

International

Kesri blames BJP for horse-trading in UP

GOHANA, Haryana, Oct 27: Congress president Sitaram Kesri on Sunday charged the BJP with giving a new dimension to the politics of defection by indulging in large-scale horse-trading in Uttar Pradesh, reports PTI.

Leaders turn down 3 nations' bid to join C'wealth

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, Oct 27: Commonwealth leaders on Saturday turned down bids from Yemen, Rwanda and Palestine to join the 54-nation group but said that they would be reviewed at a later date, reports AFP.

C'wealth leaders won't soften line on Nigeria

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, Oct 27: Commonwealth leaders said on Sunday they would not soften their line on Nigeria, but differed over how best to prod it into improving human rights, reports Reuters.

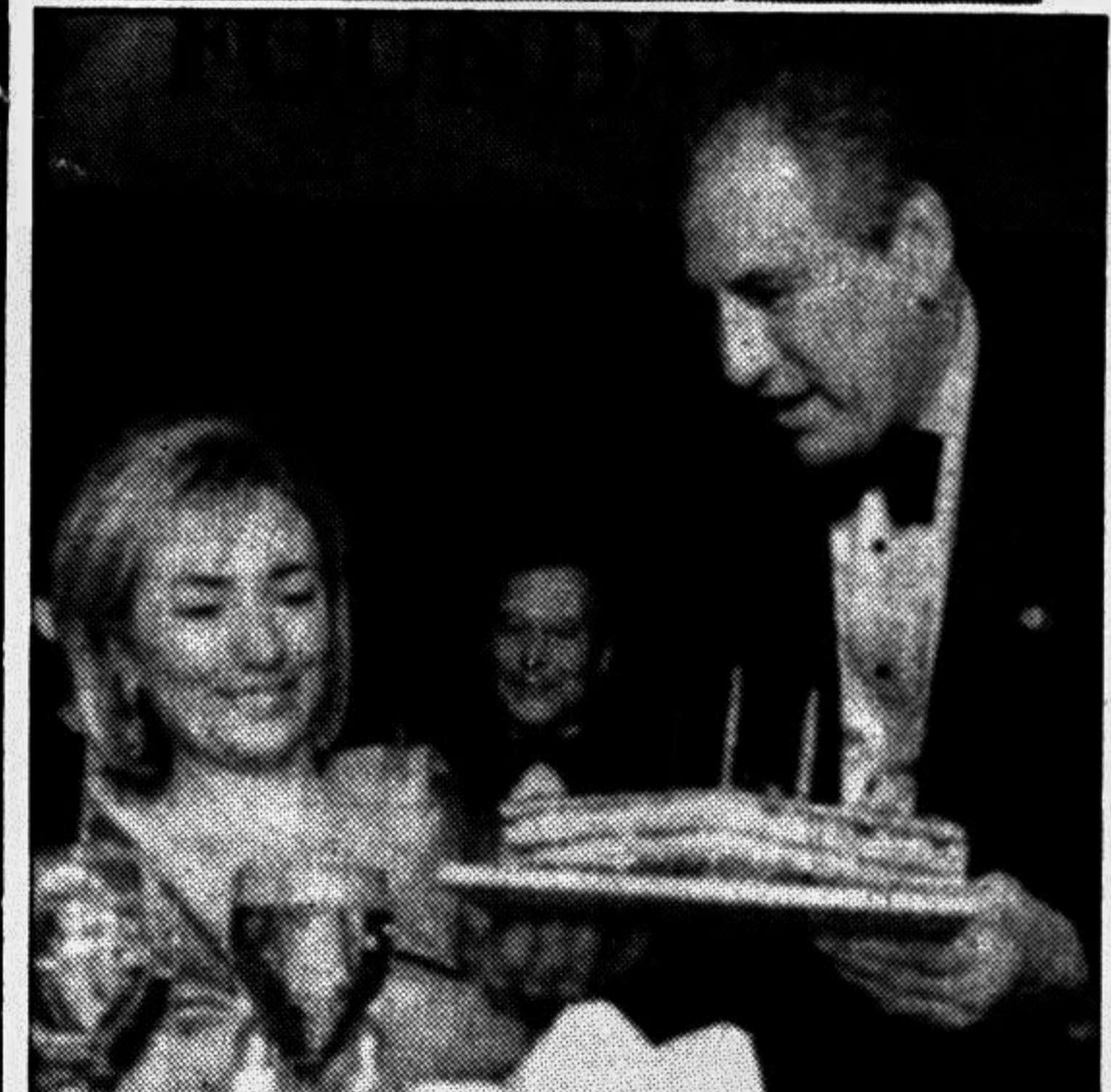
should go out to Nigeria and see what could be done. But I don't think that idea really took off," a British official told reporters.

