

A Review of the Events of 1989

The 1990 World Book Year Book

The Annual Supplement to The World Book Encyclopedia



World Book, Inc.

a Scott Fetzer company

Chicago London Sydney Toronto

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Printed in the United States of America.
ISBN 0-7166-0490-6
ISSN 0084-1439
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 62-4818

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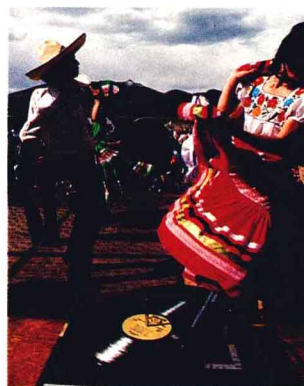


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Contributors

Contributors not listed on these pages are members of *The World Book Year Book* editorial staff.

Acorn, Linda R., B.A.; Assistant Editor, American Correctional Association. [Prison]

Alexander, David T., B.Sc., M.A.; Executive Director, Numismatic Literary Guild. [Coin collecting]

Alexiou, Arthur G., B.S.E.E., M.S.E.E.; Assistant Secretary, Committee on Climatic Changes and Ocean. [Ocean]

Andrews, Peter J., B.A., M.S.; free-lance writer; biochemist. [Chemistry]

Apseoff, Marilyn Fain, B.A., M.A.; Associate Professor of English, Kent State University. [Literature for children]

Barber, Peggy, B.A., M.L.S.; Associate Executive Director for Communications, American Library Association. [Library]

Barnhart, Robert K., B.A.; Editor in Chief, Clarence L. Barnhart, Inc. Coeditor, *The World Book Dictionary*. [Dictionary Supplement: Essay]

Bednarski, P. J., Entertainment Media Business Reporter, *Chicago Sun-Times*. [Television]

Bessman, Jim, free-lance writer. [Popular music]

Blackadar, Alfred K., A.B., Ph.D.; Professor Emeritus, The Pennsylvania State University. [Weather]

Boag, Charles, M.A.; columnist and writer, *The Bulletin* magazine, Australia. [Australia]

Bourne, Eric, columnist, foreign affairs, *The Christian Science Monitor*. [Eastern European country articles]

Bradsher, Henry S., A.B., B.J.; foreign affairs analyst, [Asia and Asian country articles]

Brett, Carlton E., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Geological Sciences, University of Rochester. [Paleontology]

Brodsky, Arthur R., B.A., M.S.J.; Senior Editor, *Communications Daily*. [Communications]

Brown, Les, B.A.; Publisher, *Television Business International* magazine. [Special Report: New Choices for TV Viewers]

Campbell, Geoffrey A., B.J.; staff reporter, *The Bond Buyer*. [Civil rights]

Campbell, Linda P., B.A., M.S.L.; national legal affairs correspondent, *Chicago Tribune*. [Civil rights]

Campbell, Robert, B.A., M.S.J., M. Arch.; architecture critic, *The Boston Globe*. [Architecture]

Campion, Owen F., A.B.; Associate Publisher, *Our Sunday Visitor* magazine. [Religion; Roman Catholic Church]

Cardinale, Diane P., B.A.; Assistant Communications Director, Toy Manufacturers of America. [Toys and games]

Commings, Stephen K., B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.; President, Immaculate Heart College Center. [World Book Supplement: Tanzania]

Cormier, Frank, B.S.J., M.S.J.; former White House Correspondent, Associated Press. [U.S. government articles]

Cormier, Margot, B.A., M.A.; free-lance writer. [U.S. government articles]

Cromie, William J., B.S., M.S.; science/medical writer, Harvard University. [Space exploration]

Dalziel, Ian W. D., B.S., Ph.D.; Professor of Geological Sciences, University of Texas at Austin. [Special Report: The Last Unspoiled Continent]

Davidson, Roger H., B.A., Ph.D.; Professor of Government and Politics, University of Maryland. [Congress of the United States (Close-Up)]

DeFrank, Thomas M., B.A., M.A.; White House correspondent, *Newsweek* magazine. [Armed forces]

Dent, Thomas H., B.S.; Executive Director, The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. [Cat]

Dirda, Michael, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.; writer and editor, *The Washington Post Book World*. [Poetry]

Dugas, Christine, B.S., M.A.; Marketing and Retailing Reporter, *New York Newsday*. [Advertising]

Ellis, Gavin, Features Editor, *New Zealand Herald*. [New Zealand]

Elsasser, Glen R., B.A., M.S.; correspondent, *Chicago Tribune*. [Supreme Court of the United States]

Evans, Sandra, B.S.J.; staff writer, *The Washington Post*. [Washington, D.C.]

