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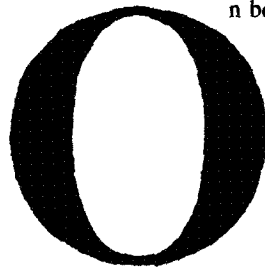
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BRITANNICA BOOK OF THE YEAR

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On behalf of the staff of Encyclopædia Britannica, I am happy to present the 1996 edition of the *Britannica Book of the Year*. This covers a year in which a great deal happened not only in the United States and in the rest of the English-speaking world but everywhere on the globe. The conclusion of the O.J. Simpson trial lessened but did not end the fascination it had for the American people. Not only did it lay bare the now-undeniable gulf between black and white Americans and raise troubling questions about the country's police forces, but it had its resonance overseas as well.

In the U.S. the Republican Party took control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years and began an attack on the past 60 years of American domestic politics. It remained to be seen, of course, whether the Republicans could consolidate their self-proclaimed revolution or would simply remind voters, in the words of one wag, of the reasons they kept them out for so long. The Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, had become so unpopular by the end of the year that he was taking a determinedly low profile in the fierce struggles over the budget.

One of the centrepieces of the Republican agenda was the "Contract with America," and we thought it might be interesting to examine it from the standpoint of contract law. Attorney and author Nina Massen agreed to write a special report for us that discusses the fate of the contract, generally over the first 100 days of the new Congress. As the year ended, only three of the Contract's provisions had become law, and two major items—term limits for members of Congress and a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced budget—had been defeated.

In this year we perhaps could begin to see the outline of the new world that was replacing the world of the Cold War. In a special report on the 1946 *Britannica Book of the Year*, we use excerpts from that volume to see from their vantage point some things that the people of 1945 thought were important for the present and the future. More than that, we get a sense of how things seemed to those on the brink of a new age.

We too are on such a brink, and John Kenneth Galbraith gives us in his Commentary some thoughts on the new world. We trust these ideas will be as interesting in 50 years as they are now. Like those of 1945, the people of 2045 are in our thoughts, and perhaps your world too is changing radically. We hope that as you read this, you are well.

Of the things that happened this past year, we commissioned special reports on those that seemed most compelling, in addition to the "Contract with America" mentioned above. We explore the concept of cyberspace, examine the use of financial derivatives, review postmodernism in Latin-American literature, and look at the worldwide crisis in child care. In this year of the collapse of the venerable Barings PLC and the many troubles of Japan's Daiwa Bank Ltd., we have added a new regular report on U.S. and international banking.

This 1996 edition of the *Britannica Book of the Year* also contains coverage of individual topics, known in the publishing trade as sidebars. We examine the past year's developments and controversies on the plundering of art, ubiquitous infomercials, POGs, El Niño, the emergence of new viruses and the strange behaviour of familiar ones, the Smithsonian Institution and charges of historical revisionism, *Ebony* magazine after 50 years of publication, John Peters Humphrey, the new professionalism in sports, senior golf, the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, and the participation of Vietnam in the global economy.

We also turn our spotlight on the Berbers of North Africa, the multilateral conflict over the Spratly Islands, the recent French elections, secularism in South Asia, the crises in Mexico, communism's legacy of pollution in Eastern Europe, and the move by Native Americans to retain or regain their cultural legacies.

The Sports and Games section has been rearranged to include the Sporting Record tables from the *Micropædia*, which we update each year and which had heretofore been included in a separate section. For the first time, then, all sports reports and their appropriate tables will be available in the same place. We added new tables for Australian rules football, Latin-American baseball, and sumo wrestling, and we are covering once more events of the year in archery, curling, and fencing.

This is my debut volume as editor of the *Britannica Book of the Year*, and I would like to use the editor's privilege to thank all of those at Britannica who have done such a splendid job of producing it. You now hold in your hands the best 1996 *Britannica Book of the Year* we could provide. I trust you will enjoy and profit by it.

Glenn M. Edwards, Editor



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COMMENTARY

# The Outlines of an Emerging World

by John Kenneth Galbraith







**L**ooking back on 1995, I am led to reflect, first of all, on the larger currents of history that have a controlling influence in these times, including the year just past. The first of these is the continuing effect of the release from the international tension that after World War II, a full half century ago, came to be called the Cold War. This, in turn, has given time for attention to the myriad of lesser conflicts, foreign and domestic, that afflict the modern world. Once these would have been assigned a lesser, even minor role except as they might bear on the larger confrontation. They have now come to bulk large in thought and expression.

Two world focal points in 1995 were former Yugoslavia and the impoverished peoples of Africa. There was also the continuing tension in the former republics of the Soviet Union, most notably in Chechnya, and, in lesser measure, in Mexico and Haiti. One is led, first of all, to consider the causes of conflict.

The most obvious of these is the continuing righteous and angry assertion of ethnic, religious, racial, and national identity. Even in the rich countries—in Western Europe and the United States, on the Pacific Rim, and notably in Canada—these conflicts exist. Race, however denied by many citizens, is still a source of continuing and bitter dissension in the United States, on which I will have a later word. In Canada there is continuing debate and action involving Quebec separatism and the French language, which was temporarily decided in 1995 but remains wholly unresolved. In Western Europe there is assertion of national identity and difference and, in particular, an adverse reaction to the large numbers of foreign workers who staff the industrial establishments and otherwise do the work to which native-born sons and daughters are no longer inclined or for which they are unavailable.

The singular aspect of this tension and conflict is that in the fortunate countries it is contained. Relative well-being, one cannot doubt, is a major solvent of social tension. Well-off people become angry, but not to the extent of jeopardizing their comfort. So it is between the rich countries, and so within them. In the United States it is taken for granted

*John Kenneth Galbraith is well known not only as one of the major economists of the 20th century but also as an energetic crusader for liberal causes. Currently the Paul M. Warburg professor of economics, emeritus, at Harvard University, he also has held a number of U.S. governmental positions ranging from department administrator in the Office of Price Administration during World War II to adviser to Pres. John F. Kennedy and ambassador to India. Professor Galbraith consequently has been able to advance the study of economics, explain the field to those who are not specialists, and implement policies based on his extensive knowledge. He is a prolific author whose books include American Capitalism (1952), Almost Everyone's Guide to Economics (1978), and A Short History of Financial Euphoria (1993).*

SEBASTIÃO SALGADO



that the better sections of the cities and the affluent suburbs will be peaceful and benign. Disorder and crime are the bitter legacy of the impoverished, usually relegated to the central cities.

