BRIEFLY

Tudjman in US for treatment

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, a key figure in Balkan politics, is undergoing treatment in a Washington hospital. There were differing versions of the seriousness of his illness. AP reports from Washington.

His office in Zagreb said he was being treated for a gastric ulcer and inflamed lymph nodes. A US official, asking not to be identified, said Tudjman was suffering from cancer and was 'very sick.

Blast claims 2 in Florida

An explosion at a defence plant that makes ammunition killed two workers, the second fire fatal in a year at Martin Electronics, which produces pyrotechnics and ordnance. AP reports from Perry.

The flash fire erupted late Thursday in a small building where explosive chemical compounds are shifted. spokeswoman for the state fire marshal's office said.

Castro arrives in Rome

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

Castro one of six vice chairman of the five day summit which ends on Sunday, arrived on a special flight from Havana for a visit that may also include an historic audience with Pope John Paul at the Vatican.

Guatemalan peace talks resume

Negotiators from the Guatemalan government and leftist rebels began a new round of talks Friday in Mexico City on constitutional and electoral changes, drawing toward a final peace accord expected by late December, AP reports from Mexico City.

Meanwhile, Guatemalan President Alvaro Arzu an nounced that Cuba's Fidel Castro will be among world leaders invited to a final treaty signing planned for Dec. 29 in Guatemala City.

Alger Hiss dies

Alger Hiss, the public ser vant who fell from grace in a Communist spy scandal that propelled Richard Nixon to higher office, died Friday. He was 92. AP reports from New

Hiss died after a long illness just four days after his birthday, said Lenox Hill Hospital hospital spokeswoman Jean Brett. Writer Tony Hiss praised his father Friday for courageously standing up for American principles.

30 states invited to meet on Lebanon

Countries have been invited to a December 16 meeting in Washington of an international committee to help Lebanon's reconstruction the US ambassador here said Friday, AFP reports from Beirut.

Richard Jones met foreign minister Fares Bweiz and told reporters he had delivered a copy of the letter of invitation sent out by the United States. The World Bank and other financial institutions are also on the list.

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 combing over Lockerbie, Scotland, council members said. Reuter reports from United Nations.

The sanctions, which include an air embargo, a ban on arms sales and the downgrading of diplomatic relations, were first imposed 1992 because of Libya's refusal to extradite two men accused of planting a bomb aboard Pan Am flight 103, which exploded over the Scottish town, killing 270 peo-

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, and is considering leasing one from China, a newspaper said Friday. AP reports from Moscow.

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, as Washington conditionally committed troops to the effort, reports AFP.

Thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees returning home after two years in camps in Zaire spent the night in the open air or under makeshift shelters before resuming the trek home at first light today

More than 30,000 people had crossed the border checkpoint from Goma in Zaire to Gisenyi in Rwanda before the crossing closed on Friday.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton welcomed reports that refugees were returning to homes in Rwanda that they fled after a 1994 massacre and subsequent upheaval. "It's a hopeful sign, but that's all I can say right now." he told reporters.

The president - who has also extended the stay by US forces in Bosnia — said at the White House he had "decided that in principle the United States should take part in an international humanitarian effort to be part of a relief force Canada will lead in Zaire.

The UN Security Council said in a resolution that it approved unanimously the cre ation of an intervention force of between 10.000 and 12.000 troops that would use "all nec essary means" including force to carry out its humanitarian mission.

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

We have no illusions about the risks and difficulties in volved 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

More than 20 countries have so far offered to contribute over 10.000 troops. Fowler said, adding that the "main body" of the force would come from Britain, Canada, France and the United States.

The 1.2 million mostly Hutu refugees and the militia fled to Zaire in 1994 after a massacre of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis by Hutus Refugees refused to return because they feared the militia and reprisals from the new Tutsi-led government in Kigali

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

The refugees' decision to leave Zaire prompted Rwanda to assert that the mission was no longer relevant and President Pasteur Bizimungu told the BBC in an interview that the funds should be used for humanitarian assistance.

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

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

refugee problem is solved, the region will find calm." he said.

The cost of the operation will be borne by participating countries but a fund will be established to support African contingents in 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, after spending the night in the open or under makeshift shelters.

