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BRITANNICA BOOK OF THE YEAR

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FOREWORD

n behalf of the staff of *Britannica Book of the Year*, I am proud to present our compilation of the events, developments, and trends of 1996. The year had its share of triumphs and failures, from peace after 35 years of civil war in Guatemala and improving conditions in South Africa and Bosnia and Herzegovina to turmoil and bloodshed in central Africa and Afghanistan. The Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta encapsulated the year's contrasts, drawing a record number of national teams to a place of peaceful competition and pageantry and then suffering

a terrorist bomb in a nearby public park.

Special features in the yearbook discuss many of these developments. They include the Olympics and the U.S. elections and also focus on such diverse topics as the success stories among the countries of Africa, the increasingly important role of the Japanese in South America (thrown into sharp relief by the events at the Japanese embassy in Lima), and the resurgence of ethnic and national identity in Europe.

A special report describes how computer-generated images are now the dominant form of animation in the movies, with 1995's *Toy Story* the first 100% computer-animated feature film. More than 100 million land mines buried in 68 nations stretching from Cambodia to Costa Rica are described as "mass destruction in slow motion," killing or maiming more than 20,000 people—mostly civilians—each year. The problems of detecting and removing them are discussed in the Military Affairs special report. In addition, the yearbook begins with an illuminating interview with Lee Teng-hui, recently elected president in Taiwan's first direct popular presidential poll.

Elsewhere in the book, the chronology of the year's events has been expanded to allow for increased coverage in both text and illustrations. For the first time, *Britannica Book of the Year* includes three photo essays—one depicting the plight of Europe's Gypsies (Roma), a second portraying warriors for the environment in England, and a third illustrating the problems encountered by refugees. Finally, I am glad that we will once again be able to include the results of the most recent Super Bowl, information that our previous production schedule made unavailable.

Not to be overlooked, of course, are the regular features in *Britannica Book of the Year* and the wealth of information to be found in the accompanying BRITANNICA WORLD DATA. I hope that you will find this book both informative and entertaining. If you have suggestions on how to make it better, please write and let us know.

David R. Calhoun, Editor

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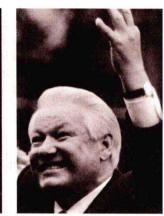
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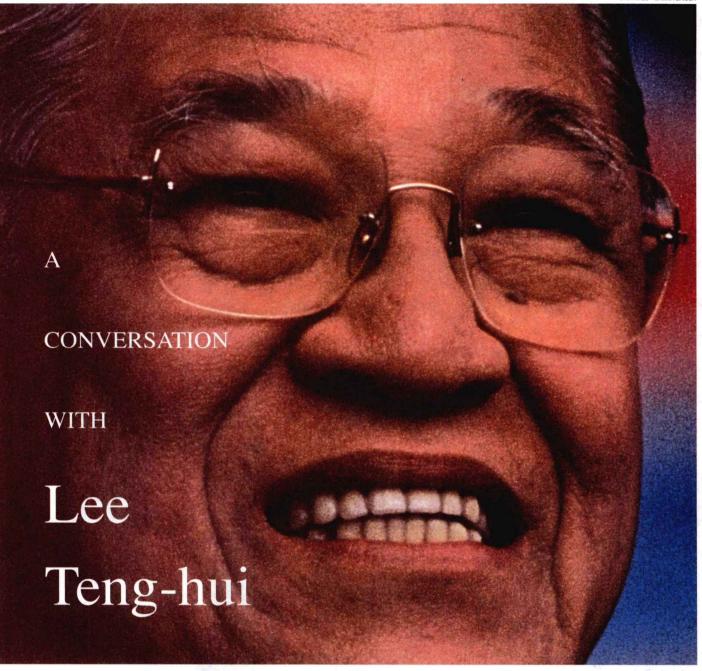


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Encyclopædia Britannica was honoured to have the opportunity to speak with Lee Teng-hui, who in March 1996 won a landslide victory in the first direct presidential elections in the Republic of China (Taiwan). The interview, which because of space considerations is printed here in a slightly abridged version of the written responses by President Lee, took place in Taipei on Oct. 22, 1996, and was conducted by Frank B. Gibney, president of the Pacific Basin Institute, Santa Barbara, Calif., and vice-chairman of the Encyclopædia Britannica Board of Editors.

Encyclopædia Britannica. Taiwan (the Republic of China) captured the attention of the world with its recent democratic elections. How would you characterize democracy in Taiwan? How did it evolve?

Pres. Lee Teng-hui. Western political theory defines democracy as a political system in which the principal policy maker is chosen by popular vote through regular, free, and open elections. Although the ROC [Republic of China] government began holding elections immediately after relocating to Taiwan in 1949, we must admit that prior to 1969 elections had been restricted to the local level. Elections were held between 1969 and 1989 to select central-level representatives, but they were limited to constituencies in the Taiwan area. The vast majority of members sitting in central parliamentary organs had been elected on the Chinese mainland and had never faced reelection. The constitutional

amendments in 1990 and 1991, however, allowed for all members of these bodies to be elected directly by the people of the Taiwan area. Moreover, in 1994 the method of selecting the governor of Taiwan province and the mayors of the two special municipalities of Taipei and Kao-hsiung was changed from appointment to direct popular election. Finally, beginning this year the president of the ROC was also chosen directly by the entire electorate. In the short space of 10 years, democracy has developed in the ROC through a process—from restrictiveness to openness, from openness to diversity, from diversity to democracy—has infused our society with new vitality and earned us respect in the eyes of the world.

After 30 years of economic development, our people understandably felt that the political system needed to be reformed as well. The ROC government, closely following popular opinion, moved step by step toward liberalization and openness. Herein lies the greatest difference between our democratization and that in other nations: the government did not adopt a stance in opposition to the will of the people. Nor did democratization in the ROC cause the social upheavals and bloody revolutions that have occurred in so many countries on the road to democracy. The ROC's successful experience, our "Quiet Revolution," has already become a new model for democratic development.

