

# Clinton's case touches on some of the worst fears for women

WASHINGTON, Oct 9: President Bill Clinton's case before Congress has touched upon some of the worst fears for women — an unfaithful husband, a younger woman involved, sex in the workplace, and how to explain it all to children, reports Reuters.

Women lawmakers who cast a historic vote on Thursday for the House of Representatives to open an inquiry into Clinton's conduct said ultimately they will judge the president on legal issues such as perjury and obstruction of justice.

But they also viewed the case about whether Clinton lied under oath about an extramarital affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky as mothers, wives and working women.

"We are the freest society in the world. We have also made the greatest progress toward equality," representative Nancy Johnson, a Connecticut Republican, said.

"How do we deal with infidelity? It's really not easy. There are a lot of issues here. Ultimately our most serious is-

issues for those considering impeachment have to be perjury, obstruction of justice," Johnson said.

There are 56 women in the House of Representatives, including the delegate for the district of Columbia, of which 39 are Democrats and 17 Republicans.

Almost all of them voted along party lines. Among the democrats, two women voted to open the inquiry, while republican Deborah Pryce of Ohio was absent.

Women have traditionally been strong supporters of Clinton and the Democratic Party. Since the Monica Lewinsky scandal first erupted this year, feminist groups have struggled over what position to take, divided over a president whom they think has advanced women's issues but whose private conduct they cannot condone.

Feminists appear to have switched from saying "the personal is political" to a new standard that "the personal is personal and it doesn't matter," said representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Florida Republican.

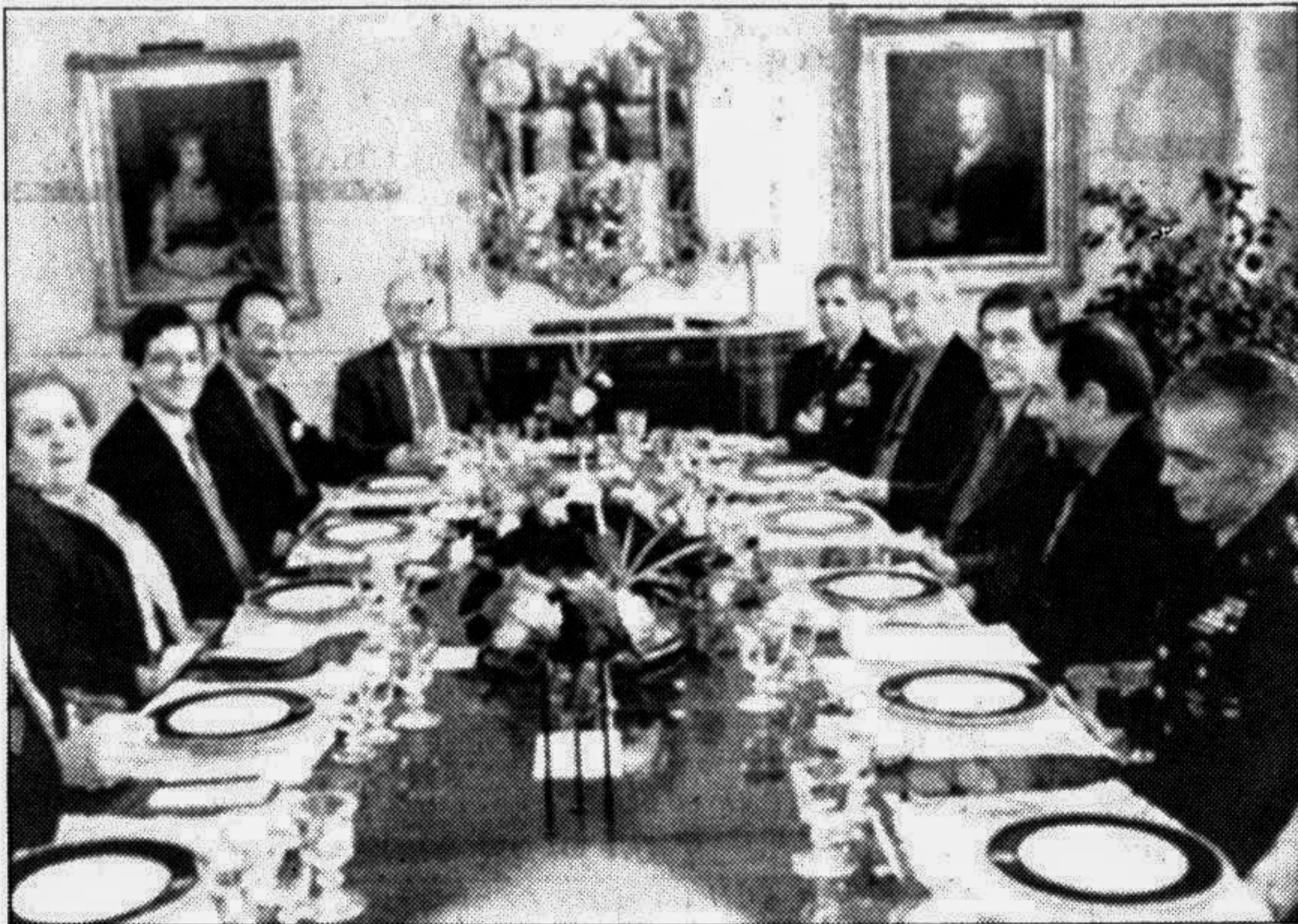
She said the Clinton case could have implications for sexual harassment issues.