Fanning, Odum, A.B.; free-lance science writer. [Consumerism; Safety]

Farr, David M. L., M.A., D.Phil.; Professor Emeritus, Carleton University, Ottawa. [Canada; Canadian province articles; Mulroney, Brian; Sauv , Jeanne M.]

Fisher, Robert W., B.A., M.A.; Senior Economist/Editor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Labor]

Fitchett, Joseph, B.A., M.A.; Political Correspondent, *International Herald Tribune*. [Europe and Western European country articles]

Fitzgerald, Mark, B.A.; Midwest Editor, *Editor & Publisher* magazine. [Newspaper]

Galvan, Manuel P., B.A.; Editorial Board member, *Chicago Tribune*. [World Book Supplement: Hispanic Americans]

Gatty, Bob, editor, Periodicals News Service. [Food]

Goldman, Marshall L., B.S., M.A., Ph.D.; Professor of Economics, Wellesley College; Associate Director, Russian Research Center, Harvard University. [Special Report: Opening a Closed Society]

Goldner, Nancy, B.A.; dance critic, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. [Dancing]

Gordon, Arnold L., Ph.D.; Professor, Columbia University. [World Book Supplement; Ocean]

Gubser, Peter, B.A., M.A., D.Phil.; President, American Near East Refugee Aid. [World Book Supplement: Jordan]

Harakas, Stanley Samuel, B.A., B.D., Th.D.; Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Orthodox Theology, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. [Eastern Orthodox Churches]

Haverstock, Nathan A., A.B.; Affiliate Scholar, Oberlin College. [Latin America and Latin-American country articles]

Hawkins, William J., Senior Editor, *Popular Mechanics* magazine. [Special Report: Tuning in Tomorrow]

Heartney, Eleanor, M.A.; free-lance art critic. [Art]

Herreid, Clyde Freeman, A.B., M.Sc., Ph.D.; Distinguished Professor of Biology, State University of New York at Buffalo. [Zoology]

Higgins, James V., B.A.; auto industry reporter, *The Detroit News*. [Automobile]

Hillgren, Sonja, B.J., M.A.; Washington Correspondent, Knight-Ridder Newspapers. [Farm and farming]

Holden, Constance, B.A.; Senior Staff Writer, *Science* magazine. [Special Report: Double Features]

Hunzeker, Jeanne M., D.S.W.; Professor and Associate Dean, Southern University at New Orleans. [Child welfare]

Ifill, Gwen, B.A.; reporter, *The Washington Post*. [Special Report: No Place to Call Home]

Inder, Stuart, former Editor and Publisher, *Pacific Islands Year Book*. [Pacific Islands]

Jacobi, Peter P., B.S.J., M.S.J.; Professor of Journalism, Indiana University. [Classical music]

Johanson, Donald C., B.S., M.A., Ph.D.; Director, Institute of Human Origins. [Anthropology]

Karey, Gerald, B.A., M.A.; Bureau Chief, *Platt's Oilgram News*. [Environmental pollution (Close-Up)]

King, Elliot W., Editor, *The Optical and Magnetic Report* magazine. [Computer]

Kisor, Henry, B.A., M.S.J.; Book Editor, *Chicago Sun-Times*. [Literature]

Knapp, Elaine Stuart, B.A.; Director, Information Products, Council of State Governments. [State government]

Knight, Paul G., B.S., M.S.; Instructor, Producer-WPSX/TV, The Pennsylvania State University. [Weather]

Kolgraf, Ronald, B.A., M.A.; Publisher, *Ad-week* magazine. [Manufacturing]

Larsen, Paul A., P.E., B.S., Ch.E.; member: American Philatelic Society; Collectors Club of Chicago; Fellow, Royal Philatelic Society, London; past President, British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. [Stamp collecting]

