

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, left, and her sister Kathy Silva say the Pledge of Allegiance during a naturalisation ceremony at the State Department in Washington Tuesday. Fifty years after arriving in the US filled with apprehension and excitement, Albright renewed her oath Tuesday at the naturalisation ceremony for some new - AP/UNB photo Americans.

# US warns of military action against Iraq

Showing impatience with Iraq's continued non-compliance with U.N. arms inspection, the United States has stepped up its military presence in the Gulf region and held out a threat of possible military action

against Baghdad, reports IANS. Speaking at a Pentagon photo session with Singapore's visiting Defence Minister Tony Tan, Defence Secretary William Cohen said he had decided to hasten the movement of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise and a group of Marine warships into the region in case the U.S. chooses military action.

"Iraq is on notice," Cohen warned, adding, "the military option is still on the table." If Iraqi President Saddam Hussein continued to refuse the U.N. inspections, he risked strikes that would cause a "sig-nificant degradation" of his

military strength, he said. Cohen had ordered the carrier and its battle group to cut several days from its planned

transit through the region. It would be in the Persian Gulf by November 23. A Marine task force led by the USS Belleau Wood has also been ordered to hasten to the region, he added.

According to Pentagon sources, the force could be bolstered on short notice with a large number of troops left on alert following the last stand-off with Saddam in February, when some 44,000 troops, 430 aircraft and 34 ships were in the Gulf.

The State Department too adopted a tough stance with its spokesman James Rubin saying, "What is not needed, and there is no plan for it is not needed." there is no plan for it, is negoti-ations with Saddam Hussein."

"This cannot go on indefi-nitely. Saddam Hussein is not an abstract threat," he said, adding that with inspections suspended, "he will be able to reconstitute his weapons in a matter of months, not years."

Earlier, President Bill Clinton discussed for 90 minutes the

Iraqi situation with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, Defence Secretary Cohen and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Shelton besides senior military intelligence and logistics person-

Clinton yesterday also tele-phoned British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss Iraq.

"The President is consulting with our allies on a situation that obviously is of great importance to the international community," White House Spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

Lockhart said that in the meeting with his foreign policy advisors, Clinton had a broad discussion on the options, both diplomatic and military, that remained on the table. "My understanding is that this is a process that is ongoing and that no decisions have been made.' he added.

JKLF leader says

## Only Kashmiris can have last say on their future

NEW DELHI, Nov 11: Pakistan has no right to negotiate with rival India on the future of Kashmir, the leader of a pro-in-dependence Kashmiri militant group said here today, reports

"Pakistan should refrain from deciding on behalf of Kashmiris as the people of Kashmir are the final deciding factor when the question of dis-pensation of Kashmir comes." Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yaseen Malik said.

"We are mature enough to discuss our own future, we will never bow before the dictates of Pakistan, come what may." Malik was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over the Himalayan region of Kashmir. which is divided between the two countries by a UN-monitored line of control.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim

separatists in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charge but extends diplomatic support to the in-surgency, which has claimed more than 20,000 lives since

The issue of Kashmir has overshadowed ongoing Indo-Pakistan talks in New Delhi,

preventing any agreement on other bilateral issues. JKLF is among more than a

dozen groups waging a bloody separatist campaign in the In-dian zone of Kashmir. "Both the nations should

stop behaving naively. The Kashmir issue must be addressed first," Malik said.

"Pakistan is a party to the dispute and it can enter into a dialogue with India, but it should refrain from deciding on our behalf.

"Until and unless representatives of Kashmir are Included in the talks, there would be no headway and the problem would linger on," he said.

#### NLD alleges

## Myanmar junta forcing closure of local offices

leave the party.

YANGON, Nov 11: The oppo-sition party led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi has said that Myanmar's military government is harassing members and forcing local offices to close, reports AP. Official newspapers mean-

while reported Wednesday that the local office of the National League for Democracy in Bilin, eastern Myanmar, had closed and all its members resigned. The papers claimed the opposition members took the action of "their own free will."

Local NLD offices appear to be the latest targets in the clash of will between the military, which has ruled Myanmar since 1962, and the beleaguered opposition led by Suu Kyi.

The party said in a statement Monday that the government has detained a total of 920 members since May, when the NLD made known it intended to convene a parliament elected in 1990 but was never allowed by the military to meet.