By setting a new standard, a new low standard that says that lying about sex in court is now acceptable, it's permissible and in fact it's expected — men will have affairs with younger women, men will lie about it, and it's OK — then what will have done through all of this hard work is really perpetrated a fraud upon the public and a fraud upon women," Ros-Lehtinen said.

"Well it's not OK to lie, it's not OK to lie even if it's an embarrassment to you," she said.

Democratic women lawmakers said they didn't condone Clinton's behaviour but also questioned whether it met the bar of an impeachable offence. They also said perhaps a censure would be a wiser course of action than impeachment.

"I still maintain he (Clinton) should not have put the country through this," representative Marcy Kaptur, an Ohio democrat, said.



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, left, with from right; Supreme Allied Commander Europe Wesley Clark, NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, US Special envoy Richard Holbrooke, NATO Deputy Secretary General Sergio Balanzino, during lunch at the US ambassador's residence near Brussels Thursday. Mrs Albright met with NATO officials and Holbrooke to assess the latest developments in Kosovo and the prospect of airstrikes against Yugoslavia. Others are unidentified. — AP/UNB photo

# Tension mounts in Kosovo Only UNSC can authorise NATO airstrikes: Ivanov

LONDON, Oct 9: Only the UN Security Council can authorise NATO airstrikes against Serbia, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said late Thursday in London, reports AFP.

Russia, which holds a permanent seat on the council, has consistently vetoed UN calls for military action against Belgrade.

Speaking after a meeting in London of the six-nation Contact Group — Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States, Ivanov warned of "dire consequences" if NATO pressed ahead with military action.

"It's only the Security Council which is entitled to take a decision on the use of force," he told journalists at the Russian Embassy here.

"It would have dire consequences of an international nature," the foreign minister warned.

Earlier US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook denied that Russia could veto NATO airstrikes.

Albright said "in case of use of force, while all the members of the Contact Group may not

agree on that ... if it is necessary to use force then those that do not agree would not have a veto over the action."

The momentum towards military action has gathered pace since key NATO members agreed that no go-ahead was needed from the UN Security Council to carry out airstrikes against Serb forces in Kosovo.

Meanwhile, tension is growing in Kosovo in the expectation of NATO airstrikes aimed at making Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic ease his iron grip on the southern Serbian province.

Foreign diplomats said it was impossible to judge to what extent Belgrade was complying with United Nations Security Council demands that it end its repression of the ethnic Albanian majority.

These include the withdrawal of security forces, the return of refugees to their homes, access for humanitarian aid and meaningful negotiations with Albanian representatives.

No fighting between Serbian and Yugoslav paramilitary and military forces and the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has been reported.