Lawrence, Al, B.A., M.A., M.Ed.; Executive Director, United States Chess Federation. [Chess]

Lawrence, Richard, B.E.E.; International Economics Correspondent, *The Journal of Commerce*. [International trade]

Leff, Donna Rosene, B.S.J., M.S.J., M.P.P., Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Journalism and Urban Affairs, Northwestern University. [City]

Levi, Charles S., M.A.H.L.; Rabbi, Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism. [Jews and Judaism]

Levine, Martin, former Editor, *Consumer Electronics Monthly* magazine; free-lance electronics writer. [Electronics]

Lewis, David C., M.D.; Director, Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, Brown University. [Drug abuse]

Liebenow, Beverly B., B.A.; author and free-lance writer. [Africa and African country articles]

Liebenow, J. Gus, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.; Rudy Professor of Political Science and African Studies, Indiana University. [Africa and African country articles]

Litsky, Frank, B.S.; sportswriter, *The New York Times*. [Sports articles]

Maki, John M., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.; Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts. [Japan]

Maran, Stephen P., B.S., M.A., Ph.D.; Senior Staff Scientist, National Aeronautics and Space Administration-Goddard Space Flight Center. [Astronomy]

March, Robert H., Ph.D.; Professor of Physics, University of Wisconsin. [Physics; Special Report: The Coming Energy Squeeze]

Marty, Martin E., Ph.D.; Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago. [Protestantism]

Mather, Ian J., B.A., M.A.; Defence Correspondent, *The Observer*, London. [Great Britain; Ireland; Northern Ireland]

Maugh, Thomas H., II, Ph.D.; science writer, *Los Angeles Times*. [Biology]

McCarron, John F., B.S.J., M.S.J.; urban affairs writer, *Chicago Tribune*. [Chicago]

McGinley, Laurie, B.S.J.; reporter, *The Wall Street Journal*. [Aviation; Railroad]

McGraw, Bill, City-County Bureau Chief, *Detroit Free Press*. [Detroit]

Merina, Victor, A.A., B.A., M.S.; staff writer, *Los Angeles Times*. [Los Angeles]

Moores, Eldridge M., B.S., Ph.D.; Professor and Chair, Department of Geology, University of California at Davis. [Geology]

Moritz, Owen, B.A.; Urban Affairs Editor, *New York Daily News*. [New York City]

Morris, Bernadine, B.A., M.A.; Chief Fashion Writer, *The New York Times*. [Fashion]

Newcomb, Eldon H., A.B., A.M., Ph.D.; Folke Skoog Professor, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin-Madison. [Botany]

Nguyen, J. Tuyet, B.A.; United Nations Correspondent, United Press International. [United Nations]

Petersen, Clarence G., B.A.; feature writer, *Chicago Tribune*. [Television (Close-Up)]

Platiel, Rudy, reporter, *The Globe and Mail*, Toronto. [Indian, American]

Priestaf, Iris, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.; Geographer and Vice President, David Keith Todd Consulting Engineers. [Water]

Raloff, Janet, B.S.J., M.S.J.; Environment/Policy Editor, *Science News* magazine. [Environmental pollution]

Reinken, Charles, B.B.A., M.A.; Associate Editor, *The Houston Post*. [Houston]

Roeccaforte, Sharon, B.A.; Director, Information Service, Magazine Publishers of America. [Magazine]

Scanlan, Larry, B.A.; free-lance editor, Ontario. [Canadian literature]

Shapiro, Howard S., B.S.; Editor, *Weekend Magazine*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. [Philadelphia]

Shewey, Don, B.F.A.; Arts Editor, *7 Days* magazine. [Theater]

Siegel, Kenneth L., A.B., D.D.S.; dentist. [Dentistry]

Smerk, George M., B.S., M.B.A., D.B.A.; Professor of Transportation, School of Business, Indiana University. [Transit]

Spencer, William, A.B., A.M., Ph.D.; writer; former Professor of History, Florida State University. [Middle East and Middle Eastern country articles; North Africa country articles]

Stein, David Lewis, B.A., M.A.; author; journalist, *The Toronto Star*. [Toronto]

Swanton, Donald W., B.S., M.S., Ph.D., M.B.A.; Chairman, Department of Finance, Roosevelt University. [Bank; Economics; Stocks and bonds]