China can help build bridges between India, Pakistan: Clinton

WASHINGTON, Oct 27: US President Bill Clinton declared here that China can be a catalyst in healing the estrangement between India and Pakistan and in the process improve its own relations with New Delhi and Islamabad, reports India Abroad News Service.

relationship we must have to promote cooperation, not conflict," Clinton said.

BRIEFLY



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is surprised with a birthday cake presented to her by hotel banquet manager George Pulles while attending the National Italian American Foundation dinner in Washington, Saturday.

Surinam coup bid foiled: The Surinamese government said on Sunday it had foiled a coup attempt on Saturday night, attacking and capturing a group of plotters in an hour-long gunfight in the capital Paramaribo, Reuters reports from Paramaribo.

4 Colombian rebels killed: Clashes between Colombian troops and leftist rebels who have pledged to disrupt local and municipal elections Sunday left four guerrillas dead and four soldiers wounded, officials said, AFP reports from Bogota.

Mandela to visit Libya again: President Nelson Mandela plans to visit Libya again on Wednesday on his way back to South Africa from the Commonwealth meeting in Scotland, a foreign affairs spokesman said Sunday, AP reports from Johannesburg.

Israel to free 27 Palestinians: Israel was to free 27 Palestinian prisoners yesterday as part of a deal reached with Jordan last month to obtain the release of Israeli agents caught trying to assassinate a Palestinian leader in Amman, Israeli radios reported, AFP says from Jerusalem.

ROK test fires missile: South Korea yesterday test-fired a short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) in what defence officials touted as a "landmark event" in the country's bumpy history of independent missile development, AFP reports from Seoul.

Taliban commander defects to United Islamic Front

DUBAI, Oct 27: Taliban commander in the besieged province of Kunduz defected to the United Islamic Front fighting for liberating Kabul, the Iranian news agency IRNA said, reports PTI.

Ruling party loses in Argentina polls

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 27: Argentina's ruling Peronist Party suffered its first election defeat in 10 years on Sunday at the hands of a new opposition coalition that reaped votes of protest against its record on jobs and corruption, reports Reuters.

Arafat in Cairo ME peace talks 'going nowhere'

CAIRO, Oct 27: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told the Egyptian and Yemeni presidents Sunday that Middle East peace talks were "going nowhere," reports AP.

Lankan govt keeps option open for talks with LTTE

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Oct 27: Sri Lanka's government said Monday that it will not ban the top Tamil rebel group because it wants to keep open any possibility of a peaceful end to the civil war, reports AP.

Arrives in Honolulu Jiang hopeful of reviving WW II Sino-US ties

HONOLULU, Oct 27: Chinese President Jiang Zemin evoked Second World War images of allies China and the United States working together as he began a state visit to repair a tattered relationship while police kept demonstrators from crossing his path, reports Reuters.

ROK, US begin wargames

SEOUL, Oct 27: The United States and South Korea began their largest joint military exercise of the year Monday despite protests from North Korea, reports AP.