We can proudly say that democracy has not disrupted stability. On the contrary, it has enabled us to value even more the expression of different opinions. It has implanted within us the new spirit of mutual tolerance and respect.

EB. Many Asian economies, Taiwan included, achieved great progress under some form of authoritarian rule. Could this process be continued indefinitely, or is there a point at which a modern economy needs democratic institutions and a firm rule of law to prosper? Are there other alternative developmental models?

President Lee. A number of factors have contributed to Taiwan's economic success, including a dynamic civil society, strong political leadership, a talented group of technocrats, and an excellent educational system. Combined with the work ethic of the people of Taiwan and government policies that ensured a stable environment for investment, these factors enabled us to lay down a solid foundation for economic growth. Of course, the booming global economy of the postwar period was also a beneficial international factor.

Some social scientists have argued that some form of authoritarianism may be a necessary condition for economic development in newly industrializing countries. They often cite Taiwan, South Korea, Brazil, and Mexico as their examples. Based on my personal experience, however, I must say that this hypothesis is not valid.

Just as economist Milton Friedman argued in his book Capitalism and Freedom, economic freedom leads to political freedom. Once a society steps onto the path toward economic development, no insightful political leader can impede the emergence of democratic institutions or refuse the demands of citizens for more open political participation. Continuous economic progress requires an open society built upon a political foundation of democratic institutions and the firm rule of law.

A repressive regime may be able to achieve industrialization within a short period of time, but without democratic reforms and a free market, no country can sustain economic growth. Furthermore, in fiercely competitive global markets, a country must remain creative, flexible, and dynamic in order to build its international competitiveness. Only democracy is able to provide a suitable environment in which these traits may continue to flourish.

"The President," a military aide announces in a paradeground voice. The doors to the reception room open, and a large, rather commanding figure strides inside. He hardly needs the ringing introduction. Trim, tall (1.85 m—6 ft 1 in), and feisty at age 73, Lee Teng-hui has the kind of magnetism that makes people turn when he enters. He is enthusiastic and confident, as well he can be after some 40 years of academic lecturing, bureaucratic governance, and shrewd political management capped by his huge victory in the March 1996 presidential election. He is full of ideas. Once he is engaged in conversation, his words come rushing out-equally effective in Chinese, English, or Japanese. Lee reads widely in all three languages, and his conversation is peppered with an almost overpowering citation of statistics, as befits one of the Asia-Pacific region's leading agricultural economists.

Lee was born on Jan. 15, 1923, near Tan-shui, Taiwan. He studied at Kyoto (Japan) Imperial University and National Taiwan University, Taipei (B.A., 1948), and then pursued degrees in agricultural economics at Iowa State University (M.A., 1953) and at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. (Ph.D., 1968). While teaching economics at National Taiwan and Chengchi universities from 1958 to 1978, he also served as a member of the Sino-American Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction. He held the posts of mayor of Taipei (1978–81) and governor of Taiwan (1981–84) before serving as Pres. Chiang Ching-kuo's vice president. When Chiang died in January 1988, Lee became the first Taiwanese-born president of the Republic of China.

The 21 million people of the Republic of China—Tai-wan—represent a united and prosperous democracy with a dazzling postwar economic success story. Taiwan's gross national product of \$12,500 per capita is one of Asia's highest. "The Republic of China," the president has written, "is a sovereign state, with sovereign power in the hands of the people." Lee wants the world to recognize it as such, complete with restored membership in the UN, which it had to leave in 1971 when the "China seat" was given to the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Beijing, however, sees Taiwan and Lee through a different set of lenses. To the PRC leadership, Taiwan is a renegade province that must be regarded as a part of the mainland Chinese state. Beijing wants reunification sooner rather than later, suspecting that Taiwan, with U.S. assistance, is heading for total independence from the mainland.

Lee does not dispute the "one-China" policy, long regarded as an article of faith by both Beijing and Taipei. Over the past decade Taiwan's government has sanctioned the huge investments on the mainland made by its businesses, supported extensive people-to-people exchanges, and canceled the old anticommunist pronouncements of the Kuomintang (the Nationalist Party, founded by Sun Yat-sen and carried by Chiang Kai-shek to Taiwan in 1949).

Still, Lee wants to go slow on any actual reunification—particularly in view of Beijing's domestic antidemocratic stance and ominous signs of a political crackdown on Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. His demands for the Republic of China's recognition as a nation and his equally forthright denunciation of Beijing's "hegemonic stance" are partly a reaction against Beijing's constant pressure to diminish Taiwan's independent standing in international organizations.

For the moment, however, neither Lee nor his countrymen seem to be pushing hard either for complete independence or for immediate reunification with the mainland.

(FRANK B. GIBNEY)

EB. Various forms of official corruption, cronyism, and nepotism have damaged democracy in Asia and fueled political opposition to governments holding power. Taiwan, too, has had its problems here. Are these problems endemic in Asian democracy?

President Lee: Corrupt officials cause headaches in governments throughout the world, but clearly the problem is particularly serious in Asian countries. The main factor behind this corruption is the rapid pace of economic growth in Asia and the inability of legal systems to keep up with the pace of economic and social developments. An insufficiently comprehensive legal system coupled with executive power unrestrained by appropriate standards creates opportunities for backdoor deal making and influence peddling. This eventually harms the development of democracy.

Asia's traditional cultural emphasis on personal relationships is also a major culprit. In order to foster a clean reputation for ROC officials, however, our government has adopted systematic and strict measures to prevent corruption. Laws already require that civil servants make a public declaration of their assets. We also restrict retired civil servants from assuming private-sector positions related to their previous service. We are moving to establish more detailed and comprehensive legal standards concerning matters such as legislative and administrative lobbying and civil service administrative ethics.

EB. How do you view Taiwan's relations with Japan and Korea?

President Lee. Since severing diplomatic relations on Sept. 29, 1972, the ROC and Japan have continued to engage in exchanges as part of their substantive relations. Over the past 20 years trade, scientific and technological cooperation, cultural exchanges, and tourism between the ROC and Japan have expanded every year. In 1995 the total value of bilateral trade between the ROC and Japan reached \$43,437,000,000, up more than 25-fold from the time of the diplomatic break in 1972.