Toch, Thomas, B.A.; free-lance journalist. [Education]

Trotter, Robert J., B.S.; Contributing Editor, *Psychology Today* magazine. [Psychology]

Tuchman, Janice Lyn, B.S., M.S.J.; Managing Senior Editor, *Engineering News-Record*. [Building and construction]

Vesley, Roberta, A.B., M.L.S.; Library Director, American Kennel Club. [Dog]

Voorhies, Barbara, B.S., Ph.D.; Professor of Anthropology, University of California at Santa Barbara. [Archaeology]

Walter, Eugene J., Jr., B.A.; Director of Publications and Editor in Chief, New York Zoological Society. [Conservation; Zoos; Special Report: Saving Our Big Birds]

Windeyer, Kendal, President, Windeyer Associates, Montreal, Canada. [Montreal]

Woods, Michael, B.S.; Science Editor, *The Toledo Blade*. [Industry articles and health articles]

Wuntch, Philip, B.A.; film critic, *Dallas Morning News*. [Deaths (Close-Up); Motion pictures]



The Year in Brief

A short essay captures the spirit of 1989, and a month-by-month listing highlights some of the year's significant events.

Chopping away in November
at the Berlin Wall. ►





Hundreds of thousands of protesters pack Wenceslas Square in Prague, Czechoslovakia, during one of the many antigovernment demonstrations in late 1989 that won the Czechoslovaks new freedoms.

The world watched with a mixture of amazement, joy, relief—and some apprehension—as the Iron Curtain began to fall apart in 1989. Hungary and Poland, Communist nations in January, were well on their way to becoming multiparty democracies by October. East Germany, scrambling to stem the tide of its citizens fleeing to the West, introduced limited democratic reforms and then—in one surprising week in November—started to dismantle the Berlin Wall. Television cameras relayed the scene throughout the world as Berliners celebrated throughout days and nights at the wall. Some used chisels or picks to chip away pieces of the hated barrier, for almost 30 years the symbol of the separation between East and West.

Signs of change also appeared in two of the hardest of the hard-line Communist nations. Bulgaria's long-time leader, Todor Zhivkov, stepped down, and the new Communist Party leader pledged to speed reforms. In the face of widespread demonstrations, Czechoslovakia's party leader also resigned, and the country's parliament repealed clauses in the Constitution giving the Communist Party a guaranteed "leading role" in the government and establishing Marxism-Leninism as the state ideology.

Eastern Europe's move toward democracy was so unexpected and so rapid that no one could judge how the political and economic changes it brings will affect not only the East, but also the West. Nor was there the certainty that the reforms would be permanent. Indeed, China's Communist government responded to its citizens' call for democratic reforms with a brutal crack-down in June that left hundreds, perhaps thousands, dead. One thing was certain, however: The events of 1989 were cause for hope—and they brought East and West closer than at any other time in the past 40 years. *The Editors*

A jubilant Tadeusz Mazowiecki waves to supporters after his August election as Poland's first non-Communist prime minister since the end of World War II.



Happy Berliners party at—and on—the Berlin Wall in November after East Germany opens the hated barrier that divided the city for 28 years.



January						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa takes office as president of Sri Lanka.

4 United States Navy fighter planes shoot down two Libyan fighter jets over the Mediterranean Sea.

7 Japan's Emperor Hirohito dies, and Crown Prince Akihito assumes the throne.

10 Cuban soldiers begin to withdraw from Angola under a peace agreement signed in December 1988.

Harris Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago agrees to provide \$14 million in back pay to women and minority employees in the largest such settlement obtained by the federal government from a single employer.

11 President of the United States Ronald Reagan delivers his farewell address to the nation.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association

(NCAA) approves a new rule called Proposition 42 that ends athletic scholarships to freshmen who do not meet minimum academic standards.

12 President-elect George Bush completes his Cabinet, naming retired Admiral James D. Watkins as secretary of energy. Bush also picks former Secretary of Education William J. Bennett to head the new Office of National Drug Control Policy.

13 Bernhard H. Goetz is sentenced to one year in jail and fined \$5,000 for illegal gun possession in the 1984 shooting of four young men he said were trying to rob him on a New York City subway train.