# BRIEFLY



Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron stand by a burning tire as they fire rubber-coated bullets at Palestinian stonethrowers on Thursday. A twenty-year-old Palestinian died from head injuries and a press photographer was badly injured in the clash on Thursday which erupted during a protest over the Israeli closure of its borders at the West Bank and Gaza Strip. — AP/UNB photo

**Jiang Zemin meets Jamaican PM:** Chinese President Jiang Zemin met yesterday with visiting Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson. Xinhua says from Beijing.

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji held talks with Patterson on Thursday the talks covered Sion-Jamaican relations and international issues of common concern. Patterson arrived here Wednesday evening at the invitation of Zhu Rongji.

**Japan to send aid to E. Russia:** Japan will deliver humanitarian aid worth 5 million yen to a town on Russia's Sakhalin Island that was wiped out by forest fire, a news report said yesterday. AP says from Moscow.

The aid will be delivered next week to some 700 residents of the Gorky township on the Sakhalin Island, which burned down completely in the fire last month, the Interfax news agency reported. The aid will include blankets, pillows and sheets, the report said.

**Colombian rebels hold 12 aliens:** Leftist rebels here are holding at least 12 kidnapped foreigners from four continents, a spokesman for Colombia's anti-kidnapping office said Thursday. AFP says from Bogota.

Guerillas from the country's two main rebel armies are holding two Germans, one Canadian, one Briton, one French woman, one Italian, one Japanese, two Ecuadorans, two Venezuelans and one Mexican, the spokesman told AFP. He did not release names.

**UK newsman held for drug trafficking:** Malaysian police arrested a British journalist for allegedly smuggling heroin in condoms stashed in his underwear, a news report said yesterday. AP says from Kuala Lumpur.

In Malaysia, a drug trafficking conviction carries a mandatory death sentence. The 55-year-old man, identified only as a freelance journalist, was stopped by airport security before boarding a flight from the northeastern state of Penang to Australia.

# Lewinsky gets \$3m offer from News Corp for her story

LOS ANGELES: News Corp. media magnet Rupert Murdoch's company, has offered Monica Lewinsky three million dollars to tell her side of the White House sex-and-lies scandal that threatens Bill Clinton's presidency, daily variety reported Thursday, reports AFP.

The multi-media offer includes an interview on Murdoch's Fox television network and a book to be published by News Corp subsidiary Harper Collins, according to unidentified sources quoted by the trade paper.

Popular Comedienne Roseanne offered Lewinsky one million dollars to appear on her new television programme and renowned talk-show host Oprah Winfrey said last week she had been negotiating for an interview but that the talks had broken down over money.

# This century warmest in 500 years

WASHINGTON, Oct 9: This century has been the warmest in 500 years, according to a study to be published today in the weekly magazine Science by researchers who took the Earth's temperature at various depths around the world, reports AFP.

The Earth's surface temperature has risen 0.5 degrees Centigrade (one degree Fahrenheit) during this century and one degree Centigrade (two degrees Fahrenheit) over the past five, they found.

Working on the theory that changes in the planet's surface temperature will be transmitted to different subterranean levels by rocks, the researchers bored 358 holes in eastern North America, Central Europe, Southern Africa and Australia for their tests.

**Blair in HK**

HONG KONG, Oct 9: British Prime Minister Tony Blair arrived in Hong Kong today after visiting Beijing and Shanghai, reports Reuters.

Blair was scheduled to meet Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa and pro-democracy campaigner Martin Lee later in the day. It is his second visit to Hong Kong since he became prime minister. He was in Hong Kong last July when Britain handed the territory back to China after 156 years of colonial rule.

He will fly out of Hong Kong on Saturday night.

An earlier AFP reports adds: "A genuine warmth has replaced the chill of the period before the handover." Blair said following summit talks in Beijing this week with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji.

# 'Iran took limited measures to repel Taliban attack'

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 9: Iran told the Security Council on Thursday that it took "some limited and proportionate measures" in self-defence after Afghan Taliban militia launched attacks against its territory, reports Reuters.

It did not call for any action by the council.

In a letter to council president Sir Jeremy Greenstock of Britain, Iranian UN representative Hadi Najad Hosseini said the Taliban launched an attack at 6:30 am local time on Thursday between the Ibrahim Khani and Kondeh Souz border posts in Khorassan province.

