

# Differences remain on key issues as G-8 summit ends

DENVER, June 23: World leaders tried to wrap up their first Summit of the Eight with a grand show of harmony, but they could not paper over differences on everything from the economy and Africa to the environment and the United Nations, reports AP.

President Clinton, who as host got to set the agenda, labeled the three days of discussions by leaders of the world's seven richest economies and Russia a huge success that had advanced the causes of global peace and prosperity.

"Here in Denver, we have actually made real progress on problems that matter to our people," he told reporters at a closing news conference Sunday.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin also was ecstatic, posing proudly with the other leaders for all the class pictures — the perfect symbol that Russia is

now a full-fledged member of the group.

"All the talk has been about the G-8. The eight this, the eight that. The G-8 has become a reality," he declared Sunday.

The traditional Group of Seven — the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — went out of the way to demonstrate that Russia is now a member of the club. The final communiqué praised the economic reforms Russia has undertaken and held out the hope of more prizes down the road, including membership in the World Trade Organization.

But on other issues, there was a lot less unanimity. Clinton found himself standing alone on such issues as reducing the carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming.

The European countries had pushed for specific reduction

targets, something the United States opposes, and Clinton's position prevailed.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl complained that because of the American position, "We could not reach more" in terms of cleaning up the environment.

French President Jacques Chirac was even more blunt, terming the United States "one of the world's biggest polluters," with "each American responsible for three times more (CFC emissions) than each French person."

France and the United States also were at loggerheads over the proper way to help Africa — the world's poorest continent. Here, the communiqué took the classic approach: It included calls for the more expensive direct foreign aid that France wanted and the cheaper debt relief advocated by the Americans.

On the United Nations, it

was Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien who took the sharpest jibe at the US position that the world body must streamline and economise to continue receiving American payments. The United States owes \$1.9 million dollars in back dues, money that the US Congress is withholding pending UN reforms and a cut in the US annual assessment.

"I don't accept the notion that one country or two countries will dictate the policies of an international organisation like that," Chretien said, suggesting that the United Nations move its headquarters to Montreal.

Remarks that Clinton made upon his arrival in Denver also ranked some other leaders.

"We are not in the process of trying to hold a competition between the American and European (economic) models," said Jacques Santer.