"The NLD overwhelmingly won those elections, but the military held on to power. The government has constantly pressured elected NLD legisla-

tors to resign the posts and vention force said on Tuesday. Those detained since May include 184 of the elected NLD legislators - about half, the

who is very old, another who is ill and a third who had been out of touch with party headquarters for some time - have been freed, the party said. The ruling State Peace and

Development Council issued a statement Wednesday saying that 27 detainees - who were described as having been "invited for the exchange of views - returned home in the past

party said. Only three - one

According to the official press, the Bilin township NLD office close Monday and the entire 21-member executive committee resigned. The newspapers claimed that members had "no desire to continue to take part in the NLD party ac-

tivities." Friday, official newspapers have also reported the dissolution of two other NLD township offices in western and southeastern Myanmar and the resignation of opposition members in Kachin State in the north.

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Iraqi tugs standby as the Jebel Ali I pulls into the harbour

at Umm-Kasr in southern Iraq on Monday. The ferry,

power, officials said Tuesday, Reuters says from Hamilton.

Javier Benavides, head of an association of village councils,

said the victims, including five Indians, were dragged from

their homes near the town of Puerto Gaitan in Meta province

Former Reuters executive dies: Gerald

Long, who led Britain's Reuters news agency from 1963 to 1981

and later became managing director of The Times of London, has died at 75, Reuters said Tuesday, AP reports from London.

day at home in Paris, where had had lived in retirement for

some years. No cause of death was given. Vowing to be Reuters "second founder". Long turned the agency from a news operation that battled to break even into a flourishing company that was

successfully floated on the London Stock Exchange after his

Russian cargo plane crashes:
A Russian cargo plane crashed near the Siberian city of Kras-

noyarks on yesterday but there was no immediate word on the

town of Mirini, said Iranian Andriyanova, a spokeswoman

China executes 6 for robbery, murder:

Authorities in Beijing have executed six men convicted of

murder and robbery, the official newspaper Beijing Daily

The Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court ordered the

The AN-21 plane, loaded with food, went down moments after taking off from Krasnoyarks on a trip to the Siberian

fate of the crew, an officials said, AP reports from Moscow.

with the Emergency Situations Ministry in Moscow.

executions to be carried out Tuesday, the report said.

reported yesterday, AP says from Beijing.

Media relations director Peter Thomas said Long died Sun-

Bermuda Party, led by Premier Pamela Gordon.

Reuters reports from Bogota.

and shot to death.

departure in 1981.

Amman.

#### Rebels kill 70 in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Nov 11: At least 70 people died when rebels attacked the northern Sierra Leone town of Pendembu on Monday, aid workers and soldiers from the Econmog inter-

"More than 400 rebels armed with Ak-47 rifles and machetes attacked Pendembu Monday morning, shooting and killing indiscriminately scores of people in the town," an Econmog officer told Reuters.

Aid workers said more than 70 people were killed.

But we are expecting the death toll to rise much higher as many people wounded in the fighting managed to flee to the bush and may also have died there," one aid worker said.

The Econmog officer said many of the bodies were of rebels killed during the battle. He confirmed that Econmog troops had died in the battle but could not say how many. Hospital sources in Free-

town told reporters that the bodies of over 20 Econmog and allied Sierra Leone soldiers had been brought to the hospital on Monday.

Pendembu is a town of some 20,000 people around 20 miles (32 km) north of the provincial capital. Makeni.

#### Violence in Angola: over 40 killed in two days

people were killed when armed men ambushed two lorries near Kaluteva about 50 km from Benguela in southern Angola, the governor of Benouela province said late Tuesday, re-

ports AFP. At least 10 people were seriously wounded in the attack which occurred on Monday, he said. The previous day, 21 employees of a company owned by diamond firms Branch Energy Ltd of Britain and Diamond Works of Canada, were murdered in a raid by armed attackers on a mine at Lunda-Norte in the northeast of the country.

Among the victims identified so far, are two Britons, one Portuguese and three Angolans.

Random bloodletting has resumed in Angola following the virtual breakdown of the peace process between the government and the Unita armed opposition. The two side have been at odds since March over Unita's alleged reluctance to implement its side of a peace accord signed in Lusaka (Zambia) in 1994.

### Albright marks 50 years of US citizenship

WASHINGTON, Nov 11: The Czech refugee who grew up to be the first female US Secretary of State celebrated 50 years in the country Tuesday by renewing her citizenship oath and warning against a trend toward excluding immigrants, reports Reuters.

from nearly three dozen countries. Madeleine Korbel Albright renounced allegiance "to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereign and promised to "support and defend the constitution" of the Untied

Albright, the highest ranking woman in the US government, first took that oath in March 1957, nine years after she and her family - on Nov 11. 1948 — "Steamed into New York harbour, past the Statue of Lib-

make us feel at home and allow me to grow up in freedom. For that, we will be forever grateful," she said.

for those who would now limit immigrants, who these days include many people of Latin, Asian or African origin, some of whom became citizens on Tuesday.

