

# Cease-fire fails as Russian forces hit rebel sites in Chechnya

Thousands of civilians have been killed since Yeltsin sent Russian troops into Chechnya, and the bloodshed has prompted international outrage.

SHALI, Russia (AP) — Russia's cease-fire in Chechnya collapsed Wednesday as Russian forces pounded rebel positions with artillery, rockets and attack helicopters.

In Moscow, President Clinton discussed the war with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and said he urged Yeltsin to extend the truce that expires Friday in the separatist southern republic.

Thousands of civilians have died since Yeltsin sent troops into Chechnya in December.

The military assaults have prompted international outrage.

Russia among her neighbors around the world," Clinton said Wednesday in a speech broadcast throughout Russia.

Yeltsin played down the fighting, emphasizing Russian efforts to restore basic services and saying his forces were merely disarming criminal gangs.

"Furthermore, the armed forces are not involved there," he maintained.

"Today the Ministry of the Interior simply seizes the weapons that are still in possession of

some small armed criminal gangs."

But Wednesday's display of firepower was no police operation.

Orange flashes and plumes of white smoke broke from the forest-covered foothills of the North Caucasus mountains as Russian forces carpeted a rebel-held area with Grad rockets.

An observer team from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe found itself in the middle of the Russian attack on Serzhen Yurt, but none of the

observers was hurt.

The village is about 15 miles southeast of the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Chechens said most civilians had fled the village, but rebel fighters refused to abandon it. A convoy of Russian army trucks loaded with boxes of shells drove through the nearby town of Shali to the front line, bullet-proof jackets slung over the truck doors to afford a little protection.

Four attack helicopters swerved in low from the north and hung

over the forest, drawing small-arms fire.

Hunting for rebel fighters, the helicopters fired rockets into the forest. Bright white stars spewed from their sides, leaving trails of arrow-straight smoke. The explosions echoed around the base of the snow-capped peaks.

"They've tried to move into the mountains for a month but with no result," said 39-year-old Uwayis Neduyev, a farmer whose home stood less than a mile from where some of the rockets were hitting.

## Update: World

### Serbs close main road

R-5 news services

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Fierce artillery duels rocked a vital Serb supply corridor in northeastern Bosnia on Wednesday, threatening to draw the powerful Yugoslav army back into the conflict.

The United Nations reported 1,000 shell explosions in three hours in the narrow corridor that links Bosnian Serb holdings in the northeast to Serb-controlled areas in Croatia and to Serbia proper. The shelling prompted a rare Serb announcement that they would close the road.

The corridor, through the town of Brcko, is considered by many analysts key to the entire Yugoslav conflict.

### In brief ...

#### Marcos near victory

MANILA, Philippines — Imelda Marcos headed for a landslide victory in her House race Wednesday but a Marcos family political comeback foundered on her son's poor showing for a more powerful Senate seat.

President Fidel Ramos' coalition was leading in 10 of 12 Senate races as counting continued from Monday's national elections.

#### Friend reveals plot

EDMONTON, Alberta — A woman, furious that her longtime lover had "stolen her youth" and then deserted her, boasted of twice injecting him with HIV-infected blood in an effort to gain revenge, her former confidante testified Tuesday.

Rachel Deitch said Marilyn Tan plotted for weeks how best to get back at Conrad Boland, a prominent portrait photographer with whom she had a seven-year relationship.

Tan chose to use contaminated blood, which she injected into Boland during long sessions of sadomasochistic sex in April and June of 1992, Deitch testified.

Boland tested positive for the virus in late 1992 after having tested negative that spring. Tan, 35, is charged with aggravated assault, conspiring to administer a noxious substance and administering a noxious substance.

#### Fire destroys houses

SRINAGAR, India — Firefighters worked to extinguish a huge blaze on Wednesday that has destroyed nearly 1,500 homes and shops in a Kashmiri town occupied by separatist rebels.

Officials said the fire began Monday night after fighting between rebels and government troops who had encircled the Char-e-sharif mountain town, where nearly 60 rebels took sanctuary in an ancient Muslim shrine.

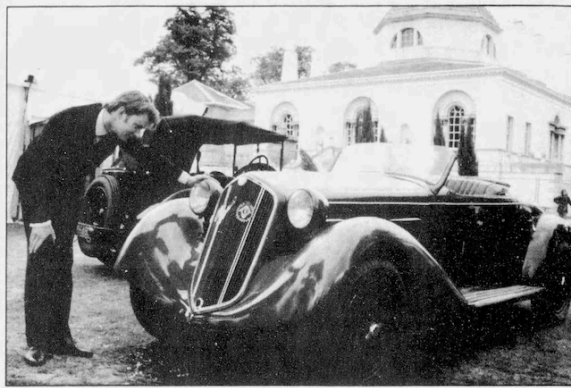
## WORLD WAR II

### FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY

MAY 11  
1945

American troops attack all along the Shuri Line on Okinawa; heavy fire stops most advances, but Marines in the west reach hills overlooking Naha. On Mindanao in the Philippines, U.S. soldiers push from Macalajar Bay toward Del Monte airfield, and Filipino guerrillas free Cagayan. Combat in Europe ebbs, except for fighting in Croatia between the Germans and Tito's partisans.

Source: "2194 Days of War," W. H. Smith Publishers Inc.; "World Almanac Book of World War II," Bison Books Corp., 1981



AP photo

### Autocratic auto

Simon Kidston of Coys Auctioneers inspects the 1935 Alfa Romeo 6C 2300 sports car that originally belonged to Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, at

Chiswick House in London on Wednesday. The auction estimate for the vehicle, which goes on sale today, is between \$190,000 and \$200,000.