I would like to offer here a general guide to the larger world polity of 1995. The rich and the modestly affluent nations were at peace, not only internally but also with each other. There was still tension in the Middle East, culminating as the year came to a close in the cruel and senseless murder of Yitzhak Rabin. This was a deep, unforgivable tragedy to which the leaders and peoples of the whole world responded, not because Rabin was a leader in war but because he was a force for peace. It was in the relatively poor countries of the Balkans, in the poverty-ridden countries of Africa, in the poorest state of Mexico, and among the Kurds in Turkey and Iraq that deprivation, fighting, and death were commonplace.

Although in and between the fortunate countries there was peace, there were also defining crises leading to political tensions. In the United States there were two such crises: there was a major renewal and deepening of the issue of race, and there was a strong reaction against the seemingly solid benefits and services of the welfare state. Each calls for a comment.

The prime focus of the question of race in the United States in 1995 was the televised O.J. Simpson trial, continuing from the previous year and ending with his exceptionally prompt acquittal. This raised the question whether the criminal justice system could be overridden by racial consciousness and commitment, especially when intensified by the incompetent and deeply prejudicial behaviour of the police.

The other factor bringing race onto the national scene was, in substantial and even encouraging measure, the social



Rwandan refugees, driven to a camp in neighbouring Zaire by vicious fighting between Hutu and Tutsi, prepare to return to their homes. It was in the Balkans and in parts of Africa in 1995 that the world saw the most violent conflicts arising out of ethnic and religious differences.

RADHIKA CHALASANI—GAMMA LIAISON

The greatly publicized case, of course, was former Yugoslavia. Here the ethnic, religious, and territorial commitments were especially deep—some of many centuries' standing. These people sacrificed a modest well-being for the deprivation of many or all. This, and the efforts to bring peace there, dominated the headlines of the year. There were times when one read or heard the news from the Balkans and all but wished for the stable relationships of the Cold War.

But the Balkans were not, in fact, the worst case of the year. That was in Africa, in Rwanda, Burundi, and neighbouring Zaire, with the residual effects of conflict in Somalia and Liberia. There starvation, so far from being an episodic affliction, was the norm. Out of poverty came the forces of disorder and conflict that ensured further poverty—and death. Here, more than anywhere else in the world, was the dark side of 1995.

and economic gains of the African-American community. Once, and indeed until relatively recent times, blacks lived in silent anonymity in the rural South or in enclaves in New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Mich., and other large cities. There was peace because they were not seen. In recent times and strongly manifest in 1995 was the emerging economic, political, and social strength of the black community. In consequence of this, where there was once indifference in the white community, there was now a sense of competition, even economic fear. Affirmative action programs were seen as enhancing this competition—as taking employment from white job seekers. This was not an issue when blacks were sharecroppers or menials in the big cities. So, while definitely not recognized as such, the black and white tension evident in 1995 was a mark of social and civilized progress. The deeper improvement in race relations had its more superficial price.



When Americans were not watching the Simpson trial in Los Angeles or the "Million Man March" on Washington, D.C., they were the silent, approving, or concerned audience for the great political revolt in Washington—the attack on government as a social instrument, more generally on the welfare state. And, as ever, Americans saw the manifestation of extremist popular attitudes, one appalling example being the bombing of the federal office building in Oklahoma City, Okla. In other countries of the industrial world—in Canada and France and in some measure in Germany, Spain, Italy, and The Netherlands—the welfare state was also, at least marginally, under siege. The United States was, as usual, the extreme case. A new Congress, led by young Republican radicals, came to power in Washington in January 1995. There was no reticence as to their aim. Welfare legislation—health care, regulatory restraints, varied government services, and, above all, aid to the poor—was to be rolled back. The word *capitalism* being no longer politically quite correct, the *market system*, in the preferred reference, was to be accorded its pristine freedom and power.

The problem was not that simple. Much welfare legislation, it was being discovered, was the offspring of history, not of politics or ideology. Once the poor in the United States, as observed earlier, were invisible as long as they stayed on the share-cropper plantations of the South or deep in the valleys of the Appalachian Plateau. It was their movement to the cities and away from their primitive sources of support that made welfare, education, crime, law enforcement, and much else public issues and the basis for public action. Once, a predominantly farm population had little need for Social Security and unemployment compensation. On the farm the next generation took care of the one before. Times could be bad, and often were, but there was no unemployment on a farm. Health care, until relatively recent times, was wonderfully inexpensive because the local doctor had very little to sell. It was the enormous advances in medicine and surgery that made health care an issue. The costs of keeping people alive could now range from considerable to huge, and a civilized society, or one with such claim, could not allow people to be sick and die merely because they had no money. From this came the intense debate over health care and how to pay for it. The problem was thought to have been given by ideology; in fact, it was the result of the great thrust of history.

So it was with much of the political debate this past year in the United States Congress, and this fact goes far to explain why the oratory so far has substantially exceeded the action. What was readily seen as a revolt against costly and intrusive government became, on closer examination, a reaction to larger forces not easy and, indeed, on occasion not possible to reverse.

The year 1995 was also one in which narrower economic issues became obtrusively evident. In general, with Japan being somewhat of an exception, it was a time of favourable economic performance. Economic growth, as it is called—the broad increase in the production of goods and the rendering of services—was generally favourable. Prices were mostly stable. But there were also some very dark spots on the world economic scene.

The darkest was in the former communist countries, no-

tably Russia. Here it was still being discovered that the transition to a market system was far more difficult, far more cruel, than once imagined. A poor economic system, defective especially in its meeting of the varied and changing needs of consumers, was replaced in some measure by no system at all. Instead, there were idle factories, badly disorganized agriculture and food supply, continuing if less severe inflation, and a new entrepreneurial class deeply and profitably committed to forthright crime and corruption.

The economic disorder in Russia and its political consequences cast the blackest shadows on the world scene. When World War II ended, the winning nations, led by the United States, united in a major effort at repair and reconstruction. It was wonderfully successful for both victors and vanquished. Alas, the end of the Cold War brought no such effort, invoked no such generosity, no such intelligence. In international affairs increasing intelligence cannot be assumed.

