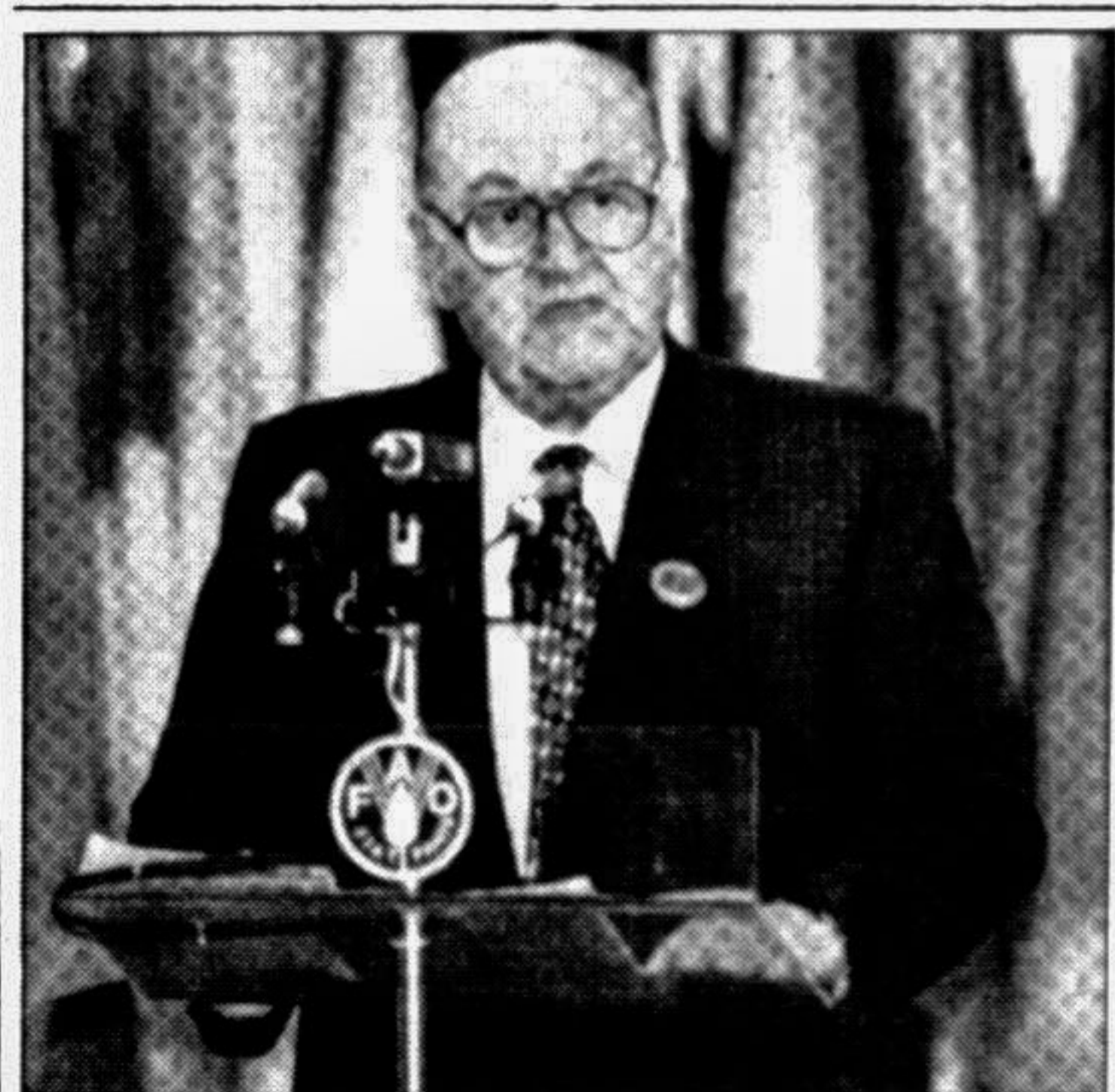
Countries have been invited to a December 16 meeting in Washington to help Lebanon's reconstruction...

UNSC retains ban on Libya

The Security Council, after a periodic review, on Friday left unchanged sanctions imposed on Libya in connection with the 1988 airliner bombing over Lockerbie...

