

# Indonesian troops protect parliament bldg following students' clash

JAKARTA, Sept 8: Security forces blocked roads and erected razor wire barricades around the Parliament on Tuesday after they used batons, shields and tear gas to push hundreds of student protesters from its grounds, reports AP.

A senior Cabinet minister called on students to remain calm, saying violent anti-government demonstrations and calls for the president to quit would not fix Indonesia's crippling economic crisis.

The protest, which began on Monday, was the biggest of its kind since a marathon student sit-in at the Parliament helped force President Habibie's autocratic predecessor, ex-President Suharto, to step down after 1,200 people were killed in a wave of riots four months ago.

The official Antara news agency reported that two students were hospitalised with

bayonet wounds to their abdomens and others were treated for tear-gas inhalation after the pre-dawn clash.

Maria Helena, a spokesman for nearby Atma Jaya Hospital, said two students underwent emergency surgery. However, she refused to give details of their injuries. Three others were treated at the hospital and later released, she said.

A police spokesman said five officers were injured by rocks and bottles thrown by demonstrators who had earlier pushed down the gates of the legislature.

Chanting anti-government slogans, the students gathered outside the green-domed building Monday to demand that Habibie quit because of his handling of Indonesia's economic crisis and failure to lower soaring food prices.

They also urged that Suharto

be put on trial for alleged misdeeds, including corruption and repression, during his 32 years at the helm of the nation of 202 million people.

Officers corralled the protesters into a parking lot on the grounds. Many protesters later left peacefully.

However, about 300 refused repeated requests to disperse. A standoff dragged on until about 1.30 am on Tuesday when security personnel forcibly evicted the protesters.

Police said they made no arrests and later re-erected the gates.

The Parliament precinct was quiet by late morning Tuesday as legislators arrived to discuss the effects of Indonesia's financial woes, including food shortages and price hikes.

Hundreds of security personnel were stationed inside the grounds of the Parliament,

and they placed piles of riot gear outside its perimeter as precaution.

They also unravelled coils of razor wire inside its main entrance. However, there was no sign of trouble.

Lines of police and troops cut off several major roads leading to the legislature amid reports that hundreds of students were planning to march there from nearby campuses.

Rush hour traffic was choked by the heavy security presence.

Meanwhile at Jakarta's state palace, Habibie opened a regional human rights conference on Tuesday by restating a pledge to improve Indonesia's bad human rights record.

However, he warned that the country's severe economic problems must be fixed if human rights were to be protected. Growing poverty could lead to

further social unrest, he said.

The president made no comment about the student protest.

Justice Minister Muladi urged the students "to use their wisdom and prevent the situation from getting worse."

He defended the reform record of the Habibie government and said it had done its best to improve Indonesia's situation during its first 100 days in office.

"We have to be realistic, Muladi said. 'I doubt there is anyone who would want to replace Habibie and could do what he has done in this very short time.'

He said that the government was seriously addressing the student's main gripe about food shortages and high prices. He said anyone found guilty of interfering with food distribution could be sentenced to death.

## Prominent Shi'ite leader killed in Pakistan

LAHORE, Sept 8: A prominent member of a Shi'ite Muslim group was murdered in his home on Tuesday in what police suspect was the latest attack in an ongoing feud between rival Islamic groups, reports AP.

Murid Hussein, a leader of the Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan, or the Movement for the Implementation of Shi'ite Rights, was shot by two men with automatic rifles in the town of Sahiwal, about 400 km south-east of Islamabad.

Police said the men approached Hussein's home on motorcycles in the early morning, broke in and opened fire on the Shi'ite leader and his wife. Police said Hussein died on the spot, and his wife was hospitalised in critical condition.

The gunmen escaped, but police said they suspect members of a rival Sunni Muslim sect, called the Sipah-e-Sahaba, or Guardians of the Friends of the Prophet. The group is linked to dozens of religiously motivated attacks.

## Newspapers urge junta to deport Suu Kyi

YANGON, Sept 8: Myanmar's state controlled newspapers today called on the military government to deport opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, saying she was a foreigner trying to destabilise the country, reports Reuters.

The call came a day after Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) said the authorities had detained 110 of its members since Sunday in a move to prevent the party from calling a "People's Parliament".

A commentary carried in the Myanmar language Myanmar Alin (Light of Myanmar) and Kyemnon (Mirror) newspapers was attributed to "an advocate".