Within the fortunate countries in 1995, two economic factors were a lasting reason for concern. One was the

continuing high and enduring level of unemployment in the United States and Canada and, notably, in Europe. This has two causes, neither as yet fully recognized and appreciated. There is, first, the fact that in the modern economy and polity inflation is more feared than unemployment, and a reserve army of the unemployed, to use an old Marxian phrase, is now seen as a protection against price increases. Second, the modern welfare state has within its structure factors that are adverse to worker employment. Each of these matters needs to be examined.

The modern economy and polity has a very large number of people living on fixed or more or less stable incomes and also a big minority who have bank savings or other fixed-income assets. To these, inflation, even a mild increase in prices, is a most unwelcome expropriation. Thus the fear of inflation as it

affects a large and articulate community. And thus the acceptance of unemployment, which is now seen as a necessary stabilizing force against the wage increases that might, in turn, drive up prices. We have come close to saying and often now do say that a too great reduction in unemployment is economically adverse, even dangerous. It may be asked if this is not a cruel resolution of a difficult situation: idle workers suffering the pain and deprivation of idleness as a stabilizing factor in the economy. It is, but for a fairly obvious reason: inflation is feared by a wide, articulate, and influential public. Unemployment is suffered by an anonymous and relatively inarticulate community. It is for someone else.

The other cause of unemployment is deep in the modern structure of the welfare state. This places on the employer a substantial labour cost in addition to wages, the provision of pension and health benefits in particular but other costs as well. These costs can be lessened by not hiring new workers and by resorting to overtime, temporary workers, or labour-saving technology. In the modern factory the computer and the machinery it controls do to industrial workers what the tractor once did to the horse. The time may well come when more of the welfare costs now placed upon the employer will have to be taken over by the state. The cost of hiring a

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new worker will not have to be so severely calculated. But that is for the future.

There is an undoubted tendency for an economist to dwell on the controlling role of economics in larger life. Causation is still large in all economic thought. This is not wholly an error. Economic well-being allows, as it always has allowed, opportunity for the higher orders of life. The visual arts have always been the particular opportunity and pleasure of the affluent. So also the theatre, music, and entertainment in general. A strong current of effort has sought, never without success, to find artistic expression in the work and attitudes of the poor. Thus the past and continuing celebration of the folk arts, as they are sometimes compulsively called. This is good, but the larger fact remains: the arts flourish, and from ancient times have flourished, when sustaining well-being and wealth are available. The Medicis would not still be known to us had they been poor. Shakespeare lived a life of more than modest well-being.

So it is now in a greatly diversified fashion. In the year just passed, a major, even dominant discussion was of music and entertainment, much of it centring, needless to say, on music groups and on television. Heavily involved as they are with sex and violence, music and television were thought to be deeply damaging to the young, who are enthusiastic listeners and viewers. The discussion is one that I, at least, have listened to with a certain detachment. Whatever the adverse effects, they are almost certainly less than those from any efforts at control. The remarkable fact, indeed, is how intense is the discussion of contemporary music and television and how little emerges by way of action. For better or worse, a society with the income and leisure that allows for a major indulgence of entertainment and the arts must all too evidently accept the defective or allegedly damaging along with the good.

To any discussion of entertainment and the arts, one must add a word on the economic change and development of which they are a part. Once, and in all orthodox discussion, economics was concerned with the production of things—of food, clothing, steel, automobiles. So, in much thought, it remains. The true worker is the man on the assembly line. That is industry.

With economic development this is no longer the case. As the production and consumption of goods expand, attention turns to design and also to the means of persuading people to buy. Here enters the artist or, in any case, someone with artistic instinct. Design was the basis of the great economic

success of Italy in the years after World War II. Italian products became synonymous with good design. Automobiles and shoes had Italian names. There was no Nebraska, Dakota, or Jones.

But that is only the beginning. After products please as to design and are duly advertised and promoted, itself a large occupation, people go on to entertainment, which becomes a centrally important industry. We are reluctant to admit it, but no country can compete with the United States in the production of television programs, often, no doubt, morally depraved. We do not like to think of entertainment as a solidly based industry such as a steel mill. However, it is inherent in economic advance, as are also, at an undoubtedly higher level, painting, sculpture, architectural

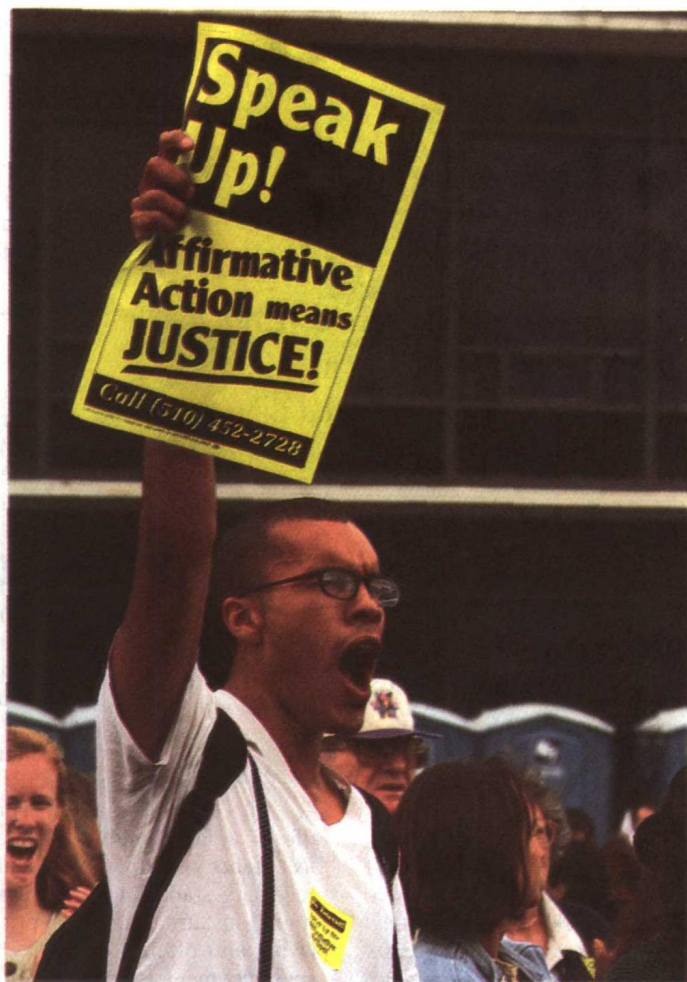
design, the fine arts generally, and, I hasten to add, health care. When we view the economic life of 1995, our attention should be as much on the arts and entertainment and the health industry as on industrial production, including its technological advances. We reflect regularly and even compulsively on the workers replaced by robots and computers; we do not reflect on the number who have moved onward, and most would say upward, to the higher claims of employment and enjoyment.

