

Peace talks between Filipino rebels, govt begins

Peace talks between the Philippines government and communist rebels opened yesterday in Norway with both sides expressing hopes for concrete progress toward meeting an ambitious October 2002 deadline for laying more than 32 years of conflict to rest.

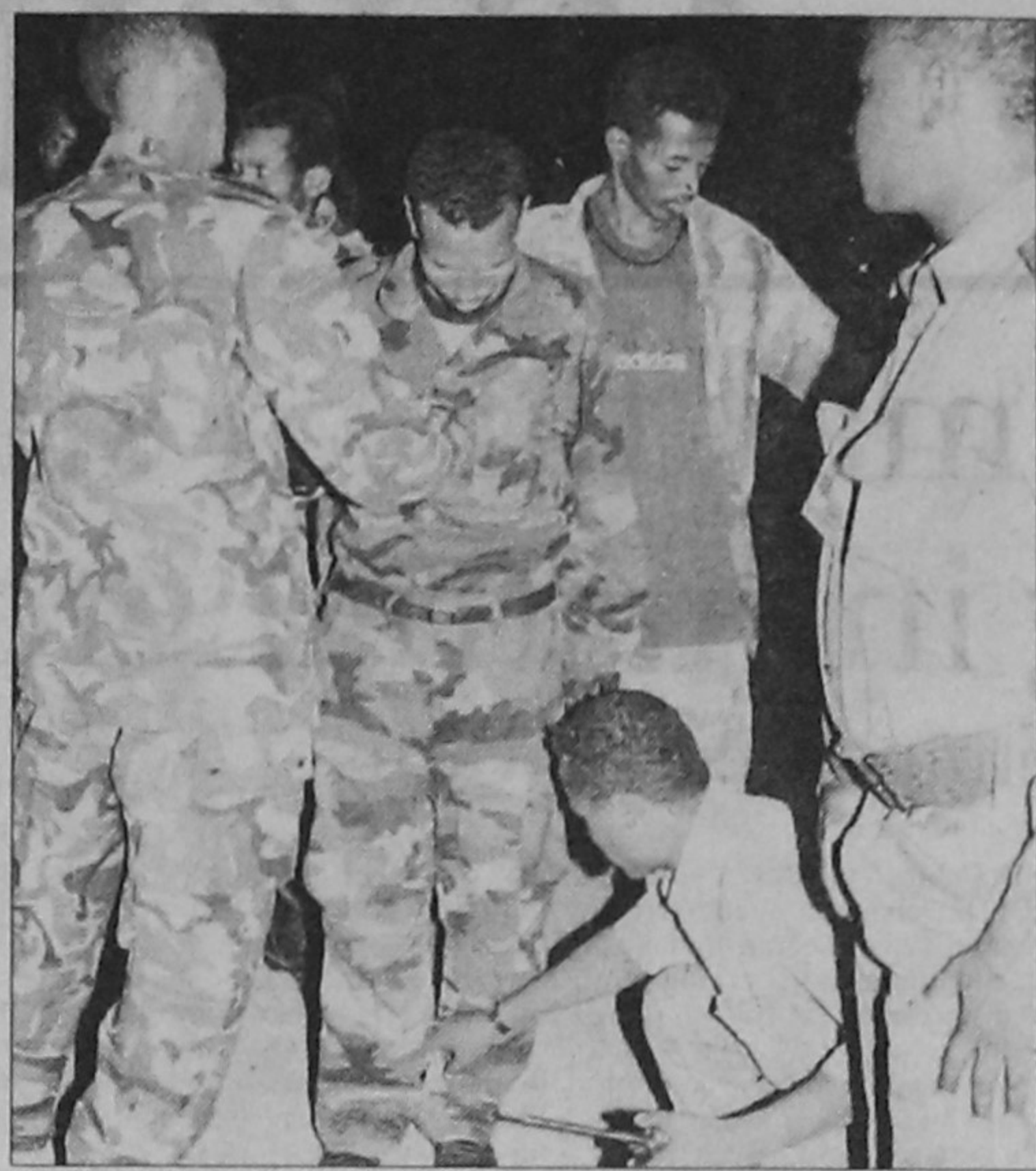
Six Red Cross staff killed in Congo

Six people working for the International Committee of the Red Cross, including two expatriates, were killed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC said at its Geneva headquarters yesterday.

Ethiopian plane hijackers surrender, free hostages

Hijackers with hand grenades and pistols seized an Ethiopian air force plane over Ethiopia carrying at least 50 passengers and diverted it to Khartoum. The attackers released all their hostages hours later and surrendered early yesterday, officials said.

walked down the steps of the aircraft and gave themselves up. It was not clear if the hijackers were students at Addis Ababa University as had been earlier reported by state-run Sudanese television.



Sudanese security agents search Ethiopian military personnel and their hijackers at Khartoum airport yesterday after they left the Ethiopian military plane which was hijacked while on a domestic flight in Ethiopia.

Number of mosques has grown fast in US: Study

REUTERS, Washington The number of mosques and Islamic worshippers has grown tremendously in the United States over the past six years, according to a study released on Thursday.

Chinese experts warn of confrontation with US

Continued US arms sales to Taiwan could spark military confrontation between China and the United States, the government's Xinhua News Agency yesterday quoted Chinese experts as saying.

Musharraf to visit Myanmar

Gen. Pervez Musharraf will make the first official visit next week by a Pakistani leader to military-run Myanmar in 16 years, Myanmar officials said yesterday.

Fighting shatters peace hopes in Lanka: Death toll 311

Heavy fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels raged for a third day yesterday, raising the death toll to 311 and shattering hopes of early peace talks, officials said.

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Advertisement for '5 women ministers in Japanese cabinet' featuring a photo of five women and text detailing their appointments and roles in the Japanese government.

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Advertisement for 'Pak politicians in hiding as raids go on' with text from Reuters reporting on military operations in Pakistan and political party reactions.

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