It accused Suu Kyi of trying to destabilise the country and said her marriage to an Englishman made her a foreigner. Her husband, Michael Aris, is an academic.

"Therefore I would like to request the government most humbly on behalf of the entire people to issue a deportation order for Suu Kyi..." it said.

State newspapers usually closely reflect government thinking.

Last month an article suggested Suu Kyi's deportation, but Monday's article was the strongest direct call for it.

On Monday a government spokesman confirmed that authorities had detained an unspecified number of NLD members and said they would take "appropriate action" against Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders if they stuck to their vow to convene a Parliament.

The NLD made the vow as the military has refused to recognise the results of the country's last general election eight years ago, which the party won by a landslide.

The NLD said those detained included 50 members who won parliamentary seats.

The newspaper commentary accused Suu Kyi of creating unrest since 1988.



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, centre, turns to his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni, right, as fellow President of Democratic Republic of Congo Laurent Kabila, left, emerges from the end of the day's peace talks in the Zimbabwean resort town of Victoria Falls, Monday. — AP/UNB photo.

## Black hole discovered at the centre of our Galaxy

WASHINGTON, Sept 8: An enormous black hole has been discovered at the centre of our Galaxy, one that could shed light on how galaxies form, according to findings presented on Monday at a scientific conference, reports AP.

Proof of the long-suspected black hole was presented by Andrea Ghez of the University of California at Los Angeles, who did her work at the Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii.

"What lies in the centre of the Milky Way has been one of this century's big science questions," said Terry Oswalt, manager of Stellar Astronomy and Astrophysics at the National Science Foundation.

"Ghez's work has massive implications for our understanding of how galaxies evolve," Oswalt said.

Ghez presented her research on Monday at the central Parsecs Galactic Centre Workshop '98 in Tucson, Arizona.

Black holes are formed from the remnants of collapsed stars. A black hole consists of a large mass compacted so densely that not even light can escape the force of its massive gravity.

Since black holes are invisible, Ghez inferred its presence by searching for the gravitational influence it imposes on nearby objects she could see, namely stars.

In 1995, using the Keck I telescope atop Mauna Kea, she began tracking the movement of 200 stars near the Galactic Centre.

She found 20 stars that exhibited the telling signs of influence by extreme gravitational forces.

These stars are spiralling around the black hole at a speed of up to five million kilometers (three million miles) per hour — about 10 times the speed at which stars typically move.