15 Thirty-five European nations pledge in Vienna, Austria, to strengthen human-rights safeguards and improve East-West trade.

16 The fatal shooting of a black motorcyclist by a Hispanic policeman in Miami, Fla., triggers two nights of arson, looting, and violence in the city's mostly black Overtown and Liberty City neighborhoods.

17 A gunman identified as Patrick E. Purdy shoots five children to death at a Stockton, Calif., elementary school before killing himself.

18 The U.S. Republican National Committee elects Lee Atwater as its chairman.

19 Ante Marković, a Croatian reformer, is appointed Federal Executive Council President (premier) of Yugoslavia, succeeding Branko Mikulić.

20 George Bush takes office as the 41st President of the United States.

22 The San Francisco 49ers win football's Super Bowl XXIII, defeating the Cincinnati Bengals 20-16.

23 A powerful earthquake in the Soviet republic of Tajikistan kills about 275 people.

23-24 Armed civilian leftists attack and briefly hold an Argentine army base near Buenos Aires.

24 Convicted killer Ted Bundy, who had confessed to more than 20 murders, is executed in Florida's electric chair.

30 New York City lawyer Joel B. Steinberg is found guilty of manslaughter in the beating death of Lisa Steinberg, a 6-year-old child he was raising. He is sentenced on March 24 to 8 $\frac{1}{3}$ to 25 years in prison.

Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney shuffles his cabinet, appointing 6 new ministers and changing the responsibilities of 19 others.



▲ Wide receiver Jerry Rice of the San Francisco 49ers celebrates his game-winning touchdown in Super Bowl XXIII on January 22. The 49ers defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 20 to 16.



Cars ignited by rioters burn on a Miami, Fla., street after racial conflict prompted by a shooting on January 16 erupts into violence.



◀ Hours after being sworn in as President of the United States, George Bush dances with his wife, Barbara, at an Inaugural Ball on January 20.

February						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

2 Carlos Andrés Pérez takes office as president of Venezuela.

Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita meets with President Bush in Washington, D.C., the first foreign leader to do so since the new President took office.

3 Paraguay's long-time dictator President Alfredo Stroessner is ousted in a military coup led by General Andrés Rodríguez Pío.

6 The Polish government and leaders of the Solidarity union hold their first formal meeting since the government tried to crush the union in 1981.

7 Congress votes to reject a proposed 51 per cent pay raise for its members, federal judges, and certain other high-level officials.

9 The socialist party of Jamaica's former Prime Minister Michael Manley wins parliamentary elections.

Manley is sworn in as prime minister on February 13.

10 The Democratic National Committee elects Ronald H. Brown, a Washington, D.C., lawyer, as its chairman, making him the first black to head a major American political party.

Bush meets with Prime Minister Mulroney in Ottawa, Canada, and pledges legislation to reduce acid rain.

11 Barbara C. Harris becomes the first woman bishop of the Anglican Communion, which includes the Episcopal Church in the United States.

14 Union Carbide Corporation agrees to pay \$470-million to compensate victims of the 1984 poison-gas catastrophe in Bhopal, India.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, orders Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, a novel Khomeini calls blasphemous.

15 Soviet troops complete their withdrawal from Afghanistan as called for under a United Nations-negotiated agreement signed in 1988.

Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party wins 125 of 225 seats in the nation's first parliamentary elections since 1977, after a violence-marred campaign in which more than 1,000 people were killed.

19 South African police raid the home of anti-apartheid leader Winnie Mandela and arrest four of her bodyguards, two of whom are later charged with the murder of a 14-year-old boy.

20 The ruling New Democratic Party narrowly wins reelection in Canada's Yukon Territory, taking nine seats in the territorial legislature to the Progressive Conservatives' seven.

23-27 President Bush travels to Japan, China, and South Korea, attending the funeral of Emperor Hirohito and meeting with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and South Korean President Roh Tae Woo.

24 Hirohito's funeral in Tokyo draws leaders from over 160 nations and 27 international organizations.

26 A report on TV's "60 Minutes" charges that apples sprayed with the growth-regulating agent Alar (daminozide) may cause cancer in children, leading many schools to remove apples from their cafeterias.