"There are those who resent all this (diversity) and think that the day their own family got off the boat or out of the

"Let us pray that day never comes. For America must continue to grow and reinvent itself and to draw on new sources of inspiration of strength."

## Judge rules out theory of conspiracy against Anwar Ibrahim

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11: The judge at the trial of Anwar Ibrahim on Wednesday rejected defence attempts to show the former Malaysian deputy prime minister is the victim of a political conspiracy and trumped-up charges, reports AP.

Anwar maintains the sex and corruption charges against him stem from his rivalry with Prime Minister Mahathir Mo-

The criminal proceedings have cast a shadow over next week's summit of 21 government leaders, with critics saying the case demonstrates human rights abuses in this Southeast Asian nation.

During Wednesday's proceedings, defence lawyer Christopher Fernando hinted there were irregularities with the letter announcing Anwar's firing on Sept 2. "The defence of the accused is

that there was a political conspiracy to bring the trumped-up charges, to remove the accused and to destroy him politically, Fernando said. Judge Augustine Paul cut

him short, asserting: 'What you say sounds like a political

Undeterred, defence attorney Fernando shot back: "There was a conspiracy. We will endeavor to show that the crucial witnesses of the prosecution would be lying in court."

He said that pursuing the conspiracy and trumped-up charges theory was vital to getting to the truth of the matter. Judge Paul overruled him,

saying: "I honestly do not think that has any bearing." The day before. Anwar had told reporters that his one-time patron, Prime Minister Ma

hathir, was losing support both

at home and abroad "Foreign leaders can no longer tolerate him anymore. He's becoming recalcitrant," the 51-year-old Anwar said. He said many Malaysians also rejected Mahathir's 17-year rule.

Later that evening, Mahathir defended his sacking of Anwar as the country's No 2 official. and said he believed Anwar would receive a fair trial. Mahathir also said the charges showed that Anwar was morally unfit to lead this country of 22 million people.

There is no way that anybody can say that Malaysian

ment," the 72-year-old prime minister said in a television interview. "They are very fair to everyone and I am quite sure they will be fair to Anwar also." The High Court on Wednes-

courts just favour the govern-

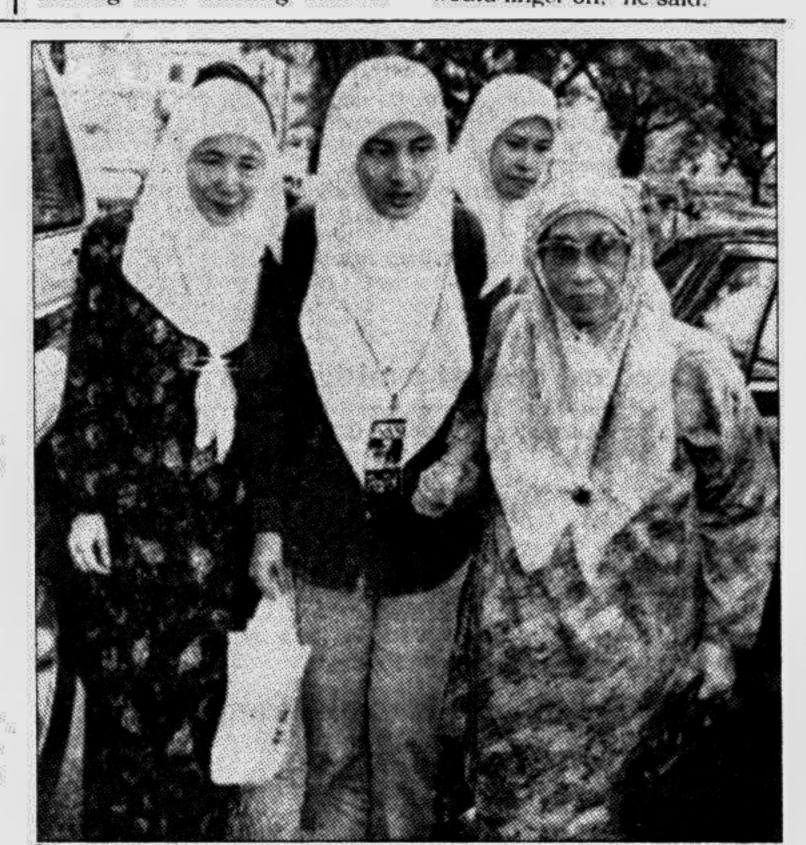
day started by hearing closing comments from Abdul Aziz Hussein, the intelligence officer who testified he had forced two key witnesses to retract their allegations of sexual misconduct against Anwar. Prosecutors allege that Anwar ordered the retractions last