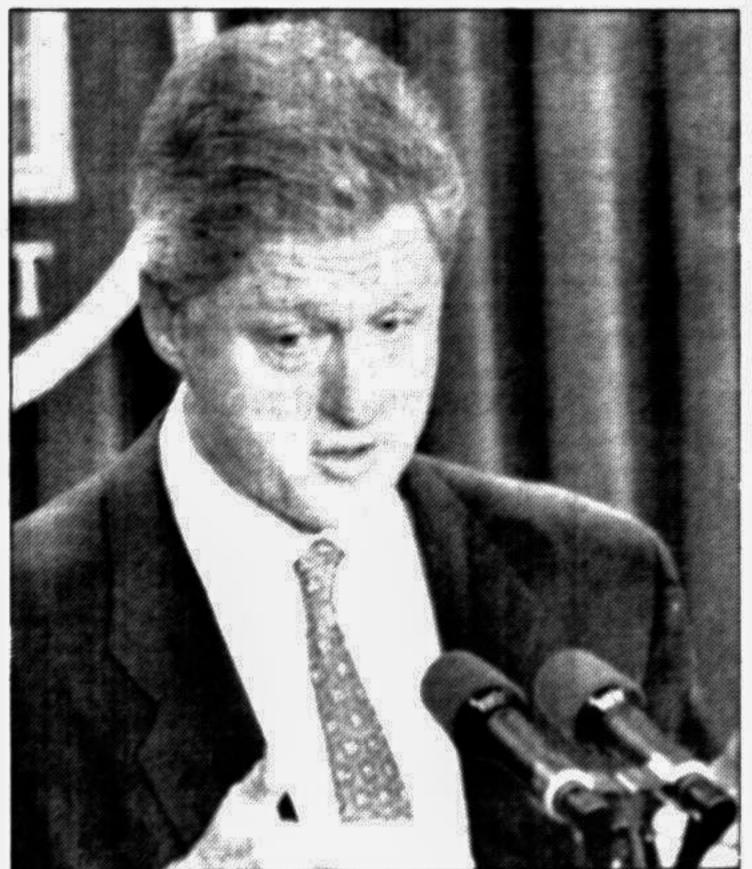
The borders checkpoint was closed late Friday after more than 30.000 people crossed from Goma in Zaire to Gisenyi in Rwanda, going home after two years spent in refugee

Early today two long columns of people could be seen entering Goma from the west A UN refugee official esti-

mated Friday that some 700,000 people were on the road after Hutu militia were forced by Zairian Tutsi rebels out of one camp where they had been preventing the refugees from returning to Tutsi-controlled Rwanda

The refugees and the militia fled to Zaire in 1994 after a massacre of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis by Hutus Under the twin fears of the militia and reprisals from the new Tutsi-led government in Kigali, the refugees had refused to return.

The sudden breaking of the logiam followed international moves to send a humanitarian force backed by troops to Zaire to enable the return of some 1.2 million refugees, who were threatened with starvation



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, and that reports of Rwandan refugees returning home were a "hopeful sign," but the US remains prepared to contribute troops to an international relief mission in Zaire. -Reuters/UNB photo

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, reports

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

No government could surrender 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.

The government has reserved the right to make the bomb " India. which first exploded a nuclear device in 1974. denies it plans to make nuclear weapons and fundamentally opposes them but argues it needs to keep the option open to safeguard national security. It has consistently opposed

the CTBT, saying it was discriminatory and lacked a specific timeframe for universal disarmament 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. Japan won 142 votes against India's paltry 40 Guiral said the Indian stance

was proof of its sovereignty. "If we are to become a satel lite nation, subservient to the wishes of the big powers even a

permanent seat on the Security

Council can be ours," he said. If we are to stand up, we have to pay a price." The UN Security Council

has 15 members. Ten are rotating members while Britain. China, France, Russia and the United States hold veto power as permanent members.

Gandhi's papers to return to India

MADRAS. Nov 16: Mahatma Gandhi's former secretary Friday asked the Indian High Commission in London to collect papers written by India's independence hero from an English auctioneer and return them to India.

Venkataram Kalyanam lyer told AFP he had written to Indian High Commissioner LM Singhyi to collect from Philipps Auctioneers the 70odd items. written in English on the back of old envelopes and circular letters.