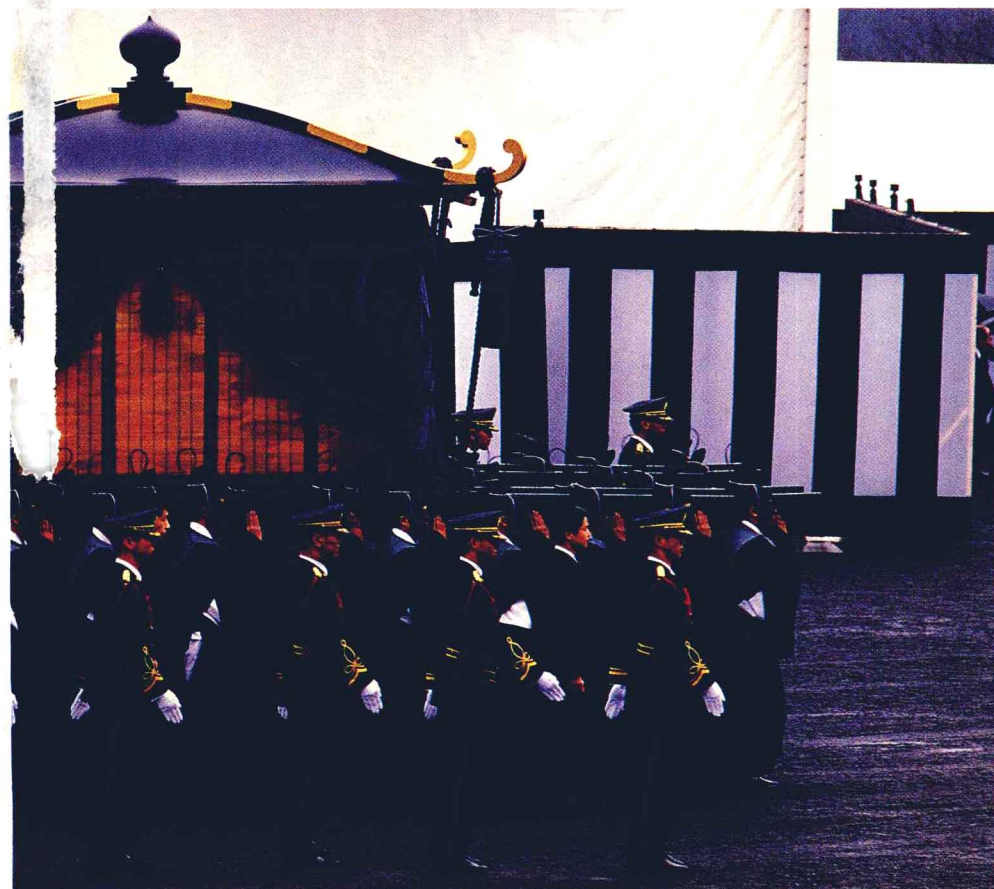
27 Riots break out over price hikes in Venezuela. About 300 people die in the disturbances, which last until March 1.





◀ Soviet army troops complete their pullout from Afghanistan on February 15 under the terms of a 1988 treaty.

An imperial guard escorts the bier of Japan's Emperor Hirohito at his February 24 funeral. The emperor died of cancer on January 7.



March						
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

3 Former National Security Adviser Robert C. McFarlane is given two years' probation and fined \$20,000 for misleading Congress about the Iran-contra affair.

4 Eastern Airlines' machinists and baggage workers, supported by pilots and flight attendants, walk off the job to protest pay cuts. The airline files for bankruptcy protection on March 9.

Time Incorporated and Warner Communications Incorporated announce that they will merge to form the world's largest communications company, to be called Time Warner Incorporated.

9 The Senate votes 53 to 47 to reject former Senator John G. Tower as secretary of defense. The next day, Bush nominates Representative Richard B. Cheney (R., Wyo.) to the post. Cheney is confirmed and sworn in on March 17.

13-17 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration orders Chilean fruit detained at U.S. ports after finding traces of cyanide in two grapes from Chile.

13-18 The space shuttle Discovery launches a tracking and data-relay satellite and conducts a battery of scientific experiments.

15 Israel hands over to Egypt the seaside resort of Tabá, ending a seven-year territorial dispute.

16 The Soviet Communist Party Central Committee approves agricultural reforms that give Soviet farmers the right to lease state-owned land for life.

