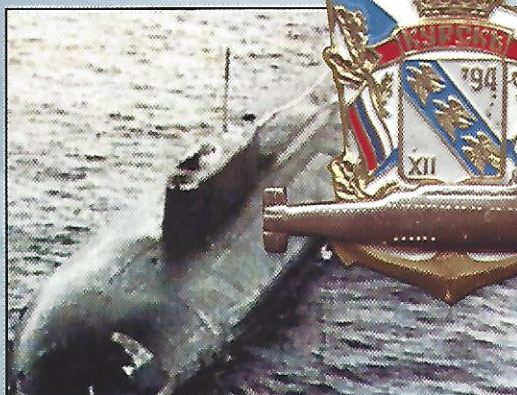


AP/Corbis

▲ Two hundred North and South Koreans separated from family members since the 1950-1953 Korean war reunite in August. The four-day visits are a goodwill gesture by both countries' leaders, who met for the first time in June.

✓ In August, the Russian nuclear submarine *Kursk* sinks to the bottom of the Barents Sea after an unexplained explosion. All 118 crew members are killed.



Corbis/Sygma

FLASH >>>

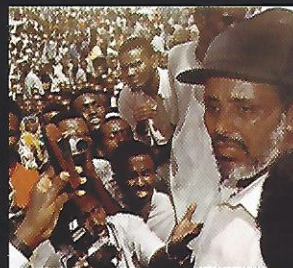
AIDS reaches epidemic proportions in southern Africa. Leaders and citizens throughout the world conduct a massive educational campaign on World AIDS Day December 1 to teach people about the disease that is killing 6,000 sub-Saharan Africans each day.

Uganda is struck by an occurrence of the deadly Ebola virus that is linked to more than 100 deaths. The outbreak is traced to a Gulu woman who died in September and whose body infected other people during the ritual cleansing of the dead.



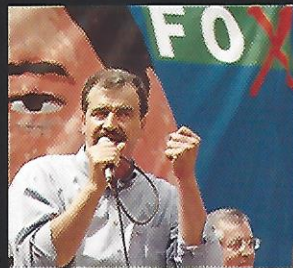
AP/Wide World Photos

▲ In January 2001, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake devastates Gujarat in western India. The huge quake causes an estimated \$5.5 billion in damages and kills more than 20,000 people.



Tyler Hicks/Liaison

▲ In August, Somalia elects its first president in nine years. President Abdiqasim Salad Hassan promises to bring peace and economic recovery to the African nation.



Wesley Dwyer/Liaison

▲ Former Coca-Cola executive Vicente Fox, of the National Action Party, is elected president of Mexico in July, ending the Institutional Revolutionary Party's 71-year reign.



Reuters/Jim Bourg/Archive Photos

▲ More than 150 world leaders meet at the U.N. Millennium Summit in September to discuss war, poverty, disease and other global problems. The meeting is the largest gathering of world leaders in history.



Reuters/Shinpei/Archive Photos

▲ In July, an Air France Concorde supersonic jet catches fire and crashes outside Paris, killing 113 people. The crash is blamed on metal debris which punctured the tires and damaged the fuel tanks.

✓ The worst wave of Middle Eastern violence in years erupts between Israelis and Palestinians, leaving more than 350 dead. A visit by Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon to a Jerusalem holy site on September 28 is claimed to have sparked the fighting.



Reuters/STR/Archive Photos