I conclude with the most discussed, most publicized technological development of the year and the time. Its words and phrases are with us every day—the Internet, the information superhighway, the information revolution. We are to be informed as never before; much of the means by which we once communicated is on its way to obsolescence. I personally have read this and listened with attention, but I am not completely impressed. Others will respond with more enthusiasm.

In modern times our problem has not been in

conveying information. It has been in providing the original knowledge and in deciding what is good, bad, or purely fraudulent. That problem remains. So, I think, it will.

And so will the basic means for communicating knowledge. When I need some information, my first thought is still of a book—and the library. When I have an inquiry, I still turn first to the telephone. The latter has served with improvement but no basic change for rather more than a century; books have survived for far longer. They will endure the information revolution; they will not be lost on that superhighway. The problem will still be finding the relevant and sorting out the true from the false. Our problem, to repeat, is not a shortage of information or in its transfer. It is in deciding what is useful and what is right.



Students at the University of California, San Francisco, protest the decision to end affirmative action programs in higher education. This was seen as one of many indications that racial divisions were deepening in the U.S.

LISA QUINONES—BLACK STAR



# Chronicle of 1995

1

## Cardoso assumes office

Having won some 54% of the ballots cast in the October 1994 election, Fernando Cardoso took the oath of office as president of Brazil. As chief executive of South America's largest nation, Cardoso was committed to bringing inflation under control and revitalizing the economy through foreign investments and expanded trade. Before seeking the presidency, Cardoso had served both as foreign minister and as minister of finance.

2

## Mercosur to expand

One day after the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) had become operational, Chile and Bolivia approved plans to seek membership in the trade organization, which presently included Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. More than 90% of the goods that were traded within the market would be exempt from tariffs, and standardized tariffs would be imposed on imports from countries that were outside the Mercosur trade zone.

3

## AIDS cases increase

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the number of AIDS cases reported to its headquarters in Geneva had officially passed the one million mark. WHO officials, however, believed that the actual number of cases was probably four times that number because many cases had not been properly diagnosed and others went unreported. The most severely affected area was Africa, where more than 70% of the cases were thought to exist. Statistics indicated that 9% of the cases occurred in the United States, 9% in other parts of the Western Hemisphere, 6% in Asia, 4% in Europe, and 2% in other parts of the world. On January 30 the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that in 1993 AIDS had become the leading cause of death for both American men and women 25-44 years old.

## Cease-fire in Sri Lanka

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the government of Sri Lanka agreed to suspend hostilities on January 8 while a new effort was made to end the 12-year-old civil conflict. The Tiger rebels were promised \$800 million in economic aid to help reverse the effects of the economic sanctions and trade embargoes that had been imposed on them by previous administrations. The Tamils, who were mostly

(former Communist) Party of Uzbekistan would form a solid majority in the 250-seat Supreme Assembly. The National Progress Party, which participated in the election with the approval of Pres. Islam Karimov, was the only other party that had been allowed to nominate candidates for the Dec. 25, 1994, election. Nonetheless, non-party candidates captured 20 seats, and the Progress of the Fatherland party, which advocated accelerated economic reforms, won 6 seats. Karimov's decision to allow



Kenyan children stand beneath an AIDS-prevention poster. In a report on January 3, the World Health Organization stated that some 70% of all AIDS cases were found in Africa.

WENDY STONE—GAMMA LIAISON

Hindus in a predominantly Buddhist country, comprised 18% of the total population. They had taken up arms to secure autonomy for a homeland in the northern and northeastern regions of the country.

4

## PDP to govern Uzbekistan

The national election committee in Uzbekistan reported that according to incomplete returns, members of the People's Democratic

token political opposition was apparently prompted by a desire to have the nation's first post-Soviet election viewed abroad as a multiparty contest.

6

## France annoys allies

Following a meeting in Paris with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé announced that his country would resume limited diplomatic ties with

Iraq. Relations had soured because French troops had been part of the successful UN-sponsored military force that defeated Iraq after its attempt to annex Kuwait in 1990. The U.S. and Great Britain vigorously opposed France's decision because Iraq was still in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and under an oil embargo. France, however, reportedly hoped that improved relations with Iraq now would help secure for France a major role in rebuilding that nation's oil industry when the time was ripe. Before the Persian Gulf War, the two countries had been major trading partners.

8

## Use of CFZ curtailed

The Australian Cotton Foundation announced that the nation's cotton industry would suspend use of the chemical pesticide chlorfluazuron (CFZ) until further studies had been completed. Although CFZ was considered to have low toxicity, the U.S. and Japan had banned the importation of Australian beef in 1994 after learning that some cattle had been fed cotton waste contaminated with the chemical.

10

## Rubin replaces Benson

The U.S. Senate unanimously approved (99-0) the appointment of Robert Rubin as secretary of the treasury. The former co-chairman of Goldman, Sachs & Co. investment bank had won wide respect as chairman of the National Economic Council, which Pres. Bill Clinton had created. In that capacity he had coordinated the economic policies of various White House and federal agencies and was the chief architect of the government's federal deficit-reduction program.

11

## Refugees to go home

Germany revealed that Vietnam had finally agreed to accept the return of some 40,000 of its citizens residing illegally in Germany. The 55,000 Vietnamese who had earlier acquired legal residence in Germany would not be affected. Following the

JANUARY





A man walks through the rubble of a building that collapsed in the January 17 earthquake that struck the Kobe area, one of the most densely populated parts of Japan. The earthquake killed about 6,000 people, and it was estimated that in all some 100,000 buildings were destroyed.