A continuously growing trade deficit, however, and several unsettled issues, such as compensation for Taiwanese "comfort women" and Taiwanese men who served in the Japanese army and the matter of sovereignty over the Tiaoyu Islands [Diao Yu or Senkaku Islands, an uninhabited group of islets northeast of Taiwan], have important implications for improving ROC-Japan relations. Other problems include the treatment accorded to ROC representatives stationed in Japan and the upgrading of official exchanges.

The ROC's trade and other substantive relations with the Republic of Korea are also very close. At present, the ROC government does not maintain formal contacts with North Korea. In the interest of safeguarding the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, however, the ROC is willing to develop cooperative relations with North Korea based on the principles of reciprocity and mutual benefits.

EB. What hope do you see for a Pacific community following the blueprints worked out in APEC, PECC, and similar organizations? What is the American role here?

President Lee. I strongly agree with the efforts of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council [PECC] to strengthen regional trade and investment liberalization as well as economic and technological cooperation. The members of APEC and its related forums will, in accordance with the Osaka Action Agenda passed last year, formulate an action plan by the end of this year for implementation in 1997. This action plan will knit together more closely the economic development of the Asia-Pacific community. I am confident that such actions will promote a sense of community in the Asia-Pacific area.

In the long run, the APEC agenda will inevitably go beyond the limits of the current economic discussion and enter the realms of politics and regional security. The past conflict in the South China Sea, the March 1996 crisis in the Taiwan Strait, and the recent tensions over the Tiaoyu Islands all clearly demonstrated that the ROC is an indispensable link in the Asia-Pacific political security system. There is a pressing need to establish effective channels for security dialogue and maintenance in the Asia-Pacific. If certain factors have prevented existing international organizations that deal with regional security from embracing all nations in the Asia-Pacific region, then APEC should consider including these issues in its agenda and developing its functions more fully.

The U.S. position in the Pacific region has always been important. In April 1996 the U.S. and Japan reaffirmed their security accord. I believe these two nations' joint commitment is a basic guarantee of regional security and stability. In addition to this bilateral security league, I believe that the region must develop a multilateral security system that includes all Asian nations in order to consolidate the development of cooperative relations and economic prosperity. **EB.** What are the best hopes for increased cooperation with mainland China?

President Lee. I have stressed repeatedly that the two sides should work under the principle of reciprocity and "winwin" interaction as well as the spirit of "Chinese helping Chinese." Thus, we should emphasize constructive cultural, news, scientific, technological, trade, and economic exchanges; expand trade and economic relations; help improve agriculture and the standard of living on the mainland; and promote negotiations aimed at signing agreements to ensure the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait and enhance the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. Through such exchanges and cooperation, we hope we can gradually create the conditions for democratic, free, and mutually prosperous reunification.

The restoration of Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997 symbolizes the end of over 150 years of British colonial rule in Hong Kong. We cannot deny, however, Great Britain's contribution in recent decades to building Hong Kong into a free-trade port and international financial centre. The mainland authorities have promised to follow policies of "one country, two systems" and a "high level of autonomy" with regard to Hong Kong, to allow "Hong Kong people to rule Hong Kong," and to "maintain the status quo for 50 years."

I must add, however, that the Taiwan situation is completely different from that of Hong Kong. We are absolutely opposed to any attempt by the mainland authorities to apply the "one nation, two systems" formula to the Republic of China. Furthermore, we hope that Hong Kong's change of status in 1997 will not substantively affect the close relations that the ROC and Hong Kong have enjoyed for many years.

The economic integration of the Asia-Pacific nations is in line with a world economic trend. It is natural that the Taiwan area of the ROC should become economically linked with the mainland and even with Southeast Asia so as to form a link in the chain of East Asian economic integration.

It must be stressed, however, that, owing to past political antagonism between Taiwan and the mainland, the economic and trade exchanges between the people of the two sides were very limited prior to November 1987. At that time our government began allowing people in Taiwan to visit their relatives on the mainland. Subsequent to this change in policy, increased cross-strait person-to-person exchanges led to a rapid increase in economic and trade activities between the two sides. By the end of 1995, the

accumulated total of cross-strait trade amounted to almost \$90 billion, \$22.5 billion of which was conducted last year alone. Investment in the mainland by Taiwan businesses has surpassed \$10 billion. Thus, the two sides have developed very close economic and trade relations.

We cannot overlook the fact that in the past year the mainland authorities have done everything they can to suppress and threaten Taiwan politically, diplomatically, and militarily. They have ignored the ROC government's friendly appeals and adopted many unfriendly measures against Taiwan, refusing to resume cross-strait negotiations. At the same time, the mainland authorities have sought to attract and win over Taiwan enterprises with such appealing slogans as "politics should not interfere with the economy" and "the separation of politics and economics," as well as the lure of short-term economic benefits. We cannot help but raise our political vigilance toward their tactics of "pulling the Taiwan authorities over by expanding cross-strait economic exchange and cooperation." Therefore, I recently called on the ROC people and our businesspeople to remain patient and avoid impulsive responses. This was with an eye toward

alerting everyone to mainland China's current strategy and calling upon them to respond with caution.

EB. How strong is the independence movement in Taiwan? Why is Taiwan seeking United Nations membership, especially in view of the fact that mainland China wields veto power over new admissions?

President Lee. Currently, though Taiwan and the Chinese mainland are ruled separately by two autonomous political entities, most Chinese in the Taiwan area still maintain that the two sides should expand their international space individually while adhering to the premise of one China and that eventually reunification should be achieved by gradually reducing the distance between the two sides and melding the two systems. Public opinion polls have repeatedly shown that advocates of independence for Taiwan have always been

in the minority. Continued suppression of the ROC and deliberate obstruction of its international involvement by the mainland authorities will only feed this movement, however.