## Troops resume advance into LTTE-held areas

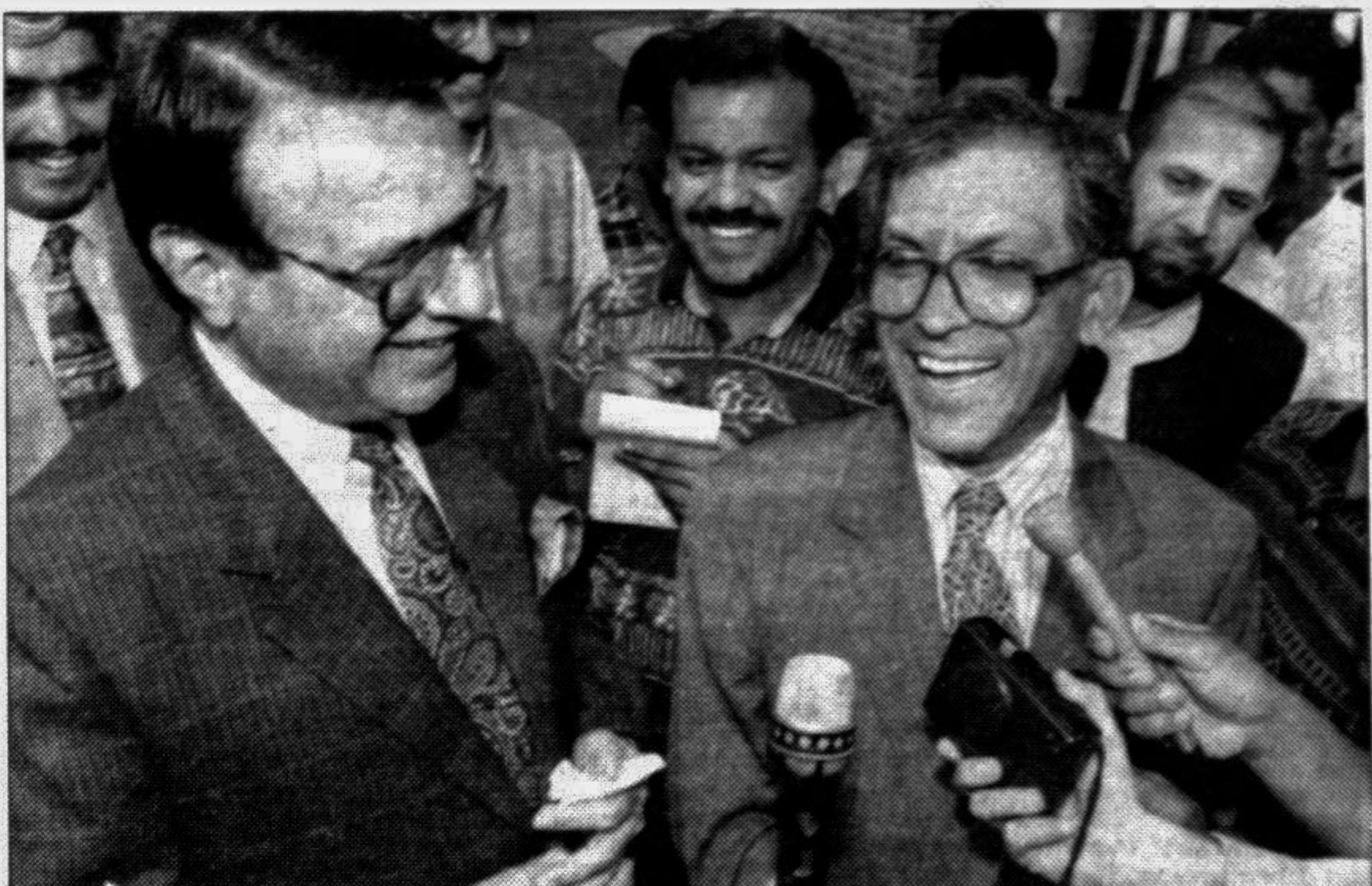
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, June 23: After rebuilding their defences, government troops resumed their two-pronged thrust into Tamil rebel territory in northern Sri Lanka on Monday, military officials said, reports AP.

War planes and artillery pounded rebel positions before two columns of infantry soldiers advanced from the villages of Periyamadu and Nedunkeni that were captured shortly after the offensive began May 13, officials said.

Details of the fighting were not immediately available, said the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

The troops are trying to converge at Puliyankulam, a town 235 kilometers (146 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo.

The troops are trying to capture a vital 86-kilometre (55-miles) road to the government-controlled Jaffna Peninsula, home to a half a million Tamils. The peninsula is now accessible only by air and sea.



Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider (R) and his Pakistani counterpart Shamshad Ahmed (L) laughs during an informal chat with the press after their six hour meeting at the Murree hill resort 50 kilometres north of capital Islamabad, Sunday. Haider said the two sides had worked hard and made considerable progress.

— AFP/UNB photo

## CIA report on China's aid to build Pak missile factory ignored

WASHINGTON, June 23: The White House and State Department have ignored a CIA report that China helped Pakistan construct a factory to manufacture medium-range ballistic missiles, Time magazine reported on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The magazine said US intelligence services discovered the facility near Rawalpindi in late 1995 and concluded that China was not only selling missiles to Pakistan but also helping the Pakistanis build a factory to manufacture them.

If confirmed, such a report could endanger the Clinton administration's policy of extending most favoured nation

### Chief of Kashmiri militant group with 5 members held

SRINAGAR, June 23: Police in the northern state of Jammu-Kashmir said Monday they have arrested the chief and five members of a guerrilla outfit blamed for two bombings in the state capital, reports AP.

Ghulam Rasool Shah, the chief of the Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen, a pro-Pakistan group, was charged with trying to destabilise the state government through bomb attacks, said state police chief Gurbachan Singh Jagat.

The others arrested included the financial controller of the group, one of the most active rebel outfits fighting for independence of the northern state.

All six men were picked up in Srinagar last week and charged with also trying to kill state government ministers through such attacks, Jagat told a news conference in Srinagar, the state capital. He blamed the group with carrying out two bomb attacks in Srinagar in December and January that killed eight persons.