year as part of a cover-up attempt. The alleged cover-up resulted in the four corruption charges that make up the current phase of the trial. He will be tried on another charge of corruption, as well as

at a later date. Before Wednesday's session started, Judge Paul told Anwar's lawyers the defendant should avoid making statements relat-

five sexual misconduct charges.

ing to the case. The criminal proceedings will be suspended during next week's summit of the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group.



Wan Azizah, left, wife of banished deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, and daughter Nural Issah, centre and Hajjah Che Yan, right, mother of Anwar, walk together into the federal courthouse in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday. Anwar will be hidden away in a dark jail cell when 20 Pacific Rim leaders come to town next week for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. - AP/UNB photo

## Victims of Hurricane Mitch try to patch up their lives

CHOLUTECA, Honduras, Nov 11: Once the tide ebbed, rescuers could venture out in the delta that flows into the Gulf of Fonseca, plunging hip-deep into a river of mud in search of a

man's body, reports AP. The man had been swept dozens of miles downstream from the grieving town of Choluteca, one of dozens missing after Hurricane Mitch unleashed deadly flooding in the Choluteca River.

At first, there were so many bodies that rescuers burned them on the spot after finding them. Later, they were ordered to try and identify every victim, or at least leave them be in hopes that someone could.

Flooding moves the Choluteca River some 182 metres in places, depositing giant piles of sand that whipped up in the hot, dry wind. Debris was so deep that in

some neighbourhoods, residents removed the red tiles from their roofs - now at ground level - in order to dig down into their homes to sal vage their possessions.

Mexican army helicopters delivered food and water, and CARE and the Red Cross sent in the first aid shipments by land this week. Churches - Mormon, evangelical, Roman Catholic opened their doors to the homeless.

In one Mormon church, children slept on mats on white tile floors. Two boys, about 7. lay motionless in a separate room, running high fevers.

Despite a nationwide curfew, other residents spent their night outdoors, atop patches of land where their homes once stood, to protect anything that might remain below. Come dawn, they rose to gather the hundreds of tree stumps litter-

ing the city — the wood could be used for fuel, or perhaps to re- jeans and pearl earrings who

build.

AP adds: Men, women and children lined up under the midday sun, waiting hours for the food they heard was on its

The rumbling arrival of two huge trucks loaded with cooking supplies, rice, beans and sugar sent hundreds more running through mudholes to join the line on a field northwest of the Nicaraguan capital of Man-

The aid is not from the government or even a relief agency, but from a group of Managua housewives who with their own resources organized the delivery to families displaced by Hurricane Mitch.

11: Israeli warplanes attacked suspected guerilla positions in southern Lebanon Wednesday for the second day in a row, Lebanese security officials said, reports AP.

missiles at three bases of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group between 5:20 am (0320 GMT) and 6 am (0400 GMT), the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Province, about 12 kilometres north of Nabativeh.

said one woman in designer asked to remain anonymous. Most of the food and medical

camp called Nueva Vida, or New "Where is the medicine from the US? They keep saying 'manana, manana, manana, says Mark Shepler, a Catholic monk with The Brothers and

Sisters of Charity, referring to

the Spanish word for "tomor-The devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch has overwhelmed governments and aid agencies across Central America, where an estimated 10,000 people have been killed by the storm and tens of thousands of

others displaced. Aid arriving at the Nicaraguan capital has been put on to helicopters to be sent to the hardest-hit communities in northern Nicaragua. The refugees at Nueva Vida, whose homes along Lake Managua were flooded, make do with what little comes their way.

Nevertheless, there is optimism in the camp. The sound of hammers and hand saws filled the air as men built shelters for their families. A young girl hauled a long roll of sheet metal on her shoulder to be used for her new home. "We don't have anything. We

need roofs and wood," said her father, Lazaro Antonio Padira Matamoros. "But with time, perhaps it will be better, when they put in roads, water and In the distance, the voice of

John Lennon came over a radio - "Imagine there's no hunger... Not likely here, not now.