## Lankan govt for extending state of emergency

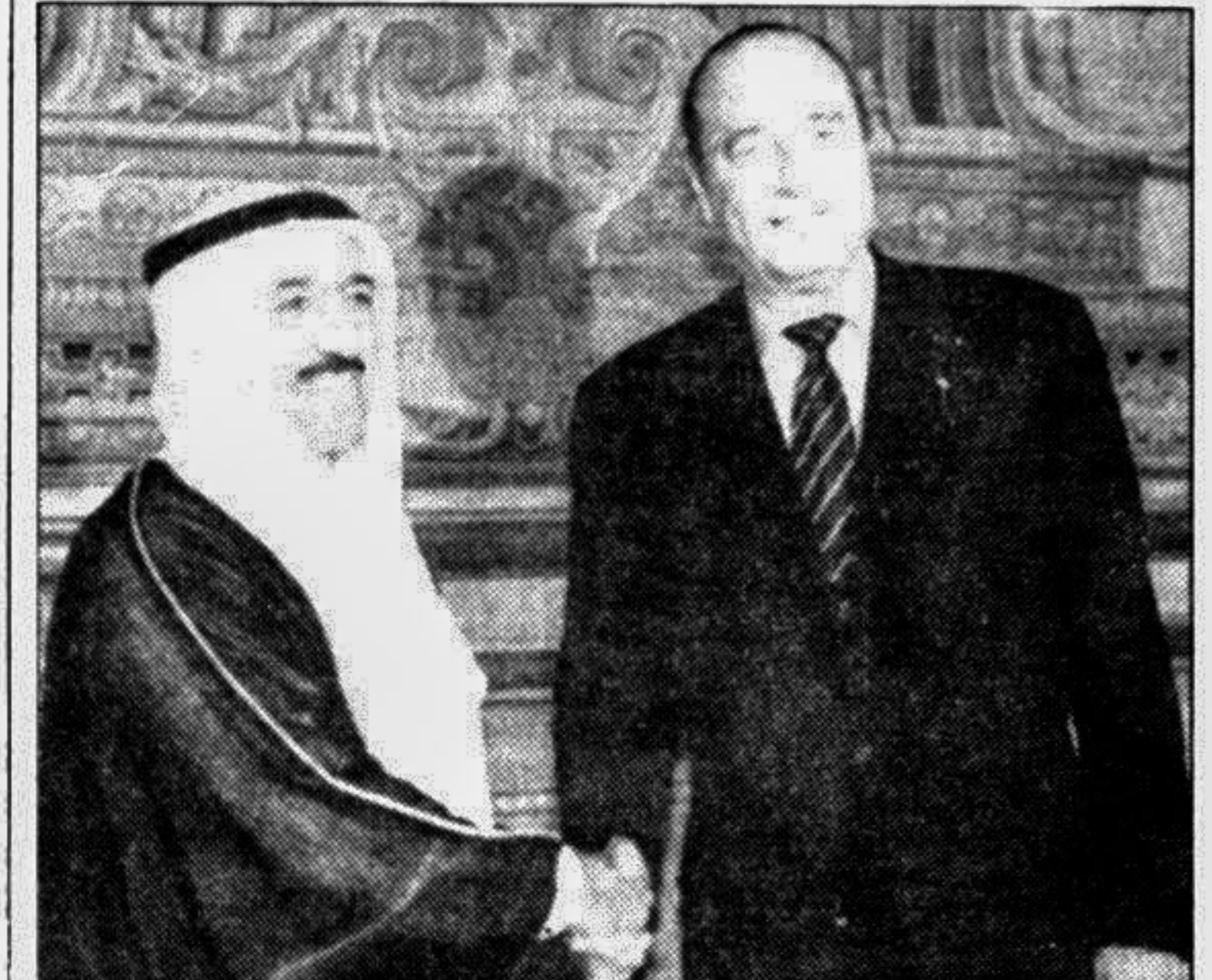
COLOMBO, Sept 8: The government wants to extend war-torn Sri Lanka's state of emergency, approaching Parliament on Tuesday for permission to do so, reports AP.

Speaker KB Ratnayake put the government's proposal up for debate, but fixed no date for voting. The government must seek parliament's approval every month. In the past, the governing People's Alliance coalition, with only a one-seat majority in the 225-member House, has scrapped through with the support of smaller parties.

Parts of Sri Lanka, including the north and the east, the traditional homeland of the minority Tamils, have been under the state of emergency for several years now because of threat of attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE. The Tigers launched their separatist war in 1983.

Last month, President Chandrika Kumaratunga extended the emergency to the remaining parts of the island, saying the country faced a difficult security situation. She also postponed provincial council elections, saying shifting 30,000 security men from the battlefield to election duty would weaken the government war effort.

Critics said Kumaratunga simply wanted to avoid elections.



French President Jacques Chirac, right, greets Kuwaiti Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah at the Elysee Palace in Paris Monday. Al-Sabah is in France on a two-day official visit. — AP/UNB photo.

## BRIEFLY

**4 killed in New York storm:** Violent thunderstorms and possible tornadoes bent flagpoles and blew out windows, causing at least four deaths including two people hit by debris at the New York State Fair, AP reports from New York.

At least seven more people were injured at the fair and 20 buildings severely damaged in Syracuse, leaving about 140 students homeless from the early morning storm.

**Blast hurts 14 in Macau:** A parked car and a motorcycle exploded in a Macau street early yesterday injuring 14 people, police said, AP reports from Macau.

Witnesses said the car exploded first. When police and journalists gathered at the scene, a blast from a nearby motorcycle caused the injuries. Among those injured were four police officers. The rest were mostly journalists.

**New defence minister in DPRK:** Vice Marshal Kim Il Chol, North Korea's top naval commander, has been appointed defence minister, the country's media reported yesterday, AP says from Seoul.

In a two-sentence dispatch, the North's Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Il named the naval officer as minister of the People's Armed Forces, or defence minister.

**Airstrikes kill 25 in Congo:** An Angolan warplane attacked the rebel-held town of Kalemie in the southeast of the DR Congo on Monday, killing 25 people and wounding 40 others, rebel officer Jonas Taturu told journalists, AFP reports from Goma, DRC.

His announcement came as peace talks got under way in Zimbabwe between President Laurent Kabila and allies of both camps. The rebels announced that they were attacking the strategic eastern town of Kindu, from where allied warplanes can attack many rebel-held eastern towns.