"The Iranian armed forces took some limited and proportionate measures in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter to repel the Taliban attack," he said, referring to a provision of the charter dealing with the right of self-defence.

"At 9:30 hours, the cross-border attack by the Taliban militia constituting a flagrant aggression and provocation was repelled and military operation was halted."

The Iranian envoy said his country's armed forces "used maximum self-restraint in response to the Taliban cross-border mortar attack in reference to diplomatic efforts by Secretary-General Annan's special envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, who was arriving in Islamabad on Thurs-

# Iranian FM arrives in Turkey

ANKARA, Oct 9: The Iranian foreign minister met with his Turkish counterpart in Ankara Friday in a bid to seek a peaceful resolution to a mounting crisis between Turkey and Syria over Kurdish rebels, reports AP.

Turkey's parliament on Wednesday issued an ultimatum to Syria, demanding that it expel Turkish Kurdish rebels from its territory or "face the consequences." Turkish reports suggested pinpoint air strikes on suspected rebel bases in the Syrian controlled-Bekaa Valley of Lebanon were possible.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi's visit came a day after he discussed the issue with Syrian president Hafez Assad in Damascus.

# UNSC urged to condemn Israel for upgrading WB settlement to city status

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 9: Palestinian UN observer Nasser Al-Kidwa asked the UN Security Council on Thursday to condemn Israel for upgrading a West Bank settlement to city status, saying the action amounted to unlawful annexation, reports Reuters.

In a letter to the council president, Sir Jeremy Greenstock of Britain, Al-Kidwa said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attended a ceremony on Wednesday conferring city status on the settlement of Ariel.

Al-Kidwa quoted Netanyahu as saying it would be "part of Israel in any final status agreement in the future," adding "we will continue at this pace and build up this city more and more and more."

There was no indication when the Security Council would act on the request for condemnation.

On Wednesday, Netanyahu joined talks with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on advancing the Middle East peace process.

Al-Kidwa said Israeli settlement activities were illegal under international law and that they violated the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and Security Council and General

Assembly resolutions.

"The step of de factor annexation, however, is even more dangerous and necessitates immediate condemnation by the international community," he said.

"The actions and the statements made by the prime minister in this regard are absolutely unacceptable, they have no legal validity," Al-Kidwa said.

# 100 bodies exhumed from mass grave in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Oct 9: Around 100 bodies of Muslim civilians killed early in the 1992-1995 Bosnian war have so far been exhumed from a mass grave near the eastern town of Zvornik, Bosnian media reported on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Bosnian television said it was one of the biggest mass graves found in the country following the 43-month war which killed more than 200,000 people.

Daily Vecernje Novine said the victims were believed to be Muslims killed by Serb forces in 1992.

# Philippines, US sign military agreement

MANILA, Oct 9: Philippine and US officials signed an agreement on Friday granting benefits to Filipino soldiers being trained in the United States — a sweetener for an earlier pact that would allow a resumption of large joint military exercises in the Philippines, reports AP.

The earlier pact, the Visiting Forces Agreement, was signed in February but must be approved by the Philippine Senate. Church and leftist groups have opposed the agreement and demanded the return of US forces.

Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said the second agreement, which needs no ratification, will take effect only after the VFA is approved.

# Bodo rebels kill 13 in Assam

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: Thirteen persons have been killed and two others injured by different Bodo extremist groups in lower Assam's Darcang district in three separate incidents last night, officials sources said here today, reports PTI.

Bodo militants, armed with automatic weapons, gunned down three persons, including an old man and injured another when they fired indiscriminately at the house of one Golak Kalita at Banargaon, under Khoirabari police station around 2030 hours.

In another incident under the same police station five persons were gunned down and another seriously injured by Bodo ultras at Dewanpukhuri and Khoirabari at 2145 hours when they sprayed bullets at some houses.

In yet another incident at Mihilpargaon under Tanga police station, sources said, five more persons were shot dead by extremists last evening.