Among the 450 pages, which have never been made public. are drafts of letters to Winston Churchill and the last viceroy of India Lord Mountbatten and drafts of articles for magazines and "Monday speeches" read by his followers when the Mahatma observed a day's silence every week.

lyer in his letter said the sale had been withdrawn, adding the papers should be returned "for their preservation for posterity as part of our national her-

Netanyahu considering national unity govt with Labour Party conflict in the Middle East." he

JERUSALEM. Nov 16: Right Wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering a national unity government with the opposition Labour Party, Israeli television reported on Friday, says AFP

It said the Likud prime minister was in favour of a deal with Labour after an Israeli army redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron, a key hurdle before "final-status" negotiations with the Palestinians.

But Netanyahu is worried

that Labour leader Shimon

Peres. whom he defeated in

May elections, would try to undennine his position and ignore his authority according to the report. Peres himself has spoken in favour of a national unity gov-

ernment 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

tinian territories. And Finance Minister Dan

final settlement for the Pales-

favour of an arrangement with the opposition. It will be very difficult to complete the negotiations successfully without national unity, he said on tele-

Reuter adds. Israel Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said on Friday he saw historic "window of opportunity" in the next four years to achieve a lasting. comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"I think the coming four years are the most crucial years may be in the history of Jewish life, and the year 1997 maybe the most telling one," he said at a news conference before speaking to an assembly of US Jewish leaders in Seattle. 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. But he said other potential

superpowers such as China. Japan and the emerging United Europe were on the horizon. "We may again arrive at a

world of competition and conflict and then to would be ex-Meridor openly came out in tremely difficult to solve the

said. "So I see a window of opportunity in the next years to come

While Peres said he re mained opposed to the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the Linkud Party. who narrowly defeated him, he warned reporters not to judge him by speeches along but by continued progress in peace Meanwhile Amnesty Inter

national said on Friday it deplored an Israeli Supreme Court decision authorising the country's security service to use physical pressure on a man accused of having information on Islamic Jihad bomb attacks. Israel is a state party to

United Nations treaties which outlaw torture under all circumstances, this shocking decision negates Israel's solemn obligations, the human rights group said in a statement. Israel's Supreme Court on

Thursday overturned an order by a lower court forbidding the general security service, known as Shin Bet, from using physical pressure against Muham-

US mediated talks between Kurdish factions end ANKARA, Nov 16: US-medi-

ated talks between riva Kurdish factions in northern Iraq ended here Friday with both sides reaffirming their commitment to respect on October 23 ceasefire, officials said, reports AFP.

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

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. RIA news agency said, reports Reuter.

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

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, ac cording to a poll published in the latest edition of the medical journal Riza Psicomatica, reports AFP.

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

But while arguments were fairly rare they were often fierce, ending in a shouting match in 37 per cent of cases.

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.

UN Slovenia mission may remain till end of '97

Iraqi Vice-President Taha Mohieddin Ma'rouf addresses

delegates during the third day of the UN sponsored World

Food Summit Friday. Ma'rouf, complaining that UN

sanctions had driven it into poverty, urged the summit to

end its punishment and said it should "refrain from

imposing economic embargos, the prevention of food and

starving peoples in order to achieve political and economic

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, re-

ports Reuter. "I have decided to instruct the United States representative to NATO to inform our allies that in principle the United States will take part in a followon force in Bosnia," Clinton told a news conference at the

White House. He said Washington would contribute about 8,500 troops to the new NATO-led force. That total would be reviewed every six months and be cut to about half by the end of 1997. The force would withdraw completely by about June 1993, he

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 of the administration and the economy had been slower than expected, making a followon force necessary.

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, now being withdrawn from Bosnia under

-Reuters/UNB photo

December 20 deadline. United Nations mission in the Croatian enclave of Eastern Slavonia will remain there until at least July and perhaps until the end of 1997, according to the UN Security Council.

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

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

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, reports 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, who mostly are Pashtuns and control roughly two-thirds of the coun-

The UNHCR said in a statement Friday in Islamabad that the fighting and displacement of people "seems be taking place

along ethnic lines. Herat and the Afghan capital of Kabul, 370 miles (600 kilometres) to the east, both are under Taliban control. Since pushing the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani from Kabul in September, the Taliban, which has imposed its strict version of Islam in the areas in controls, has been bat-

tling other factions. Most of the fighting has been in or around Kabul, but in recent weeks a second front has _ Timorese capital.

opened in western Afghanistan. Jets belonging to Dostum bombed the airport in western Herat on Friday. United Nations workers said there were at

Refugees stream into UN camps

in western Afghanistan

airport but no major damage was reported. Dostum's jets have several times bombed the airport in the past two weeks, hitting the control tower but not the runways. The claim could not be inde-

least two bombing raids on the

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, where the Nobel peace laureate faced criticism for negative comments about Indonesia's control of the territory, reports AP.

