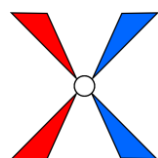


## 201 DA

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<201/c>	<p>fabricated” reports about the situation in Arakan and the refugees crossing into Bangladesh. The Associated Press news agency on Feb. 9 reported Bangladesh sources as claiming that 200 Moslem rebels detained in Arakan by the government had died of starvation or suffocation in the preceding week, while 75 others were reported missing after Myanmar troops fired on boats of refugees. A report issued on Feb. 9 by the New York-based organization Lawyers Committed for Human Rights said that inside Myanma thousands remained detained for long periods under poor conditions, with some prisoners being tortured. ASIA - PACIFIC CAMBODIA Approval of UNTAC mission The UN Security Council on Feb. 28 passed Resolution 745 authorizing the dispatch “as soon as possible” of a 22,000-member peacekeeping force to Cambodia to establish the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC - see p. 38511). At a cost of at least \$1,900 million, the implementation of UNTAC would be the largest and most costly operation in the UN’s history. Under the 15-month plan recommended by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 15,900 military personnel, 3,600 civilian police officers and 2,400 civilians were to be sent to Cambodia to monitor the ceasefire, to disarm the combatants of all four Cambodian factions and supervise the cantonment of the remaining armies, to take over the running of key ministries and police forces, and to organize elections in April 1993. UNTAC would only be successful, Boutros-Ghali stressed, if it had adequate human and financial resources. There were widely held concerns over the funding of the mission, the dispatch of which had been delayed since November 1991 when the leaders of three of the four factions returned to Phnom Penh, the capital. UNTAC’s newly appointed co-ordinator, Yasushi Akashi, had admitted that UNTAC was in “competition with Yugoslavia” for resources, while observers had termed the UNTAC budget unrealistic, according to the Far Eastern Economic Review of March 5. Attack on UN helicopter A senior Australian UN officer was wounded when a helicopter of the UN advance mission in Cambodia was hit by gunfire on Feb. 26 while flying over Khmer Rouge-controlled territory in Kompong Thom Province. The Khmers Rouges issued a denial of responsibility for the attack, blaming the Phnom Penh government for staging the incident. Visit of Chinese Foreign Minister The Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, visited Phnom Penh on Feb. 11-12. The first visit by a senior Chinese official in over 13 years, and designed to signal <b>China’s support</b> for <b>the Cambodian peace process</b>, it had been postponed twice in December due to unrest in Phnom Penh [see p. 38680]. Qian told Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and Chairman of the Supreme National Council, that China would “at all times” back</p> <p><b><u>the implementation of the peace accord</u></b></p> <p>. He also emphasized China’s position on equal treatment of all four factions. Alluding to ceasefire violations, Qian also called on each faction to do its utmost to achieve reconciliation and to abide by <b><u>the peace accord</u></b>. Qian announced that China was willing to <b><u>take an active part in rebuilding</u></b> Cambodia, and provide necessary <b><u>assistance to aid projects after the elections and the formation of a</u></b></p>
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	<p><b><u>new government</u></b>. Sihanouk said that he was particularly pleased with Qian's announcement that China would restore aid to all four factions through the SNC; previously, China had been the main backer of the Khmers Rouges. Speaking on relations with Vietnam, Qian said that the normalization of ties embodied China's good-neighbour policy, and he looked forward to the restoration and development of the old friendly Sino-Cambodian relations. During the visit, Qian also met SNC members from the four factions, and the representatives in Phnom Penh of the UN and of the five major powers. ASIA - PACIFIC LAOS Friendship treaty with Thailand Gen. Khamtay Siphandon, the Lao Premier, visited Thailand from Feb. 18 to Feb. 21. He and his Thai counterpart Anand Panyarachun signed on Feb. 19 a friendship and co-operation treaty; Khamtay also met with King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and an agreement was concluded under which Thailand would help to develop tourism in Laos. The rapprochement followed a visit by Lao President Kaysone Phomvihane to Thailand in January [see p. 38724] and an invitation by the January summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to Laos to accede to ASEAN's 1976 Treaty of Amity and Co-operation (TAC) [see p. 38729]. Vietnamese visit A delegation led by Gen. Vo Van Kiet, Chair of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, visited Laos on Feb. 13-15. An agreement was signed to promote co-operation on economic, cultural, scientific and technological issues. [For Kaysone's visit to Vietnam in October 1991 see p. 38532.] ASIA - PACIFIC VIETNAM Visit of Chinese Foreign Minister The Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, became the most senior official to visit Vietnam since the 1979 border war when he arrived in Hanoi from Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, on Feb. 12 for a four-day visit. The Chairman of Vietnam's Council of Ministers, Senior Gen. Vo Van Kiet, hailed the visit as an "important event" in the normalization of the two countries' relations. Qian and his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Manh Cam, promised to work together to ensure the success of the UN peace plan in Cambodia [see p. 38511]. They signed two agreements on improving economic co-operation and removing visa requirements for diplomats and businessmen. They also agreed to</p>
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