# India, Russia, China may have obtained nuclear secrets from US

WASHINGTON, Oct 9: India, China and Russia may have obtained nuclear secrets from US through the visitors' exchange programmes, a house sub-committee on the Department of Energy was told, reports PTI.

When the nuclear detonation occurred in India, it is our understanding that the Department of Energy did not know if there were any visitors within the laboratories from India at that time, Keith Fultz, assistant comptroller general for the general accounting office, the investigation arm of US Congress, told the sub-committee.

He was referring to the visitors exchange programme, under which Indian, Chinese and Russian scientists visit US nuclear laboratories on reciprocal basis but did not explain what difference it would have made.

# Chemical weapons experts to meet Oct 22,23

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 9: The New York Times said on Wednesday that the French laboratory appeared to have found traces of chemicals linked to VX but delayed releasing the final results while Iraqi officials were at the United Nations, reports Reuters.

The American laboratory in June said it found traces of VX but the Swiss laboratory tests came out negative.

But France denied the press reports. "Our conclusions right now are that we do not have any definitive conclusions about traces of VX on the samples," defence ministry spokesman Jean-Francois Bureau said in Paris on Thursday.

"Nobody could imagine that France would want to slow down the discussion in UNSCOM," he said, in reference to allegations France had delayed revealing the test results.

He also urged the United Nations to hold its meeting of chemical arms experts so such reports would stop.

Meanwhile, chemical

# Following 'unreasonable demands' Vajpayee puts off plan to expand Cabinet

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has put off plans to expand his coalition Cabinet following "unreasonable demands" from his allies, party officials said today, reports AFP.

Vajpayee, who became prime minister in March as the head of a multi-party coalition, was to have inducted new faces into his Cabinet on Saturday in the run-up to next month's crucial state elections.

But he postponed his plans overnight Thursday after four alliance partners insisted on at least two portfolios each, upsetting the prime minister's desire for a compact Cabinet.

Spokesman M Venkiah Naidu of Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said the Cabinet expansion plan had been put off for "wider consultations" with allies.

He added the exercise would be done "sometime later."

But a BJP official said: "The prime minister was upset with the unreasonable demands of the allies. He also did not want to be seen to be surrendering to what looked like blackmailing tactics."

The BJP has almost 200 members (in the 545-seat parliament), and there are enough aspirants within the party for joining the Cabinet," the official said.

There was no way he would give into the demand of the allies, some of whom have less than 10 seats in parliament."

Vajpayee heads a fragile 14-party coalition that has been plagued by infighting since it came into being six months ago. A few of the alliance members are, however, not part of his government.

On Thursday, leaders of four alliance parties, including controversial former movie star Jayalalitha Jayaram, held talks separately with the Prime Minister in New Delhi, during which they demanded increased Cabinet representation.

BJP officials said the prime minister was prepared to give only one extra berth to three of the parties, and two to Jayalalitha.

The BJP had hoped the Cabinet expansion would demonstrate coalition unity ahead of crucial elections next month to elect local governments in four states including New Delhi City.

Infighting has crippled the coalition since its inception and embarrassed the BJP which had made political stability its main election plank.

# Off the Record



British supermodel Naomi Campbell features a Caribbean style scarf and a revealing black dress at the Gianfranco Ferré Spring/Summer collection presented in Milan on Thursday. — AP/UNB photo