PHILLIP J. GRIFFITHS—MAGNUM

reunification of Germany in 1990, nearly 40% of the 155,000 Vietnamese then living in Germany had voluntarily returned to their native land. For agreeing to accept the returnees, Vietnam would receive more than \$65 million in development funds and an equal amount in export credit guarantees.

#### Cubans to leave Panama

Pentagon officials announced that 3,000 soldiers would be sent to Panama and Cuba to reinforce security while some 8,000 Cuban refugees, who were confined in Panamanian camps, were transferred to the U.S. Guantánamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. More than 21,000 Cubans were already housed there. The U.S. sought to minimize the possibility of violent resistance because the refugees had long hoped to join friends and relatives in Florida.

## 12

#### British patrols trimmed

Sir Hugh Annesley, head of security in Northern Ireland, announced that British troops would no longer accompany the Royal Ulster Constabulary on daytime patrols in Belfast after January 15. During peace talks with British officials, Sinn Féin, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, had

repeatedly demanded that the troops leave Northern Ireland. Encouraged by the fact that a five-month-old cease-fire was holding firm, Annesley expressed hope that British troops would also, in time, be withdrawn from night patrols.

## 13

#### Dini to govern Italy

Lamberto Dini became Italy's prime minister-designate three weeks after Silvio Berlusconi resigned under fire. The new head of government, who took the oath of office on January 17, was expected to use his extensive knowledge of banking and finance to stabilize Italy's financial markets. Berlusconi indicated that his powerful Forza Italia party was prepared to give Dini and his politically neutral Cabinet short-term support while the government initiated political and election reforms. Dini suggested that these goals could be reached within a few months.

#### Wolves returned to park

Eight North American gray wolves were returned to Yellowstone National Park under a provision of the Endangered Species Act. Four others were scheduled to be set free in a wilderness area of Idaho. Ranchers, fearful that the wolves would attack

their sheep and cattle, had successfully impeded implementation of the government program until a federal court in Colorado permitted the restoration to begin.

## 15

#### Pope arrives in Manila

Pope John Paul II celebrated the Roman Catholic Church's 10th World Youth Day in Manila with a public mass attended by an estimated four million people. The gathering was twice as large as the one that welcomed the pontiff when he returned home to Cracow, Poland, in 1979. During his 33,500-km (20,800-mi) tour, John Paul also visited Papua New Guinea, Australia, and Sri Lanka. Buddhist leaders in Sri Lanka, offended by written remarks the pope had made about Buddhism's "perfect indifference to the world," declined to meet the pope, who ended the 63rd overseas journey of his pontificate on January 21.

#### Niger vote challenged

The state radio in Niger reported that the four opposition parties had won a total of 42 of the 83 seats in the national legislature in the election held on January 12. The five parties supporting Pres. Mahamane Ousmane captured 40 seats, with the remaining seat going to the

candidate of an independent party. Because Ousmane's backers claimed that the balloting had been fraudulent, it was not immediately clear who would fill the post of prime minister.

## 17

#### Quake devastates Kobe

Kobe, Japan's sixth largest city and one of the country's most vital ports, suffered immense damage when a powerful early-morning earthquake occurred about 10 km (6 mi) beneath Awaji Island in Osaka Bay. The Great Hanshin Earthquake—the worst since the 1923 temblor that leveled Tokyo—killed about 6,000 people, injured more than 30,000, and left more than 300,000 homeless. The collapse of elevated highways and major buildings severely impeded efforts to reach the victims. The government later acknowledged that its initial response to the crisis was slow and inadequate. Final estimates of the damage were about \$150 billion, approximately one-fifth of Japan's 1994 national budget.

## 18

#### Ancient cave art found

French Minister of Culture and Francophone Affairs Jacques Toubon confirmed that cave paintings and engravings believed to be 17,000–20,000 years old had been discovered near the town of Vallon-Pont-d'Arc in southern France in December 1994. (Late in the year scientists estimated that the art work was more likely some 30,000 years old.) The find had been kept secret until the site could be physically and legally protected. Archaeologists reported that the drawings rivaled in importance the prehistoric art previously found in Spain and France. The newly discovered art treasures included the first known Paleolithic depictions of a panther, a hyena, and owls.

#### Algerians still at odds

A plan drawn up by militant Islamists to end the three-year-old civil strife in Algeria was rejected by the government because, among



other things, it called for the recognition of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front. The seeds of violence had been sown in January 1992 when the government canceled the second round of elections that would almost certainly have given the Muslims a majority in the National People's Assembly and paved the way for the establishment of an Islamic state. On January 30 a car bomb was detonated near the main police station in Algiers, the capital; 42 persons were killed and nearly 300 injured.

## 21

### Mubarak visits Jordan

Egyptian Pres. Hosni Mubarak traveled to Jordan, where he and King Hussein reaffirmed the friendship that had traditionally marked the relationship between their two nations. It was the first time the two leaders had met since tensions developed over Jordan's support for Iraqi Pres. Saddam Hussein during the Persian Gulf War. Egypt and Jordan, however, had come to recognize that they had much in common: both had signed peace treaties with Israel, and both had discussed with Syrian

Pres. Hafez al-Assad his refusal to establish diplomatic relations with Israel until it abandoned the occupied Golan Heights. On January 30 Israel withdrew its forces from a desert area south of the Dead Sea and thereby restored Jordanian sovereignty over the territory. The transfer of authority satisfied one more element of the peace treaty that the two nations had signed.

### Eritrea backs U.S. role

After arriving in the U.S. for a two-week visit, Isaias Afwerki, president of the newly (1993) independent nation of Eritrea, told reporters that the U.S. had to continue its policy of active involvement in African affairs despite the problems it had encountered in its mission to Somalia. Many African nations, he said, needed U.S. financial and diplomatic assistance in order to maintain peace, foster democracy, and alleviate poverty.

## 28

### Turmoil in Sierra Leone

Officials in Guinea reported that as many as 30,000

refugees had entered their country from neighbouring Sierra Leone when rebel troops attacked the town of Kambia. The Revolutionary United Front, led by Foday Sankoh, had been attacking the government from bases inside Liberia since 1991. According to officials of the UN World Food Programme, nearly one-fifth of Sierra Leone's 4.6 million people had been forced to flee their homes because of the fighting. At the end of 1993, the military government had announced a schedule to return the country to civilian rule. Voters were to be registered, a new constitution drawn up, and general elections held after the election of a president in November 1995. The fighting, however, continued.

