

WORLD

Non-Proliferation Treaty on hold

U.S. delegation tries to soften Arab attitude toward Israeli arms

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Negotiators were poised to make the Non-Proliferation Treaty a permanent part of global law Wednesday, but they missed a detail, one of the oldest around — the argument between Arabs and Israelis.

After all-night bargaining, a global conference had a compromise package ready to go for extending the 25-year-old nuclear pact indefinitely. Then 14 Arab countries produced a surprise resolution on Israel, and the decision was postponed until today.

The resolution demanded that the Israelis, who have a clandestine nuclear weapons program, sign "without delay" the Non-Proliferation Treaty — and thereby give up their nuclear arms.

Israel says that it will only consider signing the treaty two years after winning peace treaties with all Middle East states.

The U.S. delegation immediately went into closed-door talks with Arab delegates to try to soften the resolution. A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported that progress was being made.

He said Washington wanted to ensure that Israel is not unduly singled out in the

resolution. A compromise resolution was expected to also name other nations in the region that have not signed the treaty.

The Israeli issue was enough to force postponement, until today, of the decision on extension, the historic climax to a month-long conference to set the framework for the nuclear world of the 21st century.

Unlimited extension, backed by the United States, means the treaty's 178 signatory nations will continue to recognize five "legitimate" nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — and will remain pledged to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to any other nation.

BRIEFS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hot car

Simon Kidston of Coys Auctioneers inspects the 1935 Alfa Romeo 6C 2300 sports car which originally belonged to Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, at Chiswick House in London Wednesday. The auction estimate for the vehicle, which goes on sale today, is between \$190,000 to \$240,000.

London bobbies get protective wear

LONDON (AP) — For the first time, London bobbies will be offered knife-proof or bullet-proof vests to protect them on the beat, Scotland Yard said Wednesday.

The force also will arm police with tear gas, the Yard said in a statement.

The extra security comes in response to pressure after last month's shooting death of Phillip Waters, the seventh policeman to be murdered on the beat in five years.

Imelda Marcos wins House victory

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — 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.

Calling that a "fresh mandate," he promised Wednesday to pass measures to create jobs and revise tax laws even though election

violence that killed 40 people undercuts claims the Philippines was ready for social change.

An explosion late Tuesday demolished a town hall in the southern province of Maguindanao where votes were being counted. Thirteen people were reported injured and nine ballot boxes destroyed.

Fire destroys 1,500 homes, shops

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — 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.

Three Indian soldiers were wounded in the brief gun battle, a government statement said.

The fire heightened tensions in Jammu-Kashmir, the only Muslim majority state in predominantly Hindu India.

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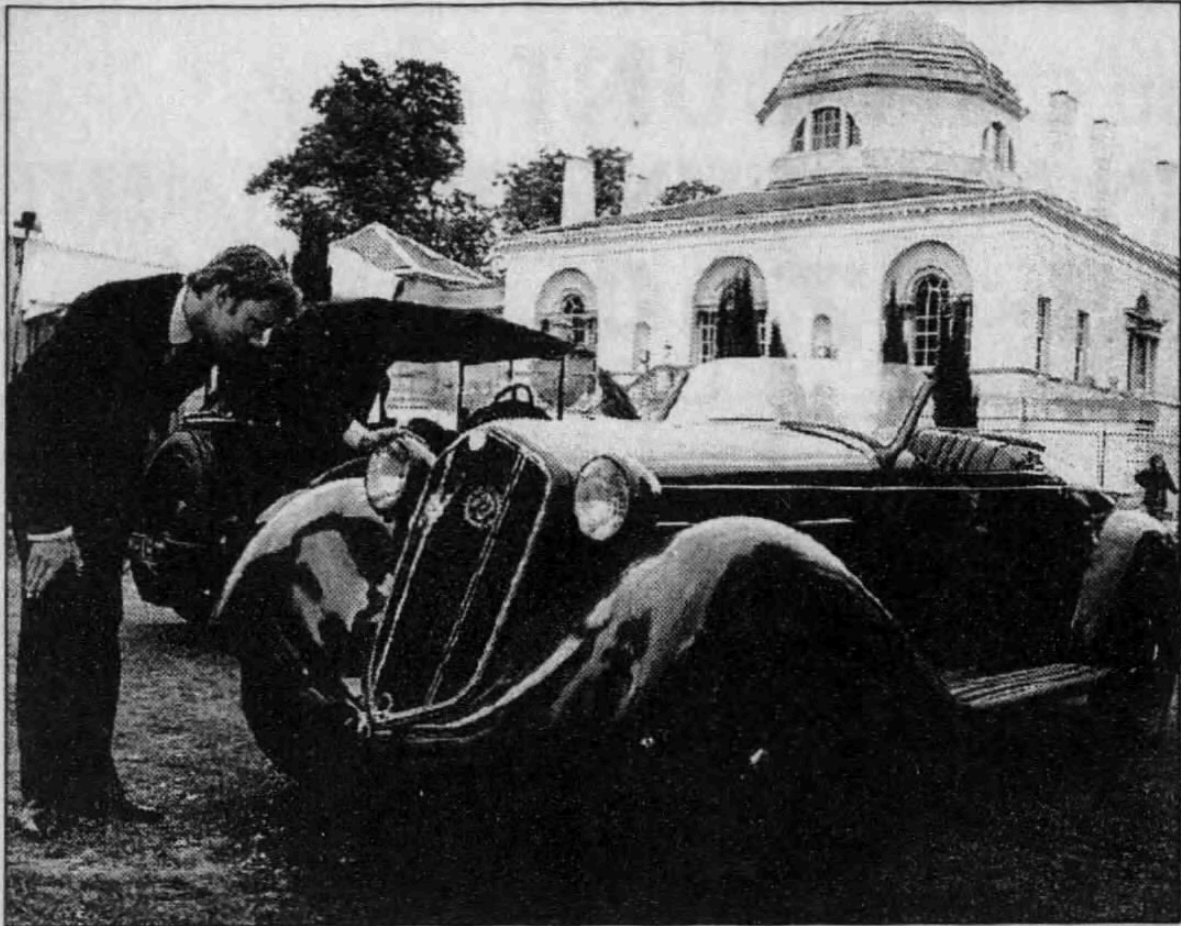
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