

# Business Briefs

## Development

### North's bounty depends on South's development

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas warned that "the developed countries of the North cannot sustain their present abundance if the developing countries of the South are not enabled to catch up on their development," at a foreign ministers meeting on Aug. 29 in Jakarta preceding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit that began Sept. 1.

Alatas pushed for a united front to fight for a more equitable world, at the same time as other Islamic countries mobilized support to expel what is left of Yugoslavia from NAM. "When the death knell resounds over the famine-gripped nations of Africa, when it reverberates over the shell-torn rubbles in the cities of central Europe, no person or nation should ask for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for all of us," he said. "We in the Non-Aligned Movement shall continue to be guided by that vision of the solidarity of humankind and the ideals and principles that logically flow from it."

## AIDS

### Saliva likely means of disease spread

Dr. Helen Singer Kaplan, head of the Sex Therapy and Education Program at the Payne Whitney Clinic of New York Hospital and clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Cornell University of Medicine, warned that the AIDS virus can be spread through the exchange of saliva, in a column by Howard Fast in the Aug. 24 *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

In the column, entitled "Guarding Against Kiss of Death," Fast, an author and screenwriter whose works include "Spartacus" and "The Immigrants," asked Kaplan if AIDS can be transmitted by kissing. Kaplan replied, "Yes, if the lips are parted and if there is any exchange of saliva. . . . Saliva is an ideal environment for the AIDS virus. In fact, the count is larger in saliva than in the blood of an HIV-positive person."

Fast asked Kaplan, "Then how likely is it

that deep kissing will infect the partner of a person who tests HIV positive?" Kaplan said, "We are not sure because we still lack proper statistics. AIDS can remain dormant for years in an infected person. When I once presumed to suggest that the only defense would be to test the entire population, a cry of rage broke out on every side."

Kaplan, when informed of his plans to print her comments, told Fast, "Then beware. The sky will fall on you. . . . You will get denial from every side. They will say there are no reliable statistics, no scientific tests. They will tell you that doctors disagree. They will tell you that my information is invalid."

Fast commented, "Even if the odds are much longer than Kaplan believes them to be, it is still stupid and wanton to toss one's life away for what we used to call a French kiss. I shall think of that every time I see a love scene out of that caring place they call Hollywood, and I hope to God that the people who make films will think about it."

## Science

### Animal researchers protected by new law

A new law protecting against animal rights terrorists was signed Aug. 26 by President Bush as the result of four years of lobbying by the group Putting People First. The new law amends Title 18 of the U.S. Criminal Code to outlaw break-ins, assaults, and other terrorism against animal enterprises, including research facilities, zoos, aquariums, circuses, rodeos, and similar businesses that use animals.

"At last federal prosecutors and judges will have stiff federal penalties for terrorism against animal-use facilities," said Kathleen Marquardt, chairman of Putting People First, who commended Rep. Charles Stenholm (D-Tex.) and Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) for sponsoring the legislation. During the past decade, she said, animal rights groups have used burglary, theft, arson, and bombing against at least 90 animal enterprises, resulting in more than \$10 million in damages to taxpayers, in addition to higher food costs, delays in research, and hundreds of jobs lost.

Every medical breakthrough of 1992 has

involved the use of laboratory animals at a critical stage in the research process, a study by Americans for Medical Progress, a nonprofit organization, reports. Among the medical breakthroughs in 1992 were an artificial lung substance tested on rabbits and rhesus monkeys that prevents respiratory distress syndrome, a major killer of premature babies; a blood substitute developed from bovine hemoglobin received a patent (this is important because of the shrinking world supply of non-infected blood); and the chemical molecule enediyne, tested on laboratory rats, was found to be an anti-cancer agent, attacking tumors while leaving most normal cells alone.

## Labor

### Polish police used against striking workers

Polish riot police intervened against striking workers at the FSM Tychy plant on Aug. 28, in the first strike-busting action of the state since the overthrow of the old communist regime in 1989. The move followed shortly after a "last warning" by Labor Minister Jacek Kuron that workers should halt the strike. Part of the plant is still occupied by about 3,000 striking workers, however.

The government's crackdown against the strike wave was carried out also in other parts of Poland, with several hundred workers at the Szczecin shipyards threatened by the management with being laid off if they didn't distance themselves from the bloc of anti-government unions. About 100 workers of the Gdansk shipyard who took part in a banned strike on Aug. 25, have already received notices that they are fired.

Industry Minister Wacław Niewiarowski threatened 4,000 striking mining workers at the upper Silesian coal mine of Rozbark with "ruthless action to restore order," if they did not return to their job.