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

pendently confirmed.

Most of the refugees arriving in Herat are from the Morghab region of the Badghis province. about 120 miles (190 kilometres) north, said the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in neighbouring Pakistan.

So far the UNHCR has dis-

tributed thousands of blankets

and at least 1,000 family-size tents to refugees at two camps in Herat. Some of the refugees walked for five or six days to reach the camps. "We're okay for the time being ... but if it continues at this rate we will have to bring in

more supplies," said Rupert Colville, a UNHCR spokesman in the Pakistan capital of Islamabad. The refugees belong "100 per cent" to Afghanistan's majority Pashtun ethnic group, Colville said, as do most Taliban fighters. Dostum, by comparison, is an Uzbek and most of Rabbani's

forces belong to Afghanistan's minority Tajik ethnic group. The overwhelming number of Pashtun refugees has sparked fear among some in Herat that Dostum has been pushing Pash tuns out of western Badghis

province.



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. -AFP/UNB photo

'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 rely on aid alone to feed their people and said democracy, human rights and stamping out corruption were essential to the assault on hunger, reports

Reuter. 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.

"Human rights and respect for democracy must not be seen as luxuries to be enjoyed only

by those who can afford them' Irish Prime Minster John Bruton, whose country holds the EU presidency said. They were "essential ele-

ments in the creation of a genuinely enabling environment world's richest countries. Food Summit on Friday not to which provide the basis for development, the eradication of poverty and for food security. Corruption... is another in-

> sidious source of food insecurity through the disruption it causes to economic and social development, and it must be combated relentlessly." German Agriculture Minster Jochen Bochert said a non binding plan of action adopted

lion in 20 years depended on the principle of self-reliance in agriculture. "Sustainable food security cannot be brought about merely by redistribution, such as

by the summit to halve the

world's hungry from 840 mil-

through food aid," Bochert said. The summit, which opened on Wednesday at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the shadow of the refugee crisis in eastern Zaire, has failed to attract a significant number of leaders from the

Cuban President Fidel Castro, the star summitter in a depleted field, had been expected to speak on Friday but FAO officials said he had been unable to fly from Havana because of bad weather. He is now expected

to speak on Saturday. FAO estimates that 75 per cent more food will have to be produced in the next 30 years as the world's population surges from 5.7 billion to 87 billion by

But the agency also says enough food is now grown to feed the world despite chronic hunger and malnutrition among nearly 14 per cent of its people, most of them in the third world.

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-

Dan Glickman said development aid had in the past been high because it was also a tool of superpower rivalry. That had ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union, he told reporters.

oping world suffering from this lack of international commitment to food problems after the end of the Cold War," Glickman "The raising of international consciousness is neces-

sary to get all the countries of

So what you see is the devel-

the world focused on the prob-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 de-

Agriculture and Water Re-

velopment aid budgets and soft sources Minster Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Bin Muammar said US Agriculture Secretary developing countries had to tackle food problems "with more seriousness, realism, determination and self-dependence."

The food summit is the last

ences 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

in a series of major UN confer-

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 Minster Lynda Chalker said. "We have had enough of

them," she declared.

global agri-research system nessing new resources on behalf 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, reports USIS. Ismail Serageldin, chairman of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), said recently that scientists at a two-day global forum had taken an important fist step towards full partnership with farmers in the world's poorest countries. The era of research which

tions without reference to the needs of the producers is behind us." Serageldin said in an address to the scientists. "The revolution in molecular biology and in information

produces technological innova-

technology offer us unprecedented opportunities for harof the poor," he added. "This can not be achieved by any organisation single-handedly. We must pull together to win together. The forum, sponsored by

Scientists pledge to launch new

CGIAR as part of its own weeklong 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.

The CGIAR, an informal as-

search 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 Envi-

international organisations

and private groups, coordinates

support for international re-

ronment Programme jointly

tains 16 international research

sponsor CGlAR, which main-

CGIAR's 1997 budget is about \$325 million, up from \$300 million in 1996

Serageldin expressed con cern to reporters that the in creasing use of a agricultural process patents could prevent CGIAR from making scientific innovations available to people sociation of developed and developing-country governments, in developing countries.