## 30

### Floods inundate Europe

Sections of Belgium, France, Germany, and The Netherlands were under a state of emergency after torrential rains and melting Alpine snow buried vast expanses of northwestern Europe under spreading sheets of water. One measure of the disaster was provided by the Rhine

River, which crested at a point not seen since the 18th century. The Dutch found themselves in an especially perilous situation because so much of the land reclaimed from the sea lies below sea level. More than 100,000 people had to be evacuated from land lying between the Waal and Meuse rivers.

## 31

### UN to bypass ex-leaders

A spokesman for UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced that neither of the two living former heads of the organization would be invited to attend the 50th-anniversary celebration in the U.S. The decision prevented a possible confrontation with the U.S. Department of Justice, which barred Kurt Waldheim from U.S. soil. Waldheim, an Austrian who directed the UN from 1972 to 1981, had served in a German army unit that had been accused of war crimes in the Balkans during World War II. Boutros-Ghali's decision meant that his immediate predecessor, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar of Peru, would also be absent from the official celebration.

AP/WIDE WORLD

Newly found cave paintings in France depict a Stone Age menagerie that includes bears, bison, mammoths, and woolly rhinoceroses. The discovery was announced only after the site, accessible only from the Mediterranean Sea, had been secured.







(LEFT) FORREST ANDERSON; (BELOW) MASAO ENDO—SABA

(Left) Chinese look over pirated CDs in Beijing, an example of the copyright violations that led the U.S. to threaten tariffs on selected Chinese exports. (Below) A member of the Taleban, a mostly student army of religious fundamentalists, stands guard in Afghanistan after the group's refusal to join in negotiations helped doom an accord announced on February 11.



## 1

### Report on human rights

John Shattuck, head of the human rights section of the U.S. State Department, discussed with reporters the just-released U.S. annual report on the observance of human rights in 160 countries. As in past years, the report, which covered calendar year 1994, denounced the "flagrant and systematic abuses of basic human rights" that took place under the regimes controlling Cuba, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and Myanmar (Burma). China was singled out for special condemnation for its "widespread and well-documented human rights abuses." In unusually harsh language, the report deplored China's use of "arbitrary and lengthy incommunicado detention, torture, and mistreatment of prisoners." The report also cited unfair trials, labour camps, and suppression of free speech.

## 3

### New wage rate proposed

President Clinton proposed that over a period of two years the minimum wage be increased to \$5.15 an hour from the current \$4.25. In terms of real buying power, Clinton said, a minimum wage of \$4.25 in 1996 would place the hourly wage at its lowest level in 40 years. He argued that if the nation hoped to reform the welfare system successfully, employment would have to be made more attractive. Many Republicans vigorously opposed Clinton's plan on the grounds that numerous businesses were striving to control costs and that mandatory wage increases would result in untold numbers losing their jobs. An estimated 4.2

million workers were currently earning the minimum wage.

## 4

### China facing high tariffs

Mickey Kantor, the chief U.S. trade representative, announced that the Clinton administration would impose punitive tariffs as high as 100% on a wide variety of Chinese goods effective February 26. During long negotiations China had rejected U.S. demands that effective measures be taken to end the flagrant pirating of copyrighted U.S. intellectual property, notably computer software, movies, and music. China reacted to Kantor's announcement by imposing similar tariffs on imports from the U.S. A trade war, however, was averted at the last minute when China, after 11 more days of intense bargaining in Beijing, agreed to launch a serious crackdown on the pirating and marketing of material protected by international and domestic copyrights. Though pleased, U.S. business leaders cautioned that the problem would be solved only if China implemented the agreement.

## 7

### Pakistan extradites suspect

Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, believed to have masterminded the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City, was arrested by police in Islamabad, Pak. The FBI had offered a \$2 million reward for his capture. The following day Yousef was extradited to New York, where he faced charges of having purchased and prepared the chemicals used in the bombing and of actually having helped

to put the bomb in place. In 1994 four other Islamic terrorists had been convicted of conspiracy in the case. Each was sentenced to 240 years in prison.

### Oleksy to lead Poland

Warned by Polish Pres. Lech Walesa that he would dissolve the Sejm (parliament) unless Waldemar Pawlak, a member of the Polish Peasant Party, was replaced as prime minister, the ruling two-party coalition government nominated Jozef Oleksy, a member of the Democratic Left Alliance, head of government. Walesa had grown impatient with Pawlak's slow implementation of economic reforms, but it was not certain how much or how quickly the situation would change under Oleksy. The party that he represented had formerly been the Communist Party, and it already dominated the ruling coalition.

## 8

### Peacekeepers enter Angola

With Jonas Savimbi, leader of the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), showing a new willingness to terminate the civil war in Angola, the UN Security Council voted unanimously to dispatch 7,000 peacekeeping troops to the area. In 1992 a UN-sponsored presidential election had been expected

to restore order and stability to the country, but UNITA refused to accept the election results. Two years later, when Pres. José Eduardo dos Santos' Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and UNITA came together to sign their third peace agreement since 1989, Savimbi failed to appear. Santos then also declined to





sign the document. The first critical test of the new peace initiative would come when rebel troops were scheduled to report to quartering areas and give up their arms. Because Savimbi had recently confessed to UNITA associates that their cause was all but lost, there was a feeling of optimism that the civil strife was coming to an end. The conflict had claimed some 500,000 lives since Angola won independence from Portugal in 1975.

## 11

### Afghan foes compromise

A UN mediator in the Afghan civil war reported that most of the militias had agreed to establish a multiparty council that would hold temporary power until a new government structure had been created. Pres. Burhanuddin Rabbani, who had reportedly dismissed earlier demands that he resign, advanced the fragile

ANIBAL SOLIMANO—GAMMA LIAISON

Peruvian soldiers guard the border with Ecuador. On February 17, after three weeks of fighting, the two countries announced a cease-fire in their latest border skirmish.

peace effort by promising to step aside at an unspecified date. A brutal war had erupted in 1979 when Soviet troops invaded the country to preserve the communist regime. Unable to subdue the guerrillas, they withdrew in 1989. The fall of the communist government three years later was followed by bitter fighting between various Muslim groups, each vying for political ascendancy.