The Republic of China's bid to be part of the United Nations is aimed at UN General Assembly Resolution 2758, which has seriously infringed upon the basic rights of our people. The ROC has put forth a proposal requesting that the General Assembly establish an ad hoc committee to study ways of resolving the problem. Through the reexamination of Resolution 2758 and the rectification of its shortcomings, the ROC will once more be allowed to be part of the UN. This proposal need not go through the UN Security Council but can be addressed directly by the General Assembly. Though the mainland authorities will likely try their best to thwart the ROC bid, they will have no opportunity to exercise their veto power.

It should also be noted that the ROC's proposal aims only to ensure that the fundamental right to participation in world affairs of the 21.3 million people in the Taiwan area is safeguarded. We have no intention of challenging mainland China's current status in the UN. Thus, the proposal is reasonable and workable.

EB. What are your personal hopes for the future of Taiwan, the China relationship, and the Asia-Pacific community?

overcome many hardships to achieve substantial democratization and economic liberalization. Given that achievement, I have high expectations and great confidence with regard to Taiwan's future. Our efforts are aimed at setting up a more orderly and civilized society with a more generalized sense of community as well as enabling the populace to truly enjoy the pleasures of family life—thus strengthening our democratic system. We will advocate resource conservation, plan the appropriate utilization of land, and step up environmental protection education; thus, our offspring will be able to enjoy the beauties of their homeland. We will invest more manpower and material resources to raise Taiwan's science and technology up to the standard of the advanced industrialized nations. To the people on the Chinese mainland, Taiwan's experience will remain a beacon, pointing the way to development, prosperity, freedom, and democracy. Our policy toward the Chinese mainland is carried out in accordance with the Guidelines for National Unification.

President Lee. Over the past 40-plus years, Taiwan has

It can be divided into three general phases: exchanges and

reciprocity, mutual trust and cooperation, and consultation and reunification. Currently, cross-strait interaction is still in the first phase. There is no timetable, and the pace of progress depends entirely on how cross-strait relations develop.

With this in mind, I made it very clear in my inaugural address on May 20 of this year that both sides should come to terms with the fact that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are ruled separately. The two sides need to establish a dialogue and, with the utmost sincerity and patience, resolve our differences and seek common ground. I also issued a solemn call for the two sides of the strait to deal squarely with the important issue of ending the enmity between us. Finally, I expressed my willingness to make a journey of peace to the Chinese mainland to meet and exchange views with the authorities

there. It is my hope that the leaders in Peking [Beijing] will respond positively to these ideas and thus open the door to a new era of peaceful competition across the strait.

The ROC has always played an active role in economic cooperation. We hope to cooperate with other Asia-Pacific nations in jointly creating a new Asia-Pacific age—an age in which the region will be more peaceful, open, and advanced and in which all countries will strive to settle disputes peacefully, seek reasonable solutions to their problems, and avoid senseless arms races or the use of military force. Moreover, these nations can further cooperate with each other to jointly develop the ocean's resources.

When in the past I put forth the concept of collective Asia-Pacific security, it was with the hope that each country would consider Asia-Pacific security from the standpoint of the collective interest. A security dialogue could be established, with all the nations involved participating on equal footing and making a common contribution. In addition, an international cooperative enterprise could be founded to tap the resources of the South China Sea, with the profits going toward a program aimed at maintaining peace. I personally hope that the Asia-Pacific region can remain faithful to the principles of open regionalism and develop further in the direction of free trade.

ROC's successful experience, "Quiet Revolution," has already become a new democratic development.

The

our

model for

Chronology of 1996



1

King Fahd cedes power

Still experiencing the effects of a stroke suffered in November 1995, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, who also held the post of prime minister, ceded temporary power to Crown Prince Abdullah, his legal successor. A spokesman said that the monarch needed time for rest and recuperation. Though no significant change was expected in Saudi Arabia's domestic or foreign policies, Abdullah had shown a greater inclination to foster ties with other Arab groups than with Western nations. His local power base was provided by the National Guard, an internal security organization, which he had commanded for more than 30 years.

Khun Sa surrenders

Government authorities in Myanmar (Burma) reported that Khun Sa, the world's most notorious trafficker in heroin, had surrendered at his base in Ho Mong and that his stronghold in eastern Myanmar was under the control of government troops. Khun Sa had earlier expressed a willingness to retire if his conditions for surrender were accepted by Myanmar's military rulers. For some 30 years Khun Sa had operated with virtual impunity in the so-called Golden Triangle, a region straddling the borders of Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos. Military campaigns to wipe out his operation had failed because government troops proved to be no match for the 20,000-man outlaw army that protected the mountain area that they occupied. The U.S. had reportedly offered a \$2 million reward for information leading to Khun Sa's conviction in a U.S. court, but a U.S. request that Khun Sa be extradited to the U.S. was not expected to be honoured.

4

Heat sets record in 1995

The British Meteorological Office and the University of East Anglia in Norwich released preliminary figures indicating that 1995 had the highest average temperature ever recorded by meteorolo-

gists since they began compiling such statistics in 1856. They calculated that the average global temperature in 1995 was 14.84° C (58.72° F). The Goddard Institute, operated by NASA, came up with a slightly higher figure. Although certain scientists and environmentalists were quick to cite these numbers as clear evidence of global warming, others contended that no definitive conclusions could be reached about permanent changes in the Earth's climate without studying data collected over a much longer period of time.

5

Whitewater papers found

The White House released documents that federal and congressional investigators had been demanding since 1994. David Kendall, the personal attorney of Pres. Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, said that the long-sought records detailing Hillary Clinton's work for the Rose Law Firm in the mid-1980s had been discovered the previous day by Carolyn Huber, the first

lady's personal assistant. On January 18 Huber told a Senate committee that she found the Rose billing records on a table in a small room in the White House private quarters. She further stated that the documents had not been there when she entered the room three or four days earlier. Investigators wanted to learn, among other things, whether Hillary Clinton's work for the now defunct Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan involved a conflict of interest. The question arose because its owner, James McDougal, was accused of fraud and had been a partner of the Clintons in the Whitewater Development Corp., a trouble-plagued real estate venture.