## N Ireland's Maze prison may be shut down by the year 2000

BELFAST, Northern Ireland. Nov 11: The anti-terrorist Maze prison home to some of Britain's most notorious killers and bombers and the site of some of its worst breached in security - could close if the peace process in Northern Ireland works, reports AP.

The province's prison chief said Wednesday that the Maze, long a focal point in the bitter history of Northern Ireland's conflict, could close by the year His prediction came as the

British government published a damning report by its chief prisons inspector, Sir David Ramsbotham, into lax security at the Maze following a chain of

#### Turkish coalition urged to resign ANKARA, Nov 11: A crucial

backer of Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz called on Tuesday for the minority coalition government to resign over corruption accusations. It was the latest and most se-

rious attack on the government by a fractious backers whose support is essential to win Yilmaz a parliamentary majority in key votes. "This government must resign immediately, we are ex-

pecting an answer as soon as

possible. Republican People's

Party (CHP) leader Deniz Baykal told Reuters. Baykal said his demand was linked to accusation of government corruption in a 600 million dollar bank sell-off in Auembarrassing and deadly breaches last year.

Irish Republican Army members nearly succeeded in digging an elaborate tunnel out of one block, while another IRA inmate walked out of the prison dressed as a woman and still hasn't been recaptured.

Most threatening to the peace process was December's assassination of Northern Ireland's most infamous Protestant militant, Billy "King Rat" Wright, by other prisoners who had smuggled in two handguns. That killing triggered a wave of slayings of Catholic civilians outside the prison.

Ramsbotham's report concluded that "battle "ary and traumatised" guards had ceded too much control to the inmates, whose secret organisations regularly threatened to kill the officers or their families if prison security was tight-

He cited many examples of luxuries offered to inmates, including sex with their wives or girlfriends during visits, mobile phones and cash payments for unverified damage to prop-

But most of Ramsbotham's 143 recommendations were unlikely to be enacted, since the Maze's future is in doubt.

"It is obvious that the Maze has had a checkered history and more than its fair share of problems," said Robin Halward, director of the Northern Ireland prison system. "But with the prospect of a much smaller prison population, we now havthe opportunity to close that page of history.

## Tajik troops search for remaining rebel fighters

MOSCOW, Nov 11: Government troops in Tajikistan searched northern mountainous region Tuesday for scattered groups of rebel fighters who were driven off after several days of fighting in the central Asian nation, reports AP.

The rebels, chased into the mountains of northern Tajikistan, were trying to flee into neighboring Uzbekistan, the Tajik Interior Ministry said, according to the Interfax news

The government insisted they could not escape because the area was surrounded, the border closed, and all roads cut

The government has said more than 200 people were killed, and hundreds more were wounded in the latest fighting. Tajiks held vigils around the country in a nationwide day of mourning Tuesday, Russia's

ORT television reported. Life was returning to normal Tuesday in the city of Khudz-

hand and other areas where fighting raged, but telephone lines have not been restored yet, Interfax reported. · Meanwhile, the rebel leader, former army Col Makhmud

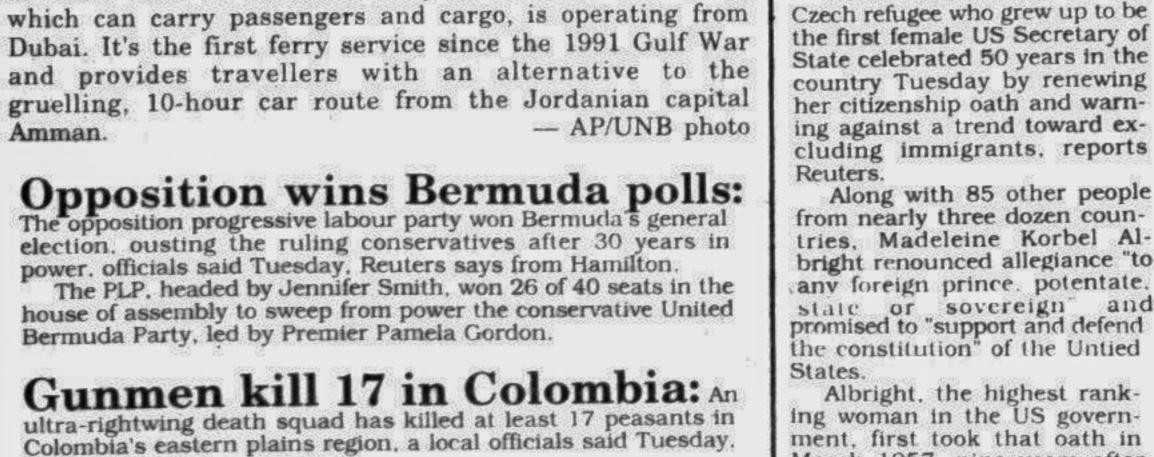
large. The government said he may have fled to Uzbekistan, but the country denied harboring him or any other rebels. In Moscow, the Foreign Min-