19 Alfredo Cristiani Burkard of the right wing National Republican Alliance is elected president of El Salvador. He takes office on June 1.

21 Congress passes a revised bill to protect the jobs of "whistle blowers"—federal employees who expose government waste or fraud. Bush signs the bill into law on April 10.

22 Pete Rozelle, National Football League (NFL) commissioner since 1960, announces that he will step down when a replacement is found.

A. Brian Peckford resigns as premier of Newfoundland, Canada, and is succeeded by Thomas Rideout.

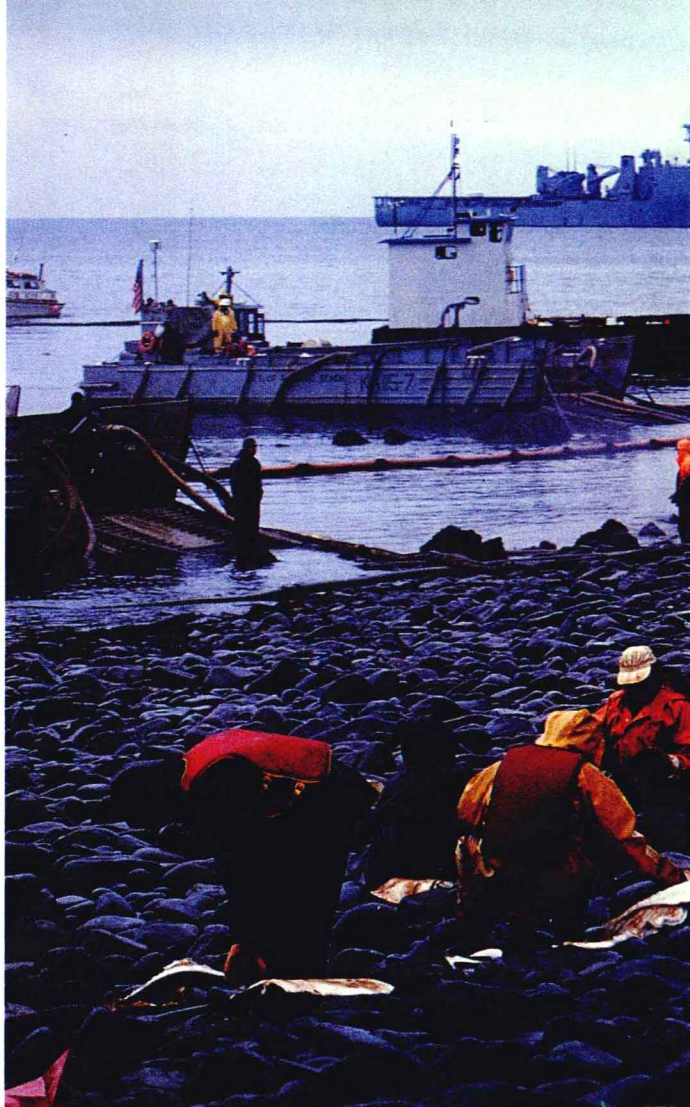
23 Chemists at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City claim that they have produced controlled nuclear fusion at room temperature, a process that would lead to a safe, clean source of nuclear energy.

23-28 Constitutional changes reducing the self-government of Yugoslavia's Kosovo province trigger six days of ethnic riots among the province's Albanian minority. At least 29 people are killed.

24 The tanker Exxon Valdez hits a submerged reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska, and spills an estimated 240,000 barrels of oil into the Pacific Ocean, the worst tanker spill in U.S. history.

26 The Soviet Union holds its first-ever multicandidate elections. Voters reject several top Communist Party officials and elect numerous independent-minded candidates.

29 Rain Man, a drama about love between two brothers, wins Academy Awards for best picture, best director, best screenplay, and best actor (for Dustin Hoffman).



Workers attempt to clean an oil-covered Alaskan beach after the tanker *Exxon Valdez* ran aground on March 24 in Prince William Sound. It caused the worst oil spill ever in U.S. waters.

Dustin Hoffman, left, portrays an autistic man and Tom Cruise plays his brother in the movie *Rain Man*, which won several Academy Awards on March 29.