Haiti asks UN to stay

René Préval, scheduled to become president of Haiti on February 7, formally petitioned the United Nations to keep its 5,800-man peacekeeping force in the country for an additional six months. The UN mandate was due to expire on February 29. While expressing a willingness to continue its support for the still struggling Caribbean nation, the UN indicated that the size of its peacekeeping force would probably be drastically reduced.

-

Arzú wins in Guatemala

In a runoff election, Alvaro Arzú of the National Advancement Party (PAN) won the presidency of Guatemala by defeating Alfonso Partillo, candidate of the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG). The results posted by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal showed that Arzú was the choice of 51.2% of those who cast ballots. Partillo's greater popularity in 18 of the country's 22 provinces was offset by Arzú's appeal to voters in Guatemala City, the nation's capital and largest city, which he had governed as mayor from 1985 to 1990. During the campaign, Arzú, a businessman, expressed support for a free-market economy. He also pledged to improve the nation's human rights record, fight rampant crime, and make a concerted effort to terminate the country's 35-year-old civil war.



Residents of Port-au-Prince flee violence. After Pres.-elect René Préval had formally requested on January 5 that the United Nations retain its peacekeeping troops in Haiti, the international body twice authorized extended stays for a smaller force.

Cardoso revokes decree

A 1991 presidential decree barring non-Indians from challenging land allocations made to indigenous peoples was revoked by Brazilian Pres. Fernando Cardoso. The original decree had been enacted to protect the traditional lands of Indians from encroachment by loggers, ranchers, and miners. Businessmen, however, complained that the more than 200 reservations already created-and some 300 others awaiting recognition-were a hindrance to economic growth, especially in the Amazon, where most were located.

Kim admits money gifts

In the course of a nationally televised address, South Korean Pres. Kim Young Sam acknowledged that he had accepted political funds, but not bribes, from businessmen before his election to the presidency. No politician, he contended, could "have avoided such wrong practices" at the time. Kim's



CAROL GUZY-THE WASHINGTON POS



ties to business interests had been questioned after his predecessor, Roh Tae Woo, admitted that he had built up a secret \$650 million slush fund accumulated from contributions made by the heads of dozens of business conglomerates. Kim Dae Jung, a prominent member of the political opposition, admitted that he had benefited from Roh's fund and challenged Kim to acknowledge that he too had received such money. Kim, however, did not address the issue directly, nor did he identify those who had contributed financially to his presidential campaign.

11

Hashimoto to lead Japan

Following the abrupt resignation of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on January 5, both houses of Japan's Diet (parliament) approved the appointment of Ryutaro Hashimoto as the nation's new leader. He had been elected head of the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) in September 1995. Murayama, leader of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ), had held office for only 18 months, but the time had come, he said, "to inject fresh blood into the leadership." As a member of Murayama's Cabinet, Hashimoto had gained international prominence as a tough negotiator during an automobile trade dispute between the U.S. and Japan. His new Cabinet included 12 members of the LDP, 6 from the SDPJ, and 2 from New Party Sakigake. One woman joined the Cabinet as the minister of justice.

Peru sentences U.S. woman

Peru's Supreme Council of Military Justice convicted Lori Berenson, a 26-yearold U.S. citizen, of treason and sentenced her to life in prison. She had been arrested in late 1995 along with 22 others and accused of involvement with guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), which planned to seize control of the Congress building and take legislators hostage. On January 8 Berenson had publicly defended Tupac Amaru, saying that it was not a terrorist but a revolutionary group fighting injustice and inequality. She consistently refused to distance herself from the MRTA despite entreaties to do so. During her secret trial, before judges whose identities were concealed, Berenson had not been allowed to challenge evidence, cross-examine government witnesses, or call witnesses on her own behalf.

Drug lord flees prison

José Santacruz Londoño, a major figure in Colombia's Cali drug cartel, escaped from a maximum security prison in the capital city of Bogotá. He had been arrested in July 1995 and was awaiting trial on a variety of charges, including murder. It was not immediately clear how he managed to escape, but officials suggested that a car used by prosecutors may

have been involved. Such vehicles were not searched when they left the facility. The only other major figure in the Cali cartel still at large was Helmer Herrera, identified as the group's military leader.

14

Portuguese elect Sampaio

The successful presidential campaign waged by Jorge Sampaio gave Portugal's Socialist Party control of both the presidency and the prime ministership for the first time in more than 20 years. Sampaio captured 53.8% of the popular vote in defeat-ing Anîbal Cavaco Silva, a former prime minister representing the Social Democratic Party. During the campaign Sampaio had promised to use his presidential powers to stabilize the nation's economy. Cavaco Silva, however, had warned voters that a Sampaio victory would lead to a "dictatorship of the majority." Following the election there was speculation that Sampaio might invoke his powers to dissolve the unicameral legislature and call for new elections in the hope that the Socialist Party could gain an absolute majority in the Assembly of the Republic.

15

King dies in accident

Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe II and his chauffeur were killed when their car plunged over a cliff near the capital city of Maseru. The monarch was returning home early in

Supporters of Hanan Ashrawi, seated in the automobile, campaign for their candidate in the January 20 Palestinian elections, in which Yasir Arafat won the presidency of the Palestine National Authority. Ashrawi, long a spokeswoman for the Palestinians, won a seat from Jerusalem in the PNA legislative council.

the morning after inspecting his herds of cattle. He had been twice deposed but in January 1995 regained the throne from his son King Letsie III, who then became crown prince. After Moshoeshoe's death, Queen Mamohato held the post of regent until the Traditional College of Chiefs named (February 7) Crown Prince Letsie the nation's new ruler. He would again be known as King Letsie III.

Papandreou resigns

Acknowledging that debili-tating lung and kidney infections had undermined his ability to govern Greece, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou tendered his resignation. Three days later the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), which Papandreou continued to lead, elected Kostas Simitis prime minister. After he and his Cabinet took the oath of office on January 22. Simitis called for a restructuring of the government and improved ties with the U.S. To facilitate implementation of reforms that he was contemplating, he dismissed numerous Papandreou loyalists, many of whom had not supported his election. Theodoros Pangalos, an advocate of reform, was then named foreign minister. Vasso Papandreou, who was not related to the former prime minister, was given responsibilities that included promoting investment and overseeing privatization.

