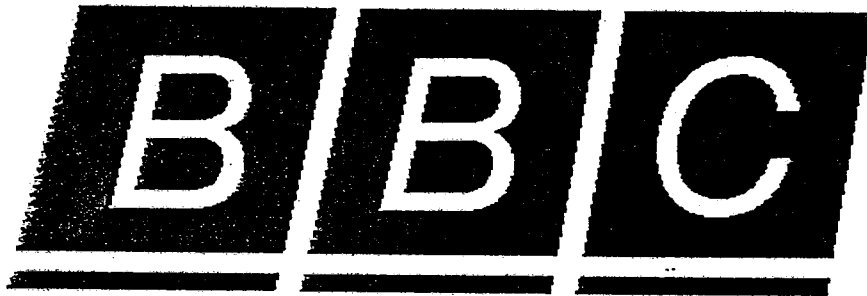




SMALL STATES
CONFERENCE ON
SEA LEVEL RISE
MALE, 14 - 18 NOVEMBER 1989

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



**WORLD SERVICE
NEWS**

*A SPECIAL TRANSMISSION FOR THE
SEA LEVEL RISE CONFERENCE*

at 0700 GMT

on November 16th 1989

President Bush has stressed that he and President Gorbachev will not be seeking to decide Europe's future at their summit next month.

As fighting continues in El Salvador, the government has rejected a Red Cross request for a truce to evacuate civilians from rebel held areas.

At the United Nations debate on Cambodia several countries have voiced concern over the possible return to power of the Khmer Rouge.

The Egyptian and Iraqi governments have ordered an investigation of reports of the maltreatment of Egyptian workers in Iraq.

BUSH GORBACHEV-GERMANY

President Bush said that he and President Gorbachev will not be seeking to negotiate the future shape of Europe, when they meet next month at Malta. Both have welcomed the reforms now taking shape in central and eastern Europe and Mr. Bush said that when he meets the Soviet leader, he will seek to advance the process of reform and democracy. But he made clear that the agenda would not include such issues as German reunification and national frontier. Earlier, in Moscow, Mr. Gorbachev had said that German reunification was not a current political issue, and for the other states to discuss it amounted to interference in German Affairs. The White House has also reacted to a warning from Mr. Gorbachev that the West should not seek to export capitalism to the countries of eastern Europe. A spokesman said the United States was offering support without inciting revolution.

HURD-BERLIN

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Hurd, who is to visit Berlin today, has said the question of German reunification is not a dominant one. He was speaking after a meeting in Bonn with his West German counterpart, Mr. Genscher, in advance of Saturday's

special meeting of the European Community discuss the changes in eastern Europe.

INDIAN MINE RESCUE

More than sixty Indian miners have been rescued after being trapped underground for three days in a flooded pit. They were brought to the surface through a narrow shaft drilled by rescuers at the mine (in Ranigunj) in West Bengal. A search is continuing for several other miners who are still missing.

LEBANON KIDNAP

A previously unknown group in Lebanon, calling itself the organisation of Just Revenge, says it has kidnaped an American woman and two naturalised West Germans in Beirut. It has made the claim in a message delivered to a western news agency, accompanied by photocopies of their passports. The American was named as Deborah Fahrend, from San Francisco. The others are Munir Shamseddin Sami and his seven-year-old son Danjel. There has been no confirmation that the three are missing.

US - ISRAEL

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Shamir, has had talks in Washington with President Bush and the American Secretary of State, Mr. Baker. After their meeting, both Mr. Baker and Mr. Shamir spoke of progress on the Middle East peace process, but a BBC correspondent in Washington says they failed to achieve any breakthrough in the deadlock over Israeli insistence that the Palestinians taking part in any dialogues should not represent the PLO.

EGYPT IRAQ

Both Egypt and Iraq have ordered investigations into reports that Egyptian workers in Iraq have been maltreated and, in some cases, killed. Large numbers of Egyptians have been returning from Iraq complaining of bad treatment and Egyptian press reports have spoken of the bodies of more than one thousand Egyptians, some allegedly murdered, being returned to Egypt in the first ten months of this year. The Egyptian government has now set up a special committee to investigate the allegations. In a broadcast, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq strongly criticised the Egyptian press reports. But he promised to investigate complaints of workers being ill-treated, and hinted at tensions between Egyptian workers and Iraqi soldiers returning to their homes after the Gulf War. The BBC Cairo Correspondent says the affair - which is to be discussed at a high-level meeting on Saturday - has blown into a crisis that's difficult for both countries to handle.

CHINA SLUMP

Official figures released in China show that because of the government's austerity measures, industrial production has again fallen. Output for October was more than two per cent below the corresponding figure for last year. It was also disclosed recently that up to a million rural businesses stopped trading this year and eighteen thousand building projects have been halted.

UN CAMBODIA DEBATE

The United Nations General Assembly has begun another debate on Cambodia and several states have expressed concern that the Khmer Rouge might regain power. A draft resolution suggests that the movement should be part of a coalition government, led by Prince Sihanouk and including the present government installed by Vietnam. But France, on behalf of the European Community, said that because of the genocide carried out by the Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot the movement would never again be tolerated. And Australia suggested that because of the Khmer Rouge the United Nations should withdraw its recognition of the coalition in exile and declare the Cambodian sea vacant.

BRAZIL ELECTION

First returns in the presidential election in Brazil show the conservative, Mr. Fernando Collor de Mello, in the lead but facing a strong challenge by candidates of the left. Correspondents say results so far and exit polls suggest Mr. Collor de Mello will not secure the absolute majority needed to win on the first ballot. If there is a run-off, he would face the best-placed candidate of the left. First among them so far is a Socialist, Mr. Leonel Brizols, followed by a Marxist and a Social Democrat. For most of Brazil's eighty-two million electors, this was the first chance they have had to elect a president and the BBC Latin America correspondent says there was great enthusiasm.

EL-SALVADOR

As fighting continued in El Salvador for a fifth day, the government rejected a proposal by the International Red Cross for an immediate truce in the capital, San Salvador, to enable the evacuation of wounded civilians. Thousands of people are trapped in several suburbs of the city controlled by left-wing guerrillas. Government forces are surrounding these areas and the airforce is carrying out rocket attacks. Latest reports say that more than six hundred people have been killed in the fighting since Saturday. The government says the rebels are being crushed, but a correspondent for the BBC in San Salvador says the situation remains confused. President Bush has telephoned the Salvadoran President to pledge support and official sources in Washington say the administration has forces.