## 14

### New court in South Africa

Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa, and other dignitaries attended the formal inauguration of the country's first Constitutional Court. He and a panel of judges had selected seven whites, three blacks, and one Indian as Supreme Court justices. The chief justice would be Arthur Chaskalson, who had helped draft the nation's interim constitution. The court's first order of business would be to determine the constitutionality of the death penalty. The fate of 400 prisoners on death row would be decided when the 1990 moratorium on executions was rendered moot by the court's ruling.

### Zürich drug market closed

Swiss police, responding to the complaints of residents in the once respectable Letten quarter of Zürich, began closing off the area, which had become an open market for illegal drugs. The government had chosen to abide the situation in the hope that social workers could help the addicts and inhibit the spread of AIDS by supplying clean needles to heroin users. Inexorably, the problem reached intolerable proportions as addicts from other parts of Switzerland—as well as foreigners—flocked to Letten. The police then cordoned off the market, which was an abandoned train depot, and detained hundreds of addicts and dealers. A similar situation had developed in 1992 in the Platzspitz public park in the centre of Zürich. When the police sealed off that area, the drug addicts moved across town.

## 17

### Peru-Ecuador dispute ends

Three days after declaring a cease-fire in their three-week-old border war, Peru

and Ecuador signed a peace accord that each side hailed as a victory. The remote 77-km (48-mi) stretch of land along their mountainous border had long been under dispute and would remain so until politicians, military personnel, and cartographers agreed on lines of demarcation. Meanwhile, international observers would oversee the demilitarization of the contested area.

### U.S. trade deficit soars

The U.S. Commerce Department reported that the U.S. trade deficit in 1994 reached \$108.1 billion, about 42% higher than in 1993. Analysts attributed the deficit mainly to the relatively stagnant economies of Japan and Europe, major U.S. trading partners, and a concomitant reluctance on the part of their citizens to seek U.S. products and services. A stronger U.S. economy, conversely, was an incentive for U.S. customers to make purchases more readily, including foreign goods and services. During 1994 the U.S. gross domestic product had grown at an inflation-adjusted rate of 4%, the highest it had been in 10 years.

## 18

### NAACP gets new leader

By the margin of a single vote, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) elected Myrlie Evers-Williams chairperson of its board. The widow of Medgar Evers, a civil rights activist slain in 1963, assumed the office at a critical time in the organization's history. Its debt had escalated beyond \$4 million, and nearly half the board had wanted William Gibson, who had headed the board for 10 years and sought reelection, to continue in office. Evers-Williams said that her top priority, aside from seeking the help of those who had opposed her, was to find a new executive director to replace the Rev. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., who had been dismissed by the board in August 1994 after he had held the job for only 15 months. He had been accused of financial mismanagement, discrimination, and sexual harassment.





19

**Andreotti linked to Mafia**

According to reports not yet made public, Gioacchino Pennino, a surgeon and confessed member of the Sicilian Mafia, was providing Italian authorities with evidence that Giulio Andreotti had close ties to the Mafia. The powerful politician, who was under intense investigation, had been prime minister seven times and held the post of foreign minister for six years. The dramatic testimony being given by Pennino, who had been arrested in Croatia in 1994, was said to include direct and persuasive evidence of collusion between Cosa Nostra and prominent politicians and professionals. About 70% of those polled after listening to Andreotti's two-hour defense on television said that they found his explanations unconvincing. On March 2 he was formally indicted and ordered to stand trial in September.

21

**Mexico accepts aid terms**

Faced with virtually no other alternative, Mexico accepted the tough terms the United States had set down as conditions for receiving an aid package worth \$20 billion. The International Monetary Fund, which insisted on the same conditions, agreed to disburse an additional \$17.8 billion. The Swiss-based Bank for International Settlements also pledged a substantial contribution. All told, Mexico would receive \$52 billion from foreign sources. The money was intended principally to stabilize Mexico's peso and prevent the country from defaulting on its debt. To secure the financial help it needed, Mexico agreed, among other things, to post the revenues of its state-owned oil company as collateral and to reduce government spending.

**Military shake-up in Haiti**

Haitian Pres. Jean-Bertrand Aristide purged the nation's military leadership by forcing 43 senior officers into retirement. With the removal of all four army generals and others of high rank who were in uniform when the military

ousted Aristide in 1991, the armed forces were effectively brought under civilian control. The army, which was simultaneously reduced to a force of only 1,500 soldiers, had earned a reputation for brutality and corruption.

**Sandinista loses post**

During a formal ceremony in Managua, Nicaragua, Gen. Joaquin Cuadra replaced Gen. Humberto Ortega, a Sandinista, as commander in chief of the armed forces. After Violeta Barrios de Chamorro ousted the Sandinista government by defeating Daniel Ortega Saavedra in the 1990 presidential election, she allowed the Sandinistas a share of power by confirming Gen-



Mexican and U.S. officials sign an agreement guaranteeing loans to rescue the Mexican economy. On February 21 Mexico agreed to U.S. terms for the aid, including reduced spending.

TERRY ASHE—GAMMA LIAISON

eral Ortega (the former president's brother) as head of the military. With the delicate period of political readjustment behind her, Chamorro gave her blessing to the removal of the last Sandinista to hold a position of significant power in the country.

24

**Iran to get reactors**

After two days of intense discussions in Washington, D.C., Russian officials refused to reverse their decision to build four nuclear reactors in Iran. Even though the units were designed for commercial use, the U.S. insisted that such facilities could be used to produce nuclear weapons. Russia's determination to fulfill the

contract, worth nearly \$1 billion in hard currency, elicited a warning from Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and other members of Congress that U.S. aid to Russia could be drastically reduced or terminated unless the deal was voided.