**Leopard kills baby girl in India:** A leopard which is believed responsible for seriously mauling six people in northern India has killed a five-year old girl, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Monday, AFP says from New Delhi.

The girl's body was recovered Sunday after she was snatched the previous day by the leopard outside her home in Champawat district in Uttar Pradesh state, it said.

**Police seize N-materials in Istanbul:** Turkish police have seized nuclear materials smuggled from Russia that could be used for weapons production, arresting eight people, including nationals of two former Soviet Republics, security officials said Monday, AFP reports from Istanbul.

Acting as potential buyers, police officers contacted the eight people and arrested them with 4.5 kg of "non active" uranium and six grams of "active" plutonium, the Istanbul police said in a statement.

## UN tries to prevent extinction of domestic animals

ROME, Sept 8: Siberian cattle that tolerate temperatures of minus 60 degrees Celsius (-140 F), Mozambique pigs resistant to African Swine Fever and Kazakhstan dromedary capable of producing nourishing milk on little water or food.

These are a few of about 1,700 domestic animal species a UN agency hopes to save from extinction through a new computer programme, reports AP.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Agency launched Monday an interactive database on the Internet — also available on CD-ROM — known as Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS). The programme is intended to help farmers and scientists around the world exchange views on how to safeguard dwindling species or discover where the genes of animals resistant to a particular disease or adapted to a particular climate could be used.

## DPRK agrees to hold talks with US next month

SEOUL, Sept 8: North Korea has agreed with the United States to hold talks next month aimed at formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War, Seoul government sources said today, reports AP.

The two countries also decided to re-start bilateral talks on curbing missile proliferation next month after they were abruptly cancelled last year when two North Korean diplomats requested asylum in the United States.

The apparent breakthrough came in talks between the two sides in New York amid growing worries over Pyongyang's missile capabilities and as its opaque government became more dominated by the military.

## Indian troops launch search operation in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, Sept 8: Indian troops today launched a massive search operation in the Ladakh region of Kashmir for suspected militants who attacked an army convoy with homemade explosives, reports AP.

Three soldiers were injured in Monday's attack when the militants exploded five devices under a passing military convoy in the mountainous district of Drass — 180 kilometres south of Srinagar.

The blasts shattered windows on nearby houses and sent local residents running for cover.

A police spokesman said a large number of troops had fanned out across Drass in search of the bombers.

It was only the second major militant incident in Ladakh, which has generally been spared the violence that has wracked the rest of Kashmir since a Muslim insurgency began in 1989.

On August 13, two blasts in the same district killed one officer and a soldier.

Meanwhile, after a two-day lull, Pakistan and India resumed their artillery duel across the line of control dividing Kashmir between the two countries.

Police said several stretches of highway between Srinagar and Leh came under heavy fire from the Pakistan side.

Kashmir is claimed by both India and Pakistan, who have fought two wars over the state.

More than 20,000 people have died in the nine-year Muslim insurgency in Indian-administered Kashmir.

## IRA dissidents declare complete ceasefire

DUBLIN, Ireland, Sept 8: Irish Republican Army dissidents responsible for Northern Ireland's worst-ever terrorist atrocity called a "complete" cease-fire Tuesday but didn't apologize for their actions, reports AP.

The splinter group, dubbed the Real IRA by journalists and unwilling to accept the IRA's July 1997 cease-fire, committed the Aug 15 car bombing that killed 28 civilians and wounded more than 330 in the Northern Ireland town of Omagh. A 29th victim died of his wounds and was buried Monday.

On Aug 19, the group declared a "suspension" of what it called its "military operations," in a step short of Tuesday's formal cease-fire.

In Tuesday's statement issued to state broadcasters RTE, the dissidents — calling themselves by the IRA's traditional Gaelic sister label, Oglagh na hEireann, or "Soldiers of Ireland," said: "As a result of intense consultation that has taken place over recent weeks... the volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann have determined a complete cessation of all military activity."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern gave a qualified welcome to the statement.

"On the basis that this statement is now put fully into effect and is final, it would represent both an important and a positive development," Ahern said. "It will not, unfortunately, bring the dead or injured or comfort their families."

## Kim's coalition govt attains parliamentary majority

SEOUL, Sept 8: Four opposition legislators joined President Kim Dae-jung's party Tuesday, giving his coalition government an eagerly sought majority in South Korea's parliament, reports AP.

