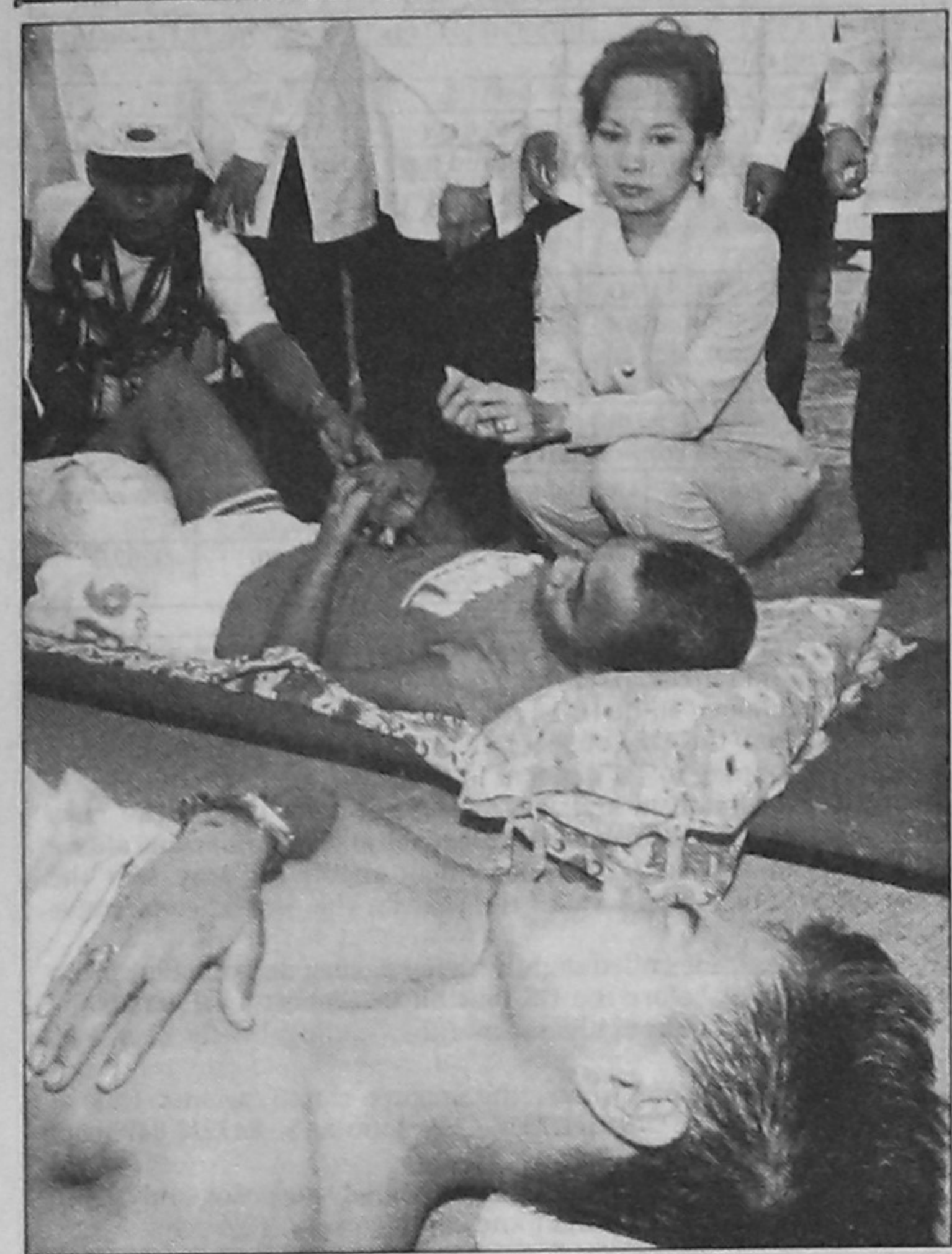


World's future conflicts will be over water and mineral resources

IPS, Washington Ten years after the end of the cold war, the world is entering a new era in which competition over vital resources will dominate conflict and war, according to a US scholar...



President Gloria Arroyo (R) meets two soldiers wounded in a battle yesterday with the Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrillas who kidnapped 20 people from a resort last week...

Warfare: Counterinsurgency, pro-insurgency, and anti-terrorism in the Eighties, and 'Rogue States and nuclear outlaws: America's Search for new foreign policy.'

A major signal of such a change indeed, the one with which Klare opens his new book is the increasingly extensive joint military exercises undertaken by US troops over the past several years with armies in energy-rich Central Asian nations...

These exercises were not only designed to build up the military forces of those countries and encourage their independence from more powerful neighbours, especially Russia, China and Iran...

Similarly, Washington has been systematically building up its military ties in other key energy-producing regions, notably in the Gulf of Guinea where new offshore drilling technology is enabling oil companies to tap into oil and gas reserves that could only be dreamed of a decade ago.

Klare sees the virtually permanent deployment of a formidable US naval force in the Gulf after the 1991 Gulf War as another example of Washington's policy priorities...