Strasser ousted

A group of army officers in Sierra Leone ousted Valentine Strasser from his post as chairman of the Supreme Council of State. He was allowed safe passage to neighbouring Guinea, where many of his compatriots had earlier fled to escape the perils of civil war. Strasser was replaced by Brig. Julius Maada Bio, the former vice chairman of the council and head of government. He announced that multiparty elections would be held in February as planned and said that he would attempt to persuade the Revolutionary United Front to negotiate an end to their five-year-old insurrection.



17 Abdel Rahman sentenced

Michael Mukasey, a district court judge in New York City, sentenced Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, a blind Egyptian cleric, to life imprisonment without parole. He and nine other Muslim militants had been convicted in October 1995 of having conspired to bomb the UN headquarters and other landmarks in New York City and of having plotted to assassinate political leaders, including Egyptian Pres. Hosni Mubarak. The heart of the government's case consisted of more than 100 hours of tape-recorded conversations secretly made by an informer. None of the defendants was sentenced to less than 25 years in prison. Before being sentenced, Abdel Rahman was allowed to address the court. He described the U.S. as an infidel country and an enemy of Islam.

Keating mends fences

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating returned

after strengthenhome Australia's relations ing with Malaysia and Singapore. During talks in Kuala Lumpur, Keating and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Mahathir bin Mohamad agreed to paper over past differences and resume trade talks at the ministerial level. Keating had earlier offended Mahathir by calling him "recalcitrant" for declining to attend a 1993 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in the United States. Mahathir remarked that his meeting with Keating was important because the two men addressed "minor misunderstandings and lack of appreciation of each other." Singapore and Australia underscored the degree of importance they placed on good relations by issuing a joint statement. It expressed support for free trade in the area and endorsed a five-nation defense pact that also included Malaysia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Art thieves convicted

Four men were convicted by a court in Oslo of having stolen and/or attempted to sell Edvard Munch's 1893 masterpiece "The Scream." Two were found guilty of having stolen the painting from the National Art Museum in Oslo in February 1994. (It was rescued undamaged the following May.) The court ordered one of the defendants to spend six years and three months in prison; the other, four years and nine months. Their two associates were convicted of having conspired to sell the painting, which had an estimated market value of \$55 million. Both were also given prison terms.

Arafat wins presidency

Palestinian voters in the Gaza Strip and West Bank overwhelmingly supported Yasir Arafat's bid to become president of the selfruling Palestine National Authority. Arafat's only rival, Samiha Khalil, garnered only 9.3% of the vote. Arafat hailed the election as "the foundation for our Palestinian state." Incomplete tabulation of ballots cast for legislators suggested that the Arafat-led al-Fatah faction within the Palestine Liberation Organization would occupy about 65 of the 88 seats in the legislative council. Officials estimated that 75% of eligible voters had gone to the polls, a clear rejection of the boycott called by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Palestine Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Galileo data analyzed

During a news conference in California, scientists at NASA's Ames Research Center reported that pre-liminary analyses of data transmitted from the Galileo spacecraft raised many questions and required a reevaluation of theories about the formation and evolution of the solar system. For about an hour in December 1995, when Galileo made a turbulent entry into Jupiter's atmosphere, it relayed a massive amount of data for 57 minutes before being destroyed by intense heat and pressure. The Ames researchers noted that the data received did not necessarily represent the conditions of



the entire planet because the probe had descended into one of Jupiter's less cloudy regions. Even so, the scientists were highly skeptical that life of any kind existed on the largest planet in the solar system.

Chun Doo Hwan indicted

Prosecutors in South Korea charged former president Chun Doo Hwan with sedition for his role in the May 1980 massacre in Kwangju of pro-democracy demonstrators. That same day Roh Tae Woo, Chun's successor, was charged with insurrection. Roh had commanded government troops in Kwangju, but he was not accused of having participated in the killings. Both men also faced charges of bribery on a massive scale. After the 1979 assassination of Pres. Park Chung Hee, Chun moved against his rivals and quickly became the de facto authority in South Korea even though Choi Kyu Hah held the post of president. In May 1980 the military declared martial law. Three months later Chun was elected president by the nation's electoral college.

26 U.S. ratifies START II

By a vote of 87-4, the U.S. Senate ratified the second Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START II) treaty. The accord, however, would not take effect until it had been ratified by both houses of Russia's Federal Assembly. The pact committed both nations to eliminating all of their land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles armed with multiple warheads and to drastic reductions in missile- and bomberbased warheads by the year 2003.

Coup succeeds in Niger

Col. Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara led a successful military coup against Mahamane Ousmane, Niger's first democratically elected president. After ordering Ousmane and Prime Minister Hama Amadou arrested, Baré declared himself chairman of a national council that would temporarily gov-ern the country. He also outlawed political parties and suspended the constitution. The U.S. condemned the coup and automatically suspended aid to Niger because U.S. law required such action when violence was used to overthrow a government. France also condemned the coup and cut off aid to its former colony even though Niger desperately needed foreign assistance.

Fire guts La Fenice

One of Venice's most glorious monuments, the 204year-old Teatro La Fenice opera house, was almost totally destroyed by a fire that raged for nine hours before it was extinguished. Only the walls of the foyer and the marble facade remained standing amid the debris. The Italian government immediately pledged \$12.5 million to help rebuild the historic structure, which Giuseppe Verdi had selected to premiere five of his operas, including Rigoletto (1851) and La (1853). Luciano Traviata Pavarotti, one of many world-renowned singers who had performed at La Fenice, announced that he would hold a fund-raising concert to help restore the opera house. Architects estimated that the total cost would be in excess of \$300 million.

Cubans leave Guantánamo

Some 125 Cubans, the last of numerous refugees who had been housed at the U.S. Guantánamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba, were flown to Florida. The camps were then officially closed. In August 1994 U.S. President Clinton, hoping to discourage Cuban refugees from embarking on a perilous voyage to the U.S., reversed a long-standing U.S. policy by announcing that Cuban refugees would no longer be automatically admitted into the U.S. Those who were picked up at seamany on makeshift rafts or in unseaworthy boats-were taken to Guantánamo Bay. At one point the base was home to some 29,000 Cubans and 21,000 Haitians.