'US should put Pol Pot under safe custody'

WASHINGTON, June 23: The United States should put Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot in protective custody before the man blamed for up to 2 million deaths in Cambodia is slain or escapes, a US senator said Sunday, reports AP.

Sen Robert Torricelli, a Democrat, said the opportunity must not be missed for what could be the most important genocide trial since Israel convicted and hanged Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann. And, Torricelli said, "Only the US government has the capability to extract Pol Pot from Cambodia and place him under protective custody."

Pol Pot's communist Khmer Rouge rebels are held responsible for killing or working to death perhaps as many as 2 million Cambodians in the 1975-79 period they ruled the country. He is reported to have been captured by dissident guerrillas and to be held in the country's northern jungles.

Britain gives political asylum to 5 Chinese dissidents

LONDON, June 23: Britain has secretly given political asylum to five Chinese dissidents who have recently been based in Hong Kong, according to one of the five cited in a London newspaper report, says AP.

The paper, Independent of Sunday, reported that the arrival in Britain of the three men and two women plus two dependents was kept confidential in a bid to avoid upsetting Chinese authorities ahead of the July 1 transfer of Hong Kong from British to Chinese rule.

It did not name any of the five or say when they arrived in Britain but said all were involved in the 1989 pro-democracy movement in China and one had been a student leader of the movement.

## Vietnam's ruling troika to resign collectively

HANOI, Vietnam, June 23: Vietnam's ruling troika will collectively step down from the National Assembly to make way for new leadership, a government official said Monday, reports AP.

Premier Vo Van Kiet, President Le Duc Anh and Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi will not run for reelection when Vietnam goes to the polls in July, National Assembly spokesman Nguyen Sy said.

The others arrested included the financial controller of the group, one of the most active rebel outfits fighting for independence of the northern state.

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'1 killed as 2 planes collide in US : Two small airplanes competing in a race collided in flight and crashed in flames during an air show on Long Island, killing one of the pilots and critically injuring the other, AP reports from Westhampton, NY.

The single-engine planes, two of four circling a race course Sunday at the Wings Over Long Island show, crashed away from spectators at Francis Gabreski Airport, said Suffolk County Police Officer Jack O'Connor. "The wing of one plane clipped another," said Tim Ryan a spokesman for the Suffolk County Executive Robert Gaffney. The cause was under investigation, although witnesses said winds had picked up just before the crash.

Testing of killer ant vaccine soon : Australia's jack jumper ants may not be as widely feared as its sharks, poisonous spiders or snakes — but until now they have been just as deadly, AP reports from Hobart, Australia.

Researchers will soon test a vaccine to overcome the jack jumper sting and believe their work could also benefit those suffering cancer and heart disease. The jack jumper, an aggressive form of bull ant, can leap 4 inches (10 cm) to inject a sting causing heart failure, respiratory collapse and often death in people allergic to the venom.

UNITED NATIONS, June 23: Low on water, high on carbon dioxide and growing less green by the day, the world stops and asks itself a question Monday: Are we better off now than five years ago?

The official answers being debated at this week's UN Earth Summit are not encouraging — a choice between "worse" and "not much better," reports AP.

Leaders and envoys from more than 170 nations are gathering for the five-day conference to review progress since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Many hoped the United States, the world's No. 1 polluter, would take the lead in setting clean-up goals, particularly on the tough issue of global warming. But it was Germany's Helmut Kohl who promised an action plan for "Earth Summit Plus 5."

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I hope the political leaders will come to the rescue," the Malaysian diplomat said.

In 1992 in Rio, governments endorsed the goal of "Sustainable development" — developing the global economy to benefit all while protecting the environment.

That summit was historic, but the steps it agreed on were mostly voluntary — in reducing such "Greenhouse gases" as carbon dioxide, for example, to combat global warming and in better preserving forests.

The record since then is spurring calls for tougher mandatory actions.

Carbon emissions have actually increased — in the United States by more than 13 per cent. Fresh water is increasingly scarce. Forests are being lost at a yearly rate of 55,000 square miles (142,000 square kilometers) — about the size of Greece.