# Royal descendants of Count Dracula

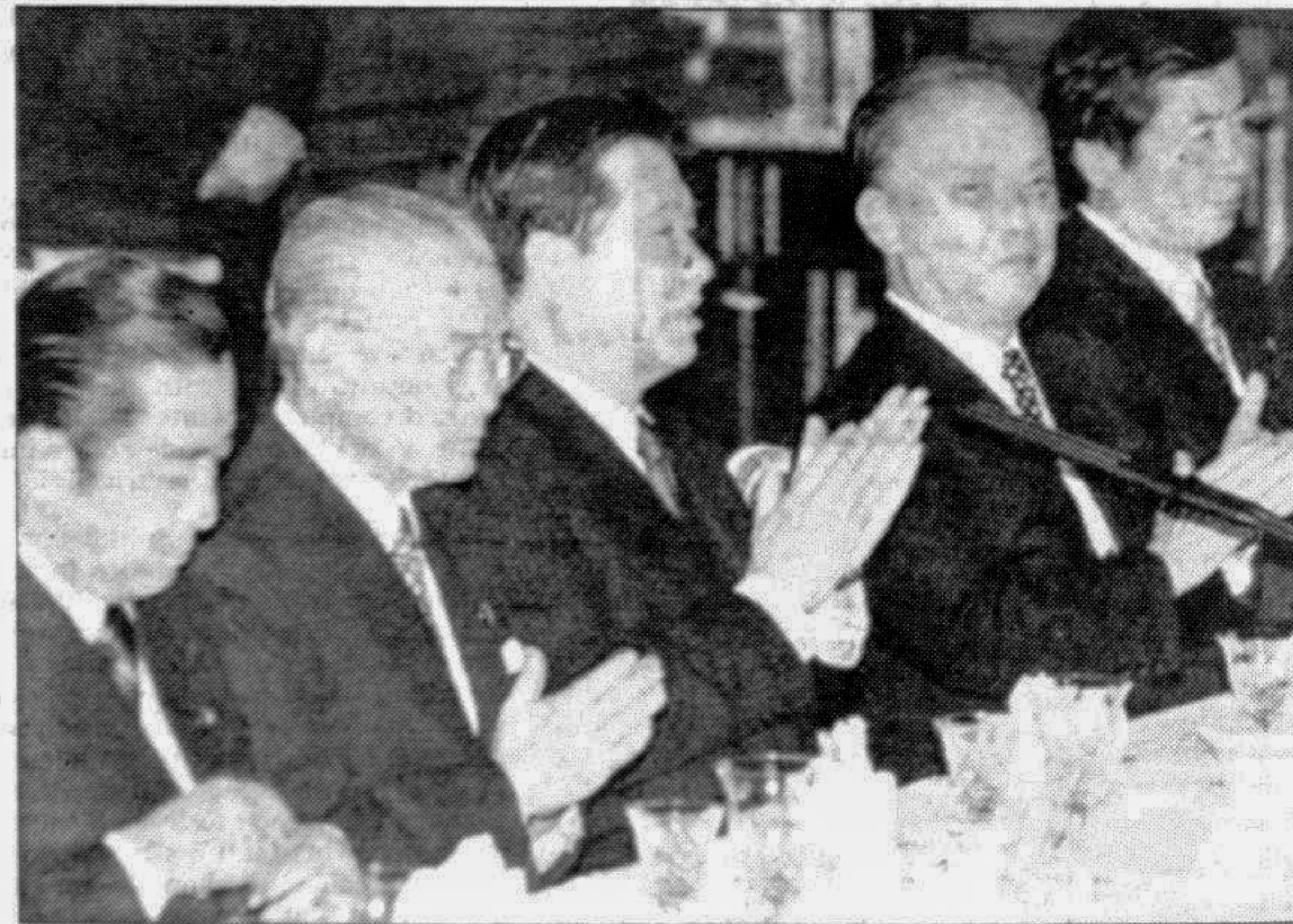
LONDON: Britain's Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth II are direct descendants of Count Dracula, it was reported, says AFP.

The Sun tabloid newspaper said the British royal family can be directly traced to the 15th century Romanian ruler Vlad Dracul, known as the Impaler because of his favourite method of dealing with his enemies.

Although not proved to have been a vampire, the blood-thirsty Vlad was an inspiration for Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula."

Quoting from a new book, "Roots of the rich and famous" by Robert Davenport, the Sun said that Vlad's bloodline entered the British royal family through Queen Mary, who died in 1953 and was consort of George V.

Her Austrian ancestors were descended from the Hungarian Teck family, which in turn can be traced to Vlad's Romanian bloodline, according to the book.



South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, center, claps his hands after a speech by former Japanese prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone during a luncheon at the Akasaka Palace in Tokyo on Friday. Flanking him are from left: Former prime ministers Ryutaro Hashimoto, Noboru Takeshita, Kim, Toshiki Kaifu, and Democratic Party leader Naoto Kan. — AP/UNB photo