### British official, Sinn Fein aide talk about crisis

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — More than eight months after the Irish Republican Army stopped bombing and shooting, its political representatives finally got a handshake Wednesday from a senior British government official.

Martin McGuinness, lead negotiator for the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party, said the 3 1/2 hours of talks with British Minister Michael Ancram were welcome and historic.

And inconclusive.

At a separate news conference, Ancram reaffirmed his government's position that the IRA must begin to eliminate its weaponry before joining all-party talks. Sinn Fein insists talks must come first.

Northern Ireland's peace negotiations may seem maddeningly slow, but their glacial pace is a perverse part of their success.

Compromise is likely only if politicians keep talking, if taboos are quietly broken and precious symbols discarded — and if the tempo isn't pushed to a breaking point.

The Sinn Fein-IRA movement has campaigned for a quarter-century to get Britain to leave Northern Ireland, a 75-year-old state with a pro-British Protestant majority.

The IRA killed about 1,900 people in hopes of breaking British resolve, but unilaterally ceased fire in September without attaining its goals.

The remarkable thing about the IRA truce and Sinn Fein's pursuit of negotiations is that their leaders know negotiations are almost certain to end with Northern Ireland remaining in the United Kingdom. The British and Irish governments, which have cooperated closely on Northern Ireland policy since 1985, spelled that out in February.

The shared Dublin-London view is that Northern Ireland politicians — from anti-IRA Protestant extremists like Ian Paisley to Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams — should share power in a new provincial assembly.

**MEMO:**  
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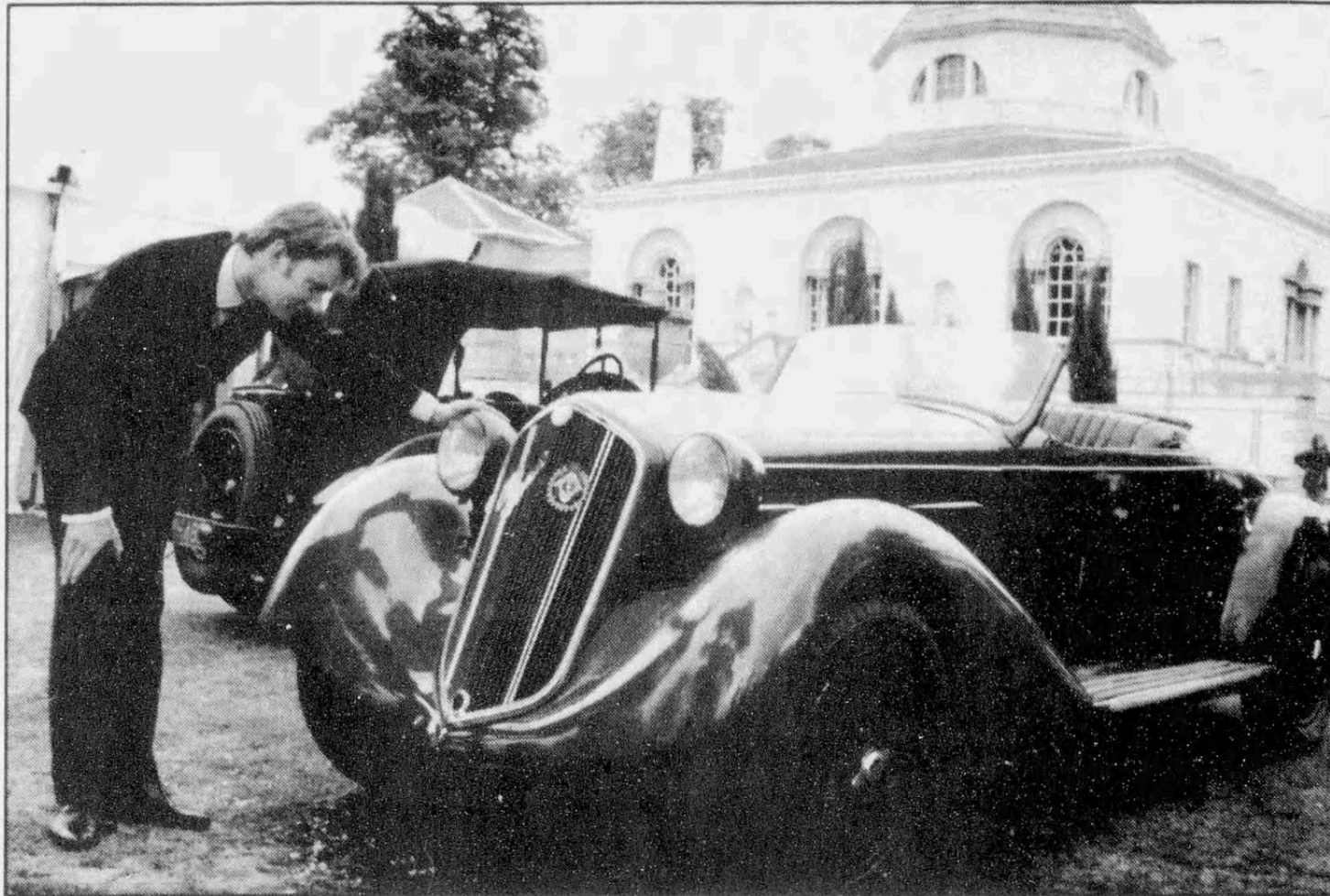
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gives you unlimited weekend  
calling and 30 minutes of  
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AP photo

## Autocratic auto

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British official

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