Russia loses its last spy sat

Russia has been left without an eye in the sky, having lost its last state-of-the-art spy satellite...



Iraqi Vice-President Taha Mohieddin Ma'rouf addresses delegates during the third day of the UN sponsored World Food Summit Friday...

UN Slovenia mission may remain till end of '97 US to take part in follow-up force to cement Bosnia peace

WASHINGTON, Nov 16: President Bill Clinton said on Friday the United States had agreed in principle to take part in a follow-up international military force to help cement peace in Bosnia next year...

Clinton had earlier said the US troops would be out by the end of this year. But he said although the military mission in the war-ravaged country had been successful, the reconstruction and the economy had been slower than expected...

NATO sources said the new international force is expected to total 25,000 to 30,000 troops. Most of the 16 NATO nations had already informally approved the new force to replace the current NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) of 50,000 troops...

The Serb-held region bordering the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia is the last remaining Croatian area not under Zagreb's control. A UN transitional authority, known as UNTAES, is preparing the province for a return to Croatian rule.

In a resolution adopted on Friday, the council said UNTAES, with 5,000 troops, would stay in the enclave until July 1. But it left open the door for a longer UN military or civilian presence until the end of 1997.

Elections in the region are anticipated for April and Croatian envoys believe troops will begin to leave a month later.

Netanyahu considering national unity govt with Labour Party

JERUSALEM, Nov 16: Right Wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering a national unity government with the opposition Labour Party...

Peres said that between now and the end of the century the United States would remain in unique position to help bring about peace in the Middle East as the world's only superpower.

Peres himself has spoken in favour of a national unity government since his ouster as prime minister.

In a televised message to a Jewish-American audience in Seattle Netanyahu said Friday that he would seek the widest consensus for negotiations on a final settlement for the Palestinian territories.

And Finance Minister Dan Meridor openly came out in favour of an arrangement with the opposition...

Refugees stream into UN camps in western Afghanistan

HERAT, Afghanistan, Nov 16: Thousands of refugees have streamed into UN-supplied camps outside this western city as the fighting for control of Afghanistan increasingly takes on ethnic overtones...

The refugees belong to Afghanistan's majority Pashtun ethnic group. Most have fled fighting in western Badghis province between Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum's soldiers and the Taliban...

The UNHCR said in a statement Friday in Islamabad that the fighting and displacement of people seems to be taking place along ethnic lines.

The airport came to a standstill amid a sea of cheering people who arrived by car, bicycle and foot after three days of pro-Belo demonstrations in the streets of Dili, the East Timorese capital.

East Timorese welcome Belo

DILI, Indonesia, Nov 16: More than 200,000 East Timorese mobbed Dili's airport Saturday to welcome Bishop Carlos Belo home from a trip to Jakarta...

The food summit is the last in a series of major UN conferences held over the past four years to set the global agenda on how to confront key challenges in the 21st century.

The raising of international consciousness is necessary to get all the countries of the world focused on the problem.

India won't give up N-option: Gujral

NEW DELHI, Nov 16: India could not give up the nuclear option in a potential nuclear hotbed, Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said in an interview published today...

Gujral told the Times of India daily that New Delhi's refusal to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in Geneva was warranted, despite contributing to a humiliating defeat in a race for a seat on the UN Security Council.

The government has reserved the right to go nuclear, especially when we are surrounded by nuclear arsenals all around with Pakistan, China and the whole of the Gulf armed to the teeth, he said.

Gujral said the Indian stance was proof of its sovereignty. If we are to become a satellite nation, subservient to the wishes of the big powers even a permanent seat on the Security Council can be ours, he said.

The Indian stand led to Japan's victory in getting a UN Security Council seat a crucial step in winning a permanent place on the world body...

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US mediated talks between Kurdish factions end

ANKARA, Nov 16: US-mediated talks between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq ended here Friday with both sides reaffirming their commitment to respect on October 23 ceasefire...

The participants confirm their commitment to reinforce and make permanent the ceasefire between the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) and the PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) according to a statement read by US Mediator Robert Pelletreau.

Blast at Russian military officers' bldg, 27 killed

MOSCOW, Nov 16: At least 27 people were killed and dozens more trapped in the wreckage after an explosion destroyed part of a building housing Russian military officers today...