Israeli planes raid 2 guerilla bases in Lebanon

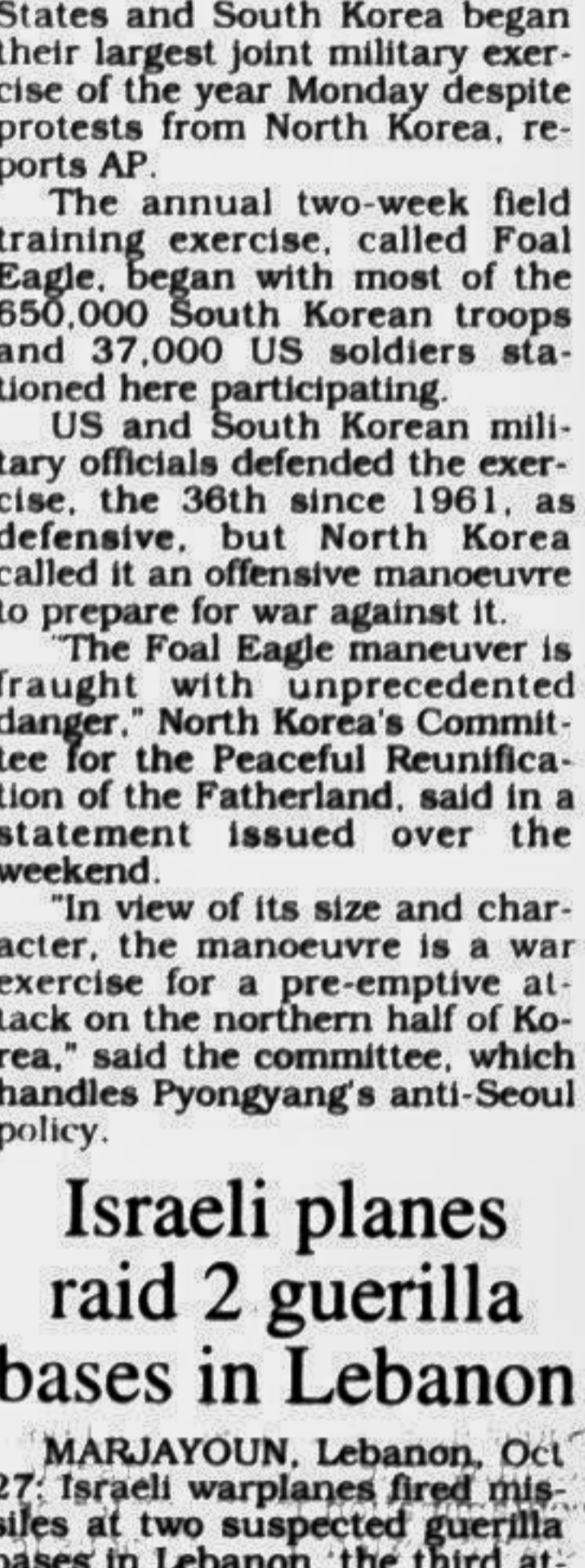
MARJAYOUN, Lebanon, Oct 27: Israeli warplanes fired missiles at two suspected guerilla bases in Lebanon, the third attack in less than 24 hours, Lebanese security officials said, reports AP.

Fund for AIDs vaccine urged

MANILA, Oct 27: A US lobby group today called for the creation of a fund to speed up the search for an AIDS vaccine, reports AFP.

years to become widely available in the Asia-Pacific, where infections are forecast by the UN to double to at least 14 million cases by 2000.

Off the Record



1,600-yr-old roadway found

TAIYUAN: The traces of a 1,600-year-old roadway built along a rock face on China's Yellow River in Shanxi province, were discovered recently, reports Xinhua.

'Black Christ' returns home after 30 years in exile

CAPE TOWN: The 'Black Christ', a painting banned by South African censors in the 1960s that became a symbol of the anti-apartheid movement, has returned home after over 30 years in exile, reports Reuters.

Housemaids given one month to legalise stay in Saudi Arabia

DUBAI, Oct 27: Saudi Arabia gave housemaids working in the oil-rich kingdom without proper permits one month to legalise their stay or leave, official Saudi Television said on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Shadow of Tiananmen massacre haunts Clinton-Jiang summit

WASHINGTON, Oct 27: Eight years after the Tiananmen Square massacre chilled relations, the United States and China are on the verge of a historic reconciliation, reports AP.

bolism of establishing an amicable relationship between the two countries," said Michael Swaine of the Rand Corp's Center for Asia-Pacific Policy in Santa Monica, California.

peace and stability and should improve relations. Clinton once seemed an unlikely champion of closer ties with China.

many would be "unworkable, counter productive and potentially dangerous." At the same time, Clinton promised the United States would continue to stand up for human rights and speak out about their abuse.

mayor, was brought to Beijing in the midst of the protracted Tiananmen demonstrations. Deng named him general secretary of the Communist Party, beginning Jiang's rise to power.

'Delhi didn't ask London to recall envoy'

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Prime Minister I.K. Gujral today described as "deliberate disinformation" a British newspaper report claiming that Indian officials had asked the British government to recall its high commissioner in New Delhi, Sir David Gore-Booth, reports PTI.