Charred ruins are all that remain of Venice's historic La Fenice opera house after it was gutted by fire on January



Two Cuban refugees wave plastic U.S. flags from a bus window as they and numerous others leave the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, where they had been confined since being picked up at sea while trying to escape from Cuba. After their release on January 31, they were flown to Florida.



Soldiers of UNITA (the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) remain loyal to Jonas Savimbi.

Canada gets regional veto

Three Canadian provinces Columbia, (British Ontario, and Quebec) and two "prairie regions" were granted veto power over any changes in the constitution that were sponsored by the federal government. The bill, initially proposed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in November 1995, became law when it was approved by Gov.-Gen. Roméo LeBlanc. The Senate and House of Commons had already approved the legislation, which had been drafted, among other reasons, to satisfy French-speaking Quebeckers who felt that their concerns were not being adequately addressed in formulating national policies.

Bahrain arrests Shi'ites

Authorities in Bahrain announced that 41 Shi'ite Muslims had been arrested and charged with rioting and sabotage. In mid-January, when some 200 Shi'ite protesters were taken into custody, officials said that 8 would face trial as members of a "subversive organization." The Shi'ite community had long complained that the al-Khalifah family, which ruled the emirate, reserved choice positions in the government and business for fellow Sunni Muslims even though the Shi'ite population was more than twice that of the Sunni. The Shi'ite demands included the restoration of the legislature, which had been disbanded in 1975, the right to free speech, better job opportunities, and the release of political prisoners. The government had ac-knowledged that 600 Shi'ites were being held, but others believed the true number to be closer to 2,000.

6

Kirby joins High Court

A vacancy on Australia's High Court was filled when Michael Kirby was sworn in as the court's 40th justice since its establishment in 1903. Kirby replaced Sir William Deane, who had resigned in 1995 to become governor-general of Australia. Kirby had previously served as president of the New South Wales



Court of Appeals, deputy president of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Committee, and chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

7

Polish leader replaced

Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, who had been deputy speaker of Poland's Sejm (parliament), took the oath of office as prime minister. The promotion had been approved by the former communist Democratic Left Alliance, which held a plurality of seats in the Seim, and the leftist Polish Peasant Party, which had strong support in rural areas. Both were members of the ruling coalition. Cimoszewicz, however, had no current ties to any political party. In 1990 he had made an unsuccessful run for the presidency as an independent socialist. The prime ministership became vacant when Jozef Oleksy resigned in order to spend full time refuting charges that he had given state secrets to spies from the former Soviet Union.

8

UN to stay in Angola

The United Nations Security Council agreed to extend its peacekeeping mission in Angola an additional three months. It hoped that its rejection of the six-month extension recommended by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali would pressure Jonas Savimbi, leader of the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), to speed up the demobilization of his 62,000man army. To date, only some 9,000 of the promised 16,500 troops had met an agreed-upon deadline and gathered in designated areas. UNITA and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, headed by Pres. José Eduardo dos Santos, had signed a peace pact in November 1994. If implemented, it would end a civil war that had taken the lives of half a million people since the country gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

12

Bishops back condom use

The Social Commission of the Roman Catholic bishops of France issued a report that called the use of condoms a necessary means to prevent the spread of AIDS. Even though the report insisted that the use of condoms was not a proper substitute for adult sexual education, its basic statement contradicted the teaching of Pope John Paul II, who maintained that abstinence was the only morally acceptable way to avoid being infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

15

Stankevicius promoted

One week after Lithuania's Seimas (unicameral legislature) voted 94-26 in support of Pres. Algirdas Brazauskas's January 29 decree removing Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius from power, the legislature awarded the post to Laurynas Stankevicius, a member of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party. Slezevicius's fate was sealed when a scandal was uncovered in the government's takeover of Lithuania's two largest privately owned banks. Senior management officers were accused of fraud, and several were arrested. In December 1995, when authorities declared the banks insolvent, they held nearly one-quarter of the nation's bank deposits. An uproar ensued when it was learned that the prime minister had withdrawn his personal deposits shortly before the banks were shut down and their assets frozen. When Slezevicius refused to resign after admitting that he had made "a moral and political mistake," he was removed from office.

Grozny palace destroyed

One week after Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was made head of a commission that was to explore ways of ending the fighting in Chechnya, Russian troops demolished the presidential palace in the



DONOVAN WYLIE-MAGNUM

Chechen capital of Grozny. It had been the symbol of independence for Chechen separatists, who had been fighting government forces since December 1994. On February 8 Russian Pres. Boris Yeltsin had told reporters that if the fighting did not stop and Russian troops were not withdrawn, he would be wasting his time if he ran for the presidency because "people won't elect me."

Bangladeshi go to the polls

In parliamentary elections boycotted by the three main opposition parties, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won 205 of the 300 contested seats in the 330-member Parliament. The election was preceded by strikes, protest marches, bloody clashes, and threats of violence against anyone who went to the polls. Even though the BNP faced no significant challenge on election day, there were numerous reports of fraud in some areas. As a consequence, the ballots at more than 10% of the polling places reportedly were declared invalid.

16

Italy seeks new leader

Following the resignation of Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini on January 11 and the failure of Prime Minister-designate Antonio Maccanico to form a coalition government supporting constitutional reforms, Pres. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro dissolved Parliament and ordered new elections to be held on April 21. Until that time Dini would continue

to head the government in the role of caretaker. The political atmosphere had changed when former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi of Forza Italia and Massimo D'Alema of the Party of the Democratic Left—both supporters of electoral reform—announced that they no longer opposed a general election.