ITAR-Tass news agency put the latest death toll at 23. The explosion ripped through much of the eight-storey building in the southern republic of Dagestan early today.



Megastar and father-to-be Michael Jackson (L) strokes a Koala during a private visit to Taronga Zoo in Sydney Friday. Michael Jackson, age 38, married his pregnant girlfriend Debbie Rowe, age 37, during a secret midnight ceremony in his hotel.

Off the Record Kitchen rows

ROME: Italian couples are more likely to quarrel with each other in the kitchen or in the car, and at weekends, according to a poll published in the latest edition of the medical journal Riza Psicomatca...

The poll of 300 people aged between 25 and 45 has indicated that 40 per cent of rows broke out in the kitchen, 25 per cent in the car, 15 per cent in bed, 12 per cent when eating out, and eight per cent in the living room.

Sixty-three per cent of couples fought at the weekend, and particularly after seven pm. But one couple in four claimed never to quarrel, nearly half fell out every two to three months, 20 per cent every 10 to 15 days and eight per cent virtually every day.

While 70 per cent of the couples interviewed thought that disputes should be avoided, the Riza Institute which carried out the poll commented that an open and sincere quarrel was better than surface harmony with bitterness beneath.

'Haves' ask 'have-nots' at food summit not to rely on aid alone

ROME, Nov 16: The 'haves' told the 'have nots' at a World Food Summit on Friday not to rely on aid alone to feed their people and said democracy, human rights and stamping out corruption were essential to the assault on hunger...

Economic giant Germany and tiny Ireland, speaking for the European Union told the UN sponsored summit that governments themselves had to make sure the conditions were right for the poverty at the root of hunger to end.

They were among speakers from developed nations who stressed the need for a global partnership but said individual countries, must set the pace.

ments in the creation of a genuinely enabling environment which provide the basis for development, the eradication of poverty and for food security, he said.

Corruption... is another insidious source of food insecurity through the disruption it causes to economic and social development, and it must be combated relentlessly.

Sustainable food security cannot be brought about merely by redistribution, such as through food aid, he said.

The contrast between plenty and poverty has been a theme running through the summit with many speakers from developing countries panning excessive consumption and waste in the rich world and cuts in de-

velopment aid budgets and soft loans. US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said development aid had in the past been high because it was also a tool of superpower rivalry.

So what you see is the developing world suffering from this lack of international commitment to food problems after the end of the Cold War.

The world's biggest oil exporter Saudi Arabia, which has had to cut huge subsidies it paid to its own farmers to grow wheat in the desert because of the cost of funding the 1991 Gulf War, also weighed into the debate.

Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Bin Muammar said developing countries had to tackle food problems "with more seriousness, realism, determination and self-dependence."

The food summit is the last in a series of major UN conferences held over the past four years to set the global agenda on how to confront key challenges in the 21st century.

All, including the Rome meeting which ends on Sunday, have resorted to compromise to secure agreement and generated scepticism that few of the commitments will be put into action.

If for one — and there are many others — think that implementing action plans for our fellow human beings must be at the top of all our agendas, not more summits, British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker said.

We have had enough of them, she declared.

Scientists pledge to launch new global agri-research system

WASHINGTON, Nov 16: A group of scientists has agreed to launch a global agricultural research system involving greater coordination with farmers and indigenous communities in the developing world...

The forum, sponsored by CGIAR as part of its own week-long annual meeting, brought together science leaders from industrialised and developing countries, agro-industry, research institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and farmers' associations.

Their Declaration of Global Partnership in Agricultural Research was likely to be presented by Serageldin at the World Food Summit, which began on November 13 and will continue till Nov 17 in Rome.

nessing new resources on behalf of the poor, he added. This can not be achieved by any organisation single-handedly. We must pull together to win together.

The CGIAR, an informal association of developed and developing-country governments,

international organisations and private groups, coordinates support for international research on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and management of natural resources in developing countries.

The World Bank, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN Development Programme and the UN Environment Programme jointly sponsor CGIAR, which maintains 16 international research centers.

CGIAR's 1997 budget is about \$325 million, up from \$300 million in 1996. Serageldin expressed concern to reporters that the increasing use of agricultural process patents could prevent CGIAR from making scientific innovations available to people in developing countries.