The anti-labor moves come as the Polish government had riot police raid the Warsaw offices of the Samoobrona organization and brutally arrest several of the staff, causing injuries, AP reported Aug. 28. The raid is the first clear step in the realization of the government's warning that it intends to outlaw the

farmers' self-defense organization on charges of anti-constitutional activities.

Samoobrona has been leading protests against International Monetary Fund austerity and shutdowns of mines, farms, and industry.

## Infrastructure

### Iraqi 'Third River' project nears completion

The 350-mile canal in Iraq, designed to turn the lower Tigris and Euphrates rivers basin into fertile agricultural land, will be completed shortly.

The project has been the object of a propaganda campaign claiming that its purpose is to target the so-called "Marsh Arabs." Deputy Agricultural Minister Abdul Sattar Hussein denied the charge, saying that "there is no connection whatsoever between this project and the question of the marshes in southern Iraq," the Aug. 27 London *Guardian* reported. He said that the canal only cuts through the southern edge of one marsh, where a dike would stop the two water systems from mixing.

One of the project engineers, Mohamad Karabash, said, "We've been working 24 hours a day for three months." Over 4,500 workers and 3,000 machines are moving 26 million cubic feet of earth and sand daily, and 95% of the work is completed, he said. The project has taken 50 years to plan but has been implemented in the two years since the cease-fire and sanctions were implemented.

## Russia

### Volvo head attacks Harvard economists

Pehr Gyllenhammar, head of the Swedish auto maker Volvo, expressed pessimism over developments in Russia, and attacked Harvard economists for their policy of "shock therapy" toward Russia, in a radio interview on Aug. 24.

"Look," Gyllenhammar said, "the only country that really implemented the market

economy, eastern Germany, even causes the richest country in Europe, Germany, to waver. If you need 1 billion in eastern Germany, then just calculate how much you need in Russia! . . . I don't believe in a radical economic change, because it can lead to catastrophe."

Gyllenhammar explained, "A radical opening of the borders means that all factories are outmoded. That means a total collapse, which leads to political chaos, which can lead to major population migrations. We have difficulty in handling the migrations from Yugoslavia, a relatively small country. We are not prepared physically or mentally to handle a problem with Russia. . . . When it gets worse, the politicians are driven to make decisions Harvard economists cannot imagine, because what is happening now is unprecedented."

## Agriculture

### Farm income lower with NAFTA, GATT

A new study by the Dallas Federal Reserve says that, if trade were liberalized, farm income in many of the most important food-producing states, including Iowa, would decline significantly, and U.S. agriculture's world status would be reduced, the Aug. 28 *Des Moines Register* reported.

Income from feed grains, wheat, sugar, soybeans, and rice would be the most adversely affected. Associate economist Fiona Sigalla says trade liberalization would shift some food production from industrialized countries, including the United States, to developing nations. She says the state by state effect of this change in production could be substantial.

With free trade, "income from wheat production is expected to fall nearly 50%. Corn output would drop only slightly, but a nearly one-third reduction in producer prices would lower income from production of corn by 34%. Income from sugar production would fall by 80%, while income from sorghum, oats, and barley could decline by more than 40%. Income from cotton would go down 43% and rice by 63%. Four states, Hawaii, Louisiana, Montana, and North Dakota, would see farm income decline 20% or more."

# Briefly

● **CHINA** and Russia are establishing closer ties, *China Daily* reported Aug. 20. A Sino-Russian intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation met in Moscow Aug. 18, and is preparing an extensive trade agreement to be signed in Beijing during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to China in November, Russian State Radio reported Aug. 19.

● **INDIA** plans to launch planetary probes, Prof. U.R. Rao told the United News of India Aug. 27. "The first mission, probably to study Mars, should fructify around 1998-99," he said. Rao said the Indian Space Research Organization, which he heads, also wants to send probes to Mercury and Venus. "We must be ready with the technology and worry about the funds later," he said.

● **THE FOURTH** Asian and Pacific population conference, sponsored by the U.N. and hosted by the government of Indonesia, met in Bali, Indonesia Aug. 19-27, the *Hindustan Times* reported. In Asia, live births per woman fell from an average of four in the 1960s to 3.4 by 1990. Zero growth is between 2.3 and 2.1 births per woman.

● **TAIWAN** wants trade, not investment, in China, Chen Mingchang, head of the economic department of the cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council, told the *Economic Daily News*, Reuters reported Aug. 25. Excessive investment in China is undermining the island's economy, and Taiwan will try to stem outflows of capital, he said.

● **MCDONNELL** Douglas may move part of its operation to Mexico. Having already reduced its work force from 5,500 to 3,100 at its helicopter plant in Arizona, McDonald Douglas is reported to be considering moving its operation to Mexico where the cheap labor will allow them to assemble helicopters—80% of their business—much more cheaply.