Khudoberdyev, remained at

istry denied reports that rebels were hiding out in Russia. The fighting follows a peace treaty last year that ended five

years of civil war between the Muslim opposition and Rakhmonov's hard-line gov ernment. The main opposition groups are now participating in the

government, but a number of warlords have refused to acknowledge the peace accord and periodically launch attacks in the poor, mountainous former Soviet republic.



erty, with tears in our eyes and hope in our hearts." "My parents loved liberty and because of my father's job with the United Nations we had the opportunity to come here to America ... this nation was generous enough to welcome us,

Albright had strong words

plane is the day the door to America should have swung shut," she said.

Nicaragua aid being handed out here is coming through such private efforts, according to people in the

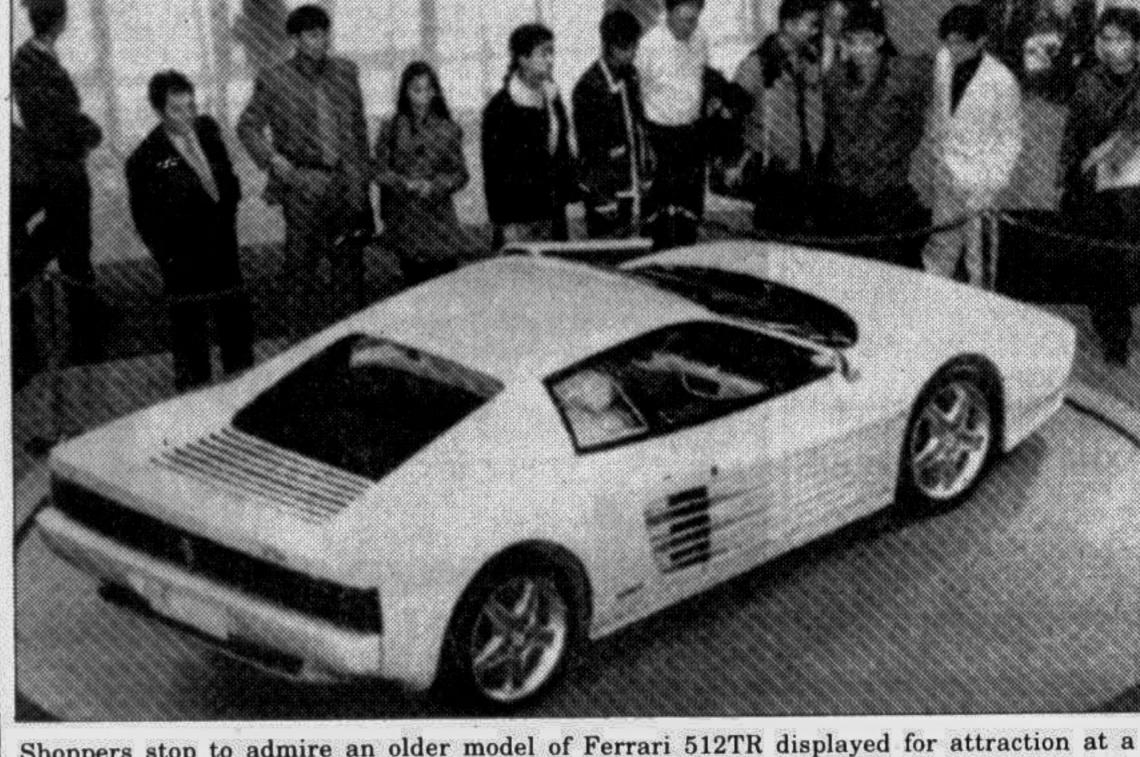
"This is a private effort. We got on the telephones and did what needs to be done because of our concern for these people."

### Israeli warplanes attack Hezbollah sites in Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon, Nov

The planes fired at least six

The targets were in Apple



Shoppers stop to admire an older model of Ferrari 512TR displayed for attraction at a - AP/UNB photo Beijing shopping mall Wednesday.