Kim said he needed the majority to pass economic and other reform bills deemed crucial to wooing back foreign investors whose flight last year fueled the nation's economic crisis.

With four new members, the president's National Congress for New Politics controls 101 seats in the single-chamber, 299-seat National Assembly. His coalition partner, Prime Minister Kim Jong-pil's United Liberal Democrats, has 52 seats.

That gives the two parties a majority of three seats. The opposition Grand National Party has 140 seats. There also are six independent members.

President Kim has accused the opposition of delaying economic reforms that South Korea promised to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in return for its record \$58 billion economic bailout package.

## Yeltsin to discuss new candidates for PM with lawmakers

MOSCOW, Sept 8: President Boris Yeltsin will discuss new candidates for Russian prime minister with lawmakers today, Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov was quoted as saying by Interfax, reports AP.

The State Duma, the lower house of parliament, rejected Yeltsin's nomination Viktor Chernomyrdin for a second time on Monday.

The vote means Russia is entering its third week without a government amid an unprecedented financial crisis.

A decisive third round ballot must be held within seven days, and if deputies again reject the Kremlin's candidate fresh elections are called.

Earlier, opposition parties proposed the name of Acting Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, among others, to Yeltsin as an alternative choice for prime minister.

Primakov's name was tabled at the tribune of the Duma by Zyuganov and leader of the Yabloko Party, a reformist opposition group.

The Communists and their allies the Agrarian Party and the People's Power Party, with the Yabloko group, together wield an absolute majority in the Duma with 258 of the 450 seats.

## Off the Record

**Thief misses the jackpot**

RIYADH: A thief who stole a car in Saudi Arabia missed out on the jackpot when he failed to notice 140,000 riyals (37,000 dollars) in cash hidden under a seat, a local daily said Monday, reports AP.

A police patrol found the car, which had been reported stolen by a Saudi national. Abandoned in a street in Riyadh, the Al-Riyadh newspaper said.

But the thief had failed to notice the fat pile of cash hidden under one of the seats and had left it untouched.

## Land of centenarians

TOKYO: Japan, home to the world's longest-living population and one of the world's lowest fertility rates, now has more than 10,000 centenarians, the government said Tuesday, reports AP.

There will be 10,158 Japanese 100 years or older at the end of September — 1,667 more than a year ago, the Health and Welfare Ministry said. Of those who have lived a century, 82.2 per cent are women.

It is the 28th year-to-year increase in the number of the centenarians, according to a list of the centenarians released by the ministry ahead of Respect for the Aged Day, Sept. 15.

Japan's oldest citizen, 114-year-old Tase Matsunaga, is in a nursing home in Tokyo.

No international comparisons of the number of centenarians were available, a ministry official said.

Japanese have the world's longest life expectancy — 83.82 years for women and 77.19 years for men. The birthrate, however, is declining fast. The ministry reported earlier this year that the average Japanese woman has an average of only 1.39 babies in her lifetime.



Soldiers of the Iranian elite forces (IRGC) participate in the largest-ever war games near the town of Torbat-e-Jaam, close to the Iran-Afghan border, on Wednesday last. — AP/UNB photo.

## Clinton's lawyer asks Starr for review of his report

WASHINGTON, Sept 8: President Bill Clinton's private lawyer, David Kendall, asked independent counsel Kenneth Starr on Monday to let him review any report Starr prepares about possible impeachable offenses before it goes to Congress, reports Reuters.

In a four-page letter to Starr and his deputy, Robert Bittman, Kendall said "fundamental fairness" required that he and his client be able to review any such report and formulate a response that could be sent simultaneously to Congress.

He also reminded Starr that federal law required him to advise the house of representatives only of any "substantial and credible information... that may constitute grounds for an impeachment," not to submit a full-blown report.

