

World news



G. Korganow, Gamma/Liaison

French transportation workers strike against their government throughout the month of December, shutting down the airlines and the metro system, after France increases the retirement age from 50 to 55 and lengthens the work week from 37 to 39 hours in efforts to cut spending.

AP/Wide World



Rueffers/Archive Photo

Pope John Paul II visits New Jersey, New York and Maryland, and addresses the United Nations. He speaks out on social, economic, political and moral themes.



In late May, a doctor performs emergency surgery aboard British Airways flight 32 using a coat hanger, a knife and fork, and a scissors sterilized in brandy to save a woman whose life is threatened by a collapsed lung.



Schneider Pool from Gamma/Liaison

Heads of many of the 186 member nations gather in New York to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in October.



Philippe Giraud, Sygma

Tahitian protests escalate into riots after France detonates a nuclear test device 750 miles from the South Pacific island. France's September resumption of tests after a three-year moratorium brings global condemnation.



John Ficara, Sygma



Dan Dean, Gamma/Liaison

In a powerful address to the U.N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, attended by 30,000 women from 180 countries, U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton declares, "Women's rights are human rights," to a desk-thumping, applauding audience.

Shock waves hit the Middle East when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is shot and killed while leaving a peace rally in Tel Aviv November 4. His murderer, Jewish extremist Yigal Amir, fanatically opposes peace negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.



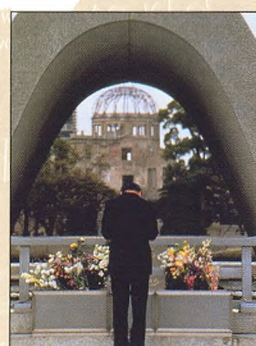
AP/Wide World

Marxist Cuban President Fidel Castro abandons his Havana cigar and military fatigues for a suit and tie on a diplomatic visit to New York in October, where he tries to convince the U.S. to lift its 33-year-old trade embargo on still-communist Cuba.



JUL Press/AP from Bettmann

Madman Shoko Asahara, leader of the Japanese apocalyptic religious cult, Aum Shinrikyo, is arrested on May 16 and charged with the Tokyo subway nerve-gas attack that left 12 people dead and injured 5,500 more in March.



Jon Van Hasselt, Sygma

Fifty years after the end of World War II, Japan remembers those killed by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. A solitary building left standing after the blast, now a memorial called the Atomic Bomb Dome, symbolizes the horrors of war and the price of peace.

An earthquake kills 51 people on the resort-studded Pacific coast of Mexico. The quake measures 7.5 on the Richter scale and is felt 330 miles away in Mexico City.



J. Fieria, Sigma

The first U.S. president to visit Northern Ireland, President Clinton receives a warm Christmas welcome for his show of support for peace between Irish Protestants and Catholics.

Hurricane Marilyn inflicts millions of dollars of damage in the Virgin Islands in September. Winds up to 127 miles per hour severely damage half the homes on St. Thomas.



G. Williams, Gamma/Liaison

flash

In November, the Republic of Ireland narrowly passes a referendum calling for an end to the country's 1937 constitutional ban on divorce.

While competing in an international balloon race in September, two hot air balloonists, one English and one American, are shot down when their balloon floats off course over Belarus. The Belarussian army sees the balloon as a security threat and fires without warning. The balloonists fall to their death.

More than four years after Desert Storm, Iraq's President Saddam Hussein remains in power, though two of his sons-in-law defect to Jordan on August 8 and call for Hussein's overthrow.



AP/Wide World

Hope blooms for peace in Bosnia when Bosnia's President Izetbegovic (left) shakes hands with Serbia's President Milosevic on the opening day of the November cease-fire talks in Dayton, Ohio. Croatia's President Tudjman looks on. The ensuing Paris peace agreement of December sends 60,000 NATO peacekeeping troops to the war-torn country.



AP/Wide World



Brooks Kraft, Sigma

Quebec, Canada's largely French-speaking province, defeats an October referendum on Quebec independence by a margin of less than one percent.



Thomas Renault, Gamma/Liaison

In July, without public explanations, Burma's military rulers free the country's most famous political prisoner, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the pro-democracy movement and Nobel peace laureate, after six years of house arrest.



Olivia Brunsell, Allsport

Russian figure skater Sergei Grinkov, 28, collapses and dies from a heart attack during practice with his wife-partner Ekaterina Gordeeva on November 20. The pair won two Olympic gold medals and four world pairs titles.



Gamma/Liaison

Great Britain's Princess Diana shocks Buckingham Palace with a tell-all BBC interview. Defying royal protocol, she discusses her marriage to unfaithful husband, Prince Charles, her struggle with depression and bulimia, and an extramarital affair. The majority of English people express their support and sympathy.



AP/Wide World

Securities trader Nicholas Leeson is arrested in Germany in March 1995 for fraud, forgery, and breach-of-trust. Leeson racked up a \$1.32 billion loss that caused the collapse of Barings PLC, the 233-year-old British bank.