UN to map Earth's health

AFP, Paris

The United Nations will launch on World Environment Day a vast scientific assessment of threats to the world's ecosystem, plants and animals, involving an unprecedented network of experts and scientists.

This worldwide scientific enterprise will map the health of our planet, and so fill important gaps in the knowledge we need to preserve it, said Secretary General Kofi Annan in a statement Sunday.

The 'Millennium Ecosystem Assessment', which will take four years to compile at an estimated cost of 21 million dollars (24.7 million euros) and will officially be launched in Turin, Italy, host of this year's Environment Day on June 5.

Some 1,500 scientists, experts and representatives of non-governmental organisations will take part in the project. 'The aim is to supply decision-makers with concrete information to help them make the right choices, like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is currently doing,' explained Veronique Ploeg-Fichelet, in charge of coordinating the study on the evolution of ecosystems.

She is also head of Scope, a scientific association which groups 40 academics from across the world. The example of climate change is poignant: the 3,000 scientists gathered together since 1998 under the auspices of the UN and the World Meteorological Organisation have succeeded in convincing the international community of the reality of climate change, said Ploeg-Fichelet.

But other ecosystems are also suffering from human activity and their degradation pose a threat to the survival of life on earth - deforestation, droughts, floods and various forms of pollution. Studies of the ecosystem exist but 'above all we don't have a real global overview, and therefore lack precise information on regional consequences,' she said.

The evaluation of threats to the planet must be conducted simultaneously at global, regional and national levels.



Many people wept as they passed the crystal coffin carrying the body of Pope John XXIII.

Pope's body goes on show

INTERNET, VATICAN CITY

In a surreal ceremony, the exhumed and restored body of Pope John XXIII, who died in 1963, was carried Sunday in a glass coffin to a new resting place in St. Peter's Basilica where it will be visible to the faithful.

It was eerily recognisable—the familiar hooked nose, the rotund belly, the big hands, the 'Camauro,' or white fur-trimmed red bonnet designed in the 12th century that John liked wearing because it kept his head warm in the cold Vatican halls.

The coffin, which looked like a crystal boudoir jewellery box framed in gold, was rolled out of a side entrance of the basilica on a wheeled, red-draped platform.

Vatican ushers dressed in gray tuxedos slowly pushed the platform, which was bedecked with red and yellow roses, behind a silent procession led by solemn-looking cardinals and altar boys wearing fashionable sunglasses.

Inside the glass box, John's body was dressed in a white, silk cassock and red cape. His big head rested on damask red pillows. His face was covered with a wax mask.

The coffin stood in the square as Pope John Paul said a mass for tens of thousands of people.

Pope John will join only two

other pontiffs to be placed in glass coffins inside the church. The others are Saint Pius X and Innocent XI.

Sunday's ceremony marked one of the rare times in history that a living pope and the body of a dead pope were in the square at the same time.

In his homily, the Pope said it was a 'happy coincidence' that John's body had returned to the same square where tens of thousands of people prayed for him on the night of June 3, 1963, as he lay on his deathbed, his stomach ravaged by cancer.

The body of John, who was beatified and put on the road to sainthood last year, was exhumed in January and found to be in surprisingly good condition.

Although some thought it was a miracle, the conservation was in fact due to the work of Professor Gennaro Goglia, a doctor who secretly embalmed the dead pope with a special liquid.

Goglia, now 78, said his emotions on seeing the face were mixed.

'It made me think of Madame Tussauds (Wax Museum),' he told Reuters Television. 'It could have been handled better,' he said, adding that a cleansing solution would have given the dead pope a

more natural look.

In the past five months since it was exhumed, technicians have been working to keep the body preserved so that it could remain visible to the faithful.

Since it was exhumed, the body of John was effectively 'mummified,' as one technician put it. The coffin's glass is bullet-proof and treated to block ultra-violet rays which could damage the body.

John, known as the 'Good Pope' because of his jovial and benevolent nature, reigned from 1958 to 1963.

Although his reign was relatively brief, he revolutionized the Roman Catholic Church by calling the Second Vatican Council, which modernized the Church.

After Sunday's mass the body was moved into the basilica's main floor, and, after faithful are allowed to file past it for a day, it will be placed permanently in a side chapel.

The body had been kept in a marble crypt in the Vatican grottoes under the basilica along with many of the 147 other popes

Although Vatican officials are not commenting, there has been widespread speculation that the current Pontiff some day may be buried in the spot in the grottoes where John XXIII was.

STOCK

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES JUNE 03, 2001

Table with columns: Company, DSE, CSE, Financial Performance, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, etc. Lists various stocks and their trading data.

Day's Market - Jun 03, 2001

Market indicators table including All Share Price Index, Change in Price Index, Total Turnover, and various market statistics.

Turnover Leaders table listing companies with highest trading volume and their respective values.

Capital Gainers table listing companies with the highest percentage increase in share price.

Capital Losers table listing companies with the largest percentage decrease in share price.

Non Traded Issues

Table listing companies that are not traded on the exchange, including their names and financial details.