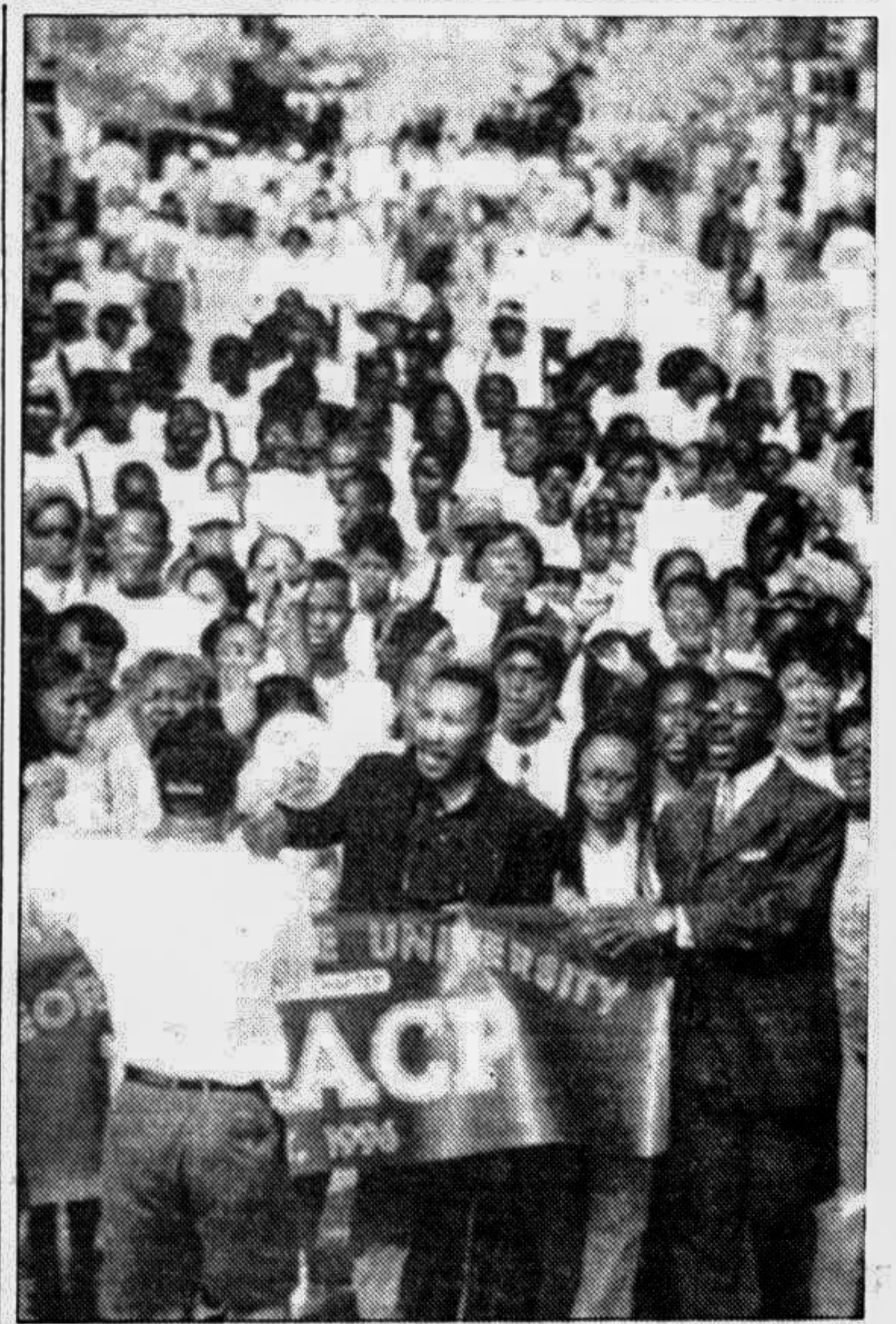
Starr's staff has been working through the Labor Day holiday weekend, trying to finish an impeachment report against Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky sex-and-perjury investigation.

Clinton last month admitted to having had an affair with Lewinsky but denied he had ever told anyone to lie about it.

Legal sources close to the investigation said Starr was expected in the report to outline possible impeachable offenses of perjury, obstruction of justice, encouraging a witness to lie and abusing the power of the office of the president.

"Nothing in that statute authorises your office to prepare a report to the house that purports to summarise and analyse evidence," Kendall wrote in the letter.

"If the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC) does decide to transmit to the House of Representatives not merely the 'information' it has gathered but some form of 'report' or summary... we believe that fundamental fairness dictates that we have the opportunity to review such a document and submit simultaneously any reply we wish to make," Kendall wrote.



A marcher with a bullhorn leads the chanting as Kweisi Mfume, centre, president of the NAACP, leads a group of nearly 400 down Auburn Avenue in Atlanta Monday, to the Million Youth Movement rally. Auburn Avenue is in the historic neighbourhood where Martin Luther King Jr. was born. — AP/UNB photo.