On the development side, the number of "absolute" poor — people living on less than \$1 a day — has edged above 1.1 billion.

In closed-door, pre-summit talks, diplomats debated what conclusion to reach in the political statement that will end the summit: Is the environmental outlook "worse" than five years ago, or "not much better"?

Such duels over language were the easy part. The harder negotiations were expected to drag on through the week over global warming and other more concrete issues.

Governments agreed two years ago to produce by late 1997 a new treaty on global warming requiring industrial nations to cut back greenhouse gas emissions. The European Union and others propose specific targets and timetables for endorsement by this week's

summit. But Washington is hesitating.

A US Senate majority says it will block any treaty that does not also mandate reductions by China and other developing countries. The Clinton administration is searching for a middle ground. Meanwhile, the rhetoric is sharpening.

"We would like to see countries that are benefiting from putting garbage into the air to something about it," said Lawrence N. Edwards, UN ambassador of the low-lying Pacific nation of Marshall Islands, which might be inundated by rising sea levels predicted in the next century with global warming.

Edwards and others hope Clinton will take a firmer stand in his summit speech Thursday. But US officials, speaking privately, say the stalemate will continue.

## G-7 praises Indo-Pak talks

by Aziz Haniffa writes from Washington

way we can."

"But we don't see a direct role in these talks," he emphasized.

The G-7 communiqué how-

ever called on New Delhi and Islamabad to "bring their activities into conformity with international non-proliferation norms."

It also asked them to

"adhere" to the CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty) to ensure its early entry into force.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Bill Clinton at the Colorado summit, dubbed the Summit of the Eight because of Moscow's participation, refused to comment on a Time magazine report that the White House and State Department had ignored a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) report that China helped Pakistan build a factory to make medium-range ballistic

missiles.

But he declared that when clandestine transfers like that of Beijing's sale of ring magnets to Pakistan took place, Washington had taken appropriate action.

When we had clear evidence that China was providing ring magnets, (to Pakistan) we dealt with that and were satisfied," by

Chinese assurances that no sales will take place in the future and Beijing would abide by the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

Clinton, asserting that "we will not walk away from these," said the U.S. would take strong action whenever nonproliferation objectives were violated.

— India Abroad News Service

## Israel plans to close its borders to PLO officials

MORAG, Gaza Strip, June 23: A deaf Palestinian boy was shot in the head by an Israeli soldier outside a Jewish settlement in Gaza, Palestinian official said Sunday, reports AP.

Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Singer, 14, was hospitalised in serious condition. He was walking outside the Morag settlement's perimeter fence when he was shot, said Abed Alrazeq Magudia, head of the Palestinian police in Gaza.

The area has been the site of a sit-in to protest land confiscations for the past month, but Magudia insisted "there were no clashes and no warning from the Israelis when they shot at him."

The army said it was investigating the shooting, which comes after eight days of tension and riots in Morag and the West Bank City of Hebron.

Reacting to the violence, Israel is considering closing its borders to about 20 Palestinian officials it blames for inciting eight days of riots in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel radio said Sunday.

The report said the Palestinian officials included three

Palestinians were wounded in stone-throwing clashes with Israeli soldiers who responded with rubber bullets and stun grenades. The protests also spread to the West Bank city of Nablus on Saturday.

On Sunday in the autonomous Palestinian community of Ramallah, Palestinian police fired into the air to disperse dozens of Palestinians throwing stones and bottles outside a courthouse to protest the detention and trial of nine men accused of killing collaborators with Israel.

There were no casualties. Police arrested 10 participants in the riot.

Abdul Karim Hamad, attorney for the nine, said they confessed to the murders of seven people after being tortured. In the first trial session two months ago, the court ruled the confessions inadmissible after Hamad produced hospital documents verifying his claims of torture.

The riot seemed to reflect growing dissatisfaction among Palestinians with the Palestinian Authority over corruption charges.

## Off the Record

### Daughter of Agha Khan ties the knot

CHANTILLY, France: Under the gaze of royalty, Princess Zahra, daughter of the Agha Khan, on Saturday exchanged wedding vows with a British businessman in a discreet but sumptuous ceremony, reports AP.

The 26-year-old daughter