25

**Rebels bomb train in India**

At least 22 soldiers and 5 civilians were killed when two bombs exploded on a passenger train traveling through Assam province, India. The soldiers were returning to their base after voting in the Manipur state election. Government officials tended to blame the terrorist attack on a tribal group that had been strug-

risky futures contracts. Peter Baring, chairman of the bank, which was founded in 1762, told the *Financial Times* that 1994 profits were expected to exceed \$150 million. He also reassured Barings customers that none of them would suffer financial losses because of the bankruptcy. On March 1, six days after fleeing Singapore, 28-year-old Nicholas Leeson, the man held responsible for Barings' collapse, was traced to Frankfurt, Germany, where he was later detained by authorities.

**Old treaty ends dispute**

An Arabian Peninsula border conflict subsided when Saudi Arabia and Yemen reaffirmed the Treaty of al-Ta'if, which they had signed in 1934, and agreed to use it as a basis for settling a border dispute that had persisted for some 60 years. Meanwhile, both sides made pledges of nonaggression and promised to resolve their differences through negotiations. The 1934 treaty had demarcated the border running from the Red Sea to Najran, Saudi Arabia, but the rest of the 1,500-km (950-mi) border was never defined.

28

**Denver airport opens**

The world's most technologically sophisticated international airport finally opened outside Denver, Colo., some 16 months behind schedule. The 137-sq km (53-sq mi) facility was the first major U.S. airport opened to traffic since the Dallas-Fort Worth (Texas) International Airport began operations in 1974. Virtually everyone praised the new terminal's architecture, but many were unhappy with the \$4.9 billion price tag—substantially more than the original estimated budget. Initially, the innovative but complex baggage-handling system was an embarrassing disaster as engineers sought ways to prevent the luggage from being damaged by the machinery. Those who were most critical of the project wondered why the city's Stapleton Airport could not have been expanded, at considerably less expense, to meet the region's air transportation needs for the foreseeable future.

26

**Barings Bank collapses**

Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, stunned the financial world by announcing that Barings PLC, Britain's oldest merchant bank, was bankrupt. The venerable institution was destroyed virtually overnight when one of its British employees in Singapore lost over \$1 billion through apparently unauthorized transactions in



2

## Chinese test free speech

A group of 12 well-known Chinese intellectuals, including two former senior editors of the Communist Party's official *People's Daily*, urged the National People's Congress to use its constitutional powers to curb abuses by the police. It was the second time in less than a week that the group had used petitions to test the limits of free speech in China. Those who signed the petitions were also implicitly denouncing the monolithic influence of the Communist Party over all branches of government.

## Scientists find top quark

Two teams of particle physicists, working independently and using different equipment at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill., announced that their experiments had revealed the top quark, the last of six quarks that are believed to be the ultimate building blocks of all matter. The findings confirmed theories postulated in the 1960s, namely, that matter is made up of two kinds of fundamental particles: leptons, which include electrons, and six types of quarks. One of the teams measured the mass of the top quark at 176 GeV (billion electron volts); the other team, at 199

GeV. In view of the margin of error inherent in both measurements, scientists accepted the two reports as mutual confirmation.

3

## UN ends Somalia mission

With a seven-nation UN force of 23 ships, 80 aircraft, and more than 14,000 soldiers ready to face any eventuality, the last 2,400 UN peacekeeping troops left Somalia. Several days earlier some 1,800 U.S. marines and 400 Italian soldiers had gone ashore to enhance security during the withdrawal. UN relief workers and persons associated with private organizations chose to remain in Somalia. In December 1992 the UN had launched a successful international effort to prevent massive starvation in the East African nation, but it was unable to establish a functioning government because it could not bring an end to factional fighting, most notably between forces loyal to Muhammad Farah Aydid and those supporting Ali Mahdi Muhammad.

## War crimes revealed

During an interview published in *Pagina 12*, Adolfo Scilingo, a former commander in the Argentine navy, confessed that during the late 1970s he had been among those who murdered between 1,500 and 2,000

"dissidents." The doomed men, already in custody, were forced aboard aircraft, drugged, stripped, and then dumped into the ocean. Scilingo, who claimed that high-ranking naval officers had ordered the death flights, filed a formal complaint against the navy chief of staff for covering up the crimes. Between 1976 and 1983 some 10,000 Argentines were "disappeared." It was widely believed that they were killed by junta death squads. On March 28 Pres. Carlos Menem called for an end to public disclosures of atrocities committed during the country's "dirty war." Such things, he said, were best forgotten.

12

## New Mormon president

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, popularly known as the Mormon Church, elevated Gordon B. Hinckley to the status of president. He succeeded Howard Hunter, who had led the nine million-member church for only nine months before his death. Hinckley had initiated the Utah-based church's use of television and public relations to spread its religious message.

14

## Thagard rides Soyuz rocket

After spending a year training near Moscow, Norman

Thagard became the first U.S. astronaut ever to head for space aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket. He and two Russian companions were scheduled to spend two days in orbit before their capsule docked with Russia's *Mir* space station. The flight, which was hailed as historic because two former foes were now committed to a joint exploration of space, was launched from the former secret Baikonur Space Centre. Two momentous events at that site had inaugurated the Space Age: the 1957 launching of Sputnik, the first artificial Earth satellite; and the first manned spaceflight, by Yuri Gagarin in 1961. U.S. pilot Gary Powers was shot down by the Soviets while on a supersecret mission to photograph the launch site in 1960.

17

## Clinton and Adams meet

For the second time in as many days, President Clinton met with Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA). The cordiality that marked the meetings and Clinton's earlier decision to allow Adams to collect money in the U.S. infuriated British Prime Minister John Major. His government had insisted that it was critical to the peace process not only that the IRA observe the cease-fire, which was already in place, but that it also lay down its arms. While politicians wrangled, Catholics and Protestants in Armagh, Northern Ireland, were marching side by side in a St. Patrick's Day parade. That had not happened since "the troubles" began in Northern Ireland a quarter of a century earlier.

## Singapore executes Filipino

Flor Contemplacion, a Filipino maid, was hanged in Singapore for the 1991 murders of another Filipino maid and a four-year-old Singaporean boy in her care. Although Contemplacion had confessed to the murders, her attorneys contended that she had been framed and that the confessions had been coerced. News of the execution sparked emotional demonstrations throughout

SCOTT D. PETERSON—GAMMA LIAISON

These soldiers, among the last UN troops to leave Somalia, board a plane on March 3. Although the effort to stave off mass starvation succeeded, attempts to restore political stability failed.