17

Ads banned in Russia

Ignoring the protests of some businessmen, Russian Pres. Boris Yeltsin ordered a complete media ban on advertisements promoting tobacco and alcoholic products. Those who contravened the ban, he said, would be fined and the money used to promote public health education. Russia had the world's highest

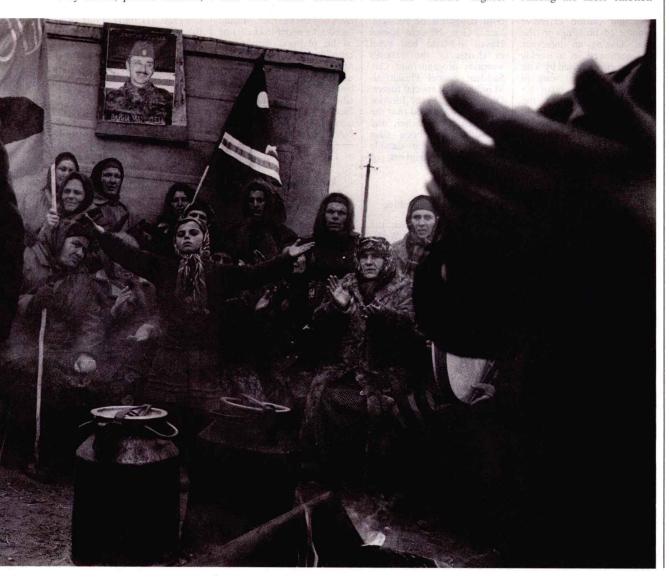
rate of alcohol consumption, and nearly 70% of adult Russians smoked. Health officials predictably praised the ban, saying that the health of ordinary Russians was deplorable.

18

New effort at peace

During talks at the Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome, leaders of the three warring factions in Bosnia and Herzegovina pledged to resolve the problems that had impeded implementation of the peace treaty signed in Paris in December 1995. Hard-liners on all sides had opposed elements of the treaty, which had been designed to establish a multiethnic state in Bosnia and Herzegovina, once an integral part of Yugoslavia. Among the most emotion-





Defiant Chechens demonstrate on a roadside as their native Chechnya continued its battle to secede from the Russian Federation.



Kweisi Mfume is sworn in as president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on February 20. His son Donald holds the Bible as son Keith looks on.

charged issues that arose during negotiations was the arrest of two Bosnian Serb military officers whom the Muslim-dominated govern-ment of Bosnia and Herzegovina had accused of war crimes. Success in resolving this and other differences rested with Pres. Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatian Pres. Franjo Tudiman, and Serbian Pres. Slobodan Milosevic.

IRA bombs London bus

terrorist bomber was killed and at least eight other persons injured when a double-decker bus exploded in flames in London. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility. Several days earlier the IRA had detonated a powerful bomb in central London. It killed two persons and caused extensive damage to buildings in the area. During an interview that appeared in a weekly newspaper published by Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, a spokesman for the IRA declared that the cease-fire was no longer in effect. The words seemed to imply that the political status of Northern Ireland was about to trigger another round of violence.

20 Iraqi defectors murdered

After being granted amnesty by Saddam Hussein, Iraq's president and prime minister, two high-ranking military

officers who had defected to Jordan in August 1995 returned home. Their wives, accompanied them who when they left Iraq, were both daughters of Hussein. Lieut. Gen. Hussein Kamel Hasan al-Majid had been in charge of the nation's

Mfume assumes office

weapons program and Col. Saddam Kamel Hasan al-

Majid head of special forces.

On February 23 the Interior

Ministry announced that the

two men, their father, and

a brother had been slain

at their residence outside

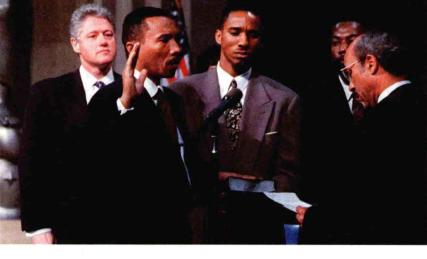
Baghdad by members of

their own clan.

During a ceremony at the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., Kweisi Mfume was sworn in as president and chief executive officer of

CRISPIN RODWELL—REUTERS





the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He had relinquished his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives two days earlier. Mfume faced a formidable challenge as he planned strategy to rebuild the organization's financial base and overcome a crisis in leadership created by his predecessor, Benjamin Chavis, Jr., who had been fired in 1994 after revelations that he had misused NAACP funds.

21 Farrakhan ends tour

The Rev. Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, returned to the U.S. after a controversial "world friendship tour," which, he said, had been undertaken to promote peace and solidarity among Muslims. Iran, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, The Sudan, and Syria were among the nearly 20 countries that he visited. Farrakhan's critics included black activists who were dismayed that he had agreed to accept \$1 billion from Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi to fund political activities in the U.S. Qaddafi was quoted as saving, "Our confrontation with America used to be like confronting a fortress from the outside. Today we have found an opening to enter the fortress and to confront it from within."

Indian officials charged

Prosecutors in India ended

another phase of their inves-

tigation into bribery with the indictment of 14 high-ranking politicians, most of whom belonged to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party. Four of the group were top minis-ters who had resigned in the face of the impending indictments. Evidence of corruption came mainly from the diaries of Surendra Jain, a former industrialist who had been arrested in 1995. His diaries contained the names of more than 100 persons to whom he had given money. Under Indian law all payments made to public officials were presumed to be illegal gratifications unless proved otherwise.

France to cut military

In a televised address to the nation, French Pres. Jacques Chirac proposed major reductions in military spending to help reduce the budget deficit. He noted that the Cold War was over and that the U.S. and the U.K. had already reevaluated their military expenditures. Among other things, Chirac called for an end to conscription, a 30% cut in the armed forces. the development of a rapid response force, a drastic reduction in nuclear weapons, the closing of the only facility in France that produced plutonium and weapons-grade uranium, and the dismantling of France's Hades missile launches. As expected, there were voices of dissent, especially regarding the abolition of France's citizen army, which had been an uninterrupted tradition for more than 90 years.

A young boy holds a paper dove during a peace rally in Belfast, N.I. The rally, a response to an Irish Republican Army bombing in London on February 9, drew thousands of demonstrators. Another IRA bombing occurred later in the month.