

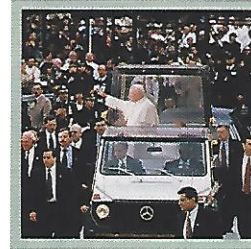
World news



G. Korganow, Gamma/Liaison

French transportation workers strike against their government throughout the month of December, shutting down the airlines and the metro system, after France increases the retirement age from 50 to 55 and lengthens the work week from 37 to 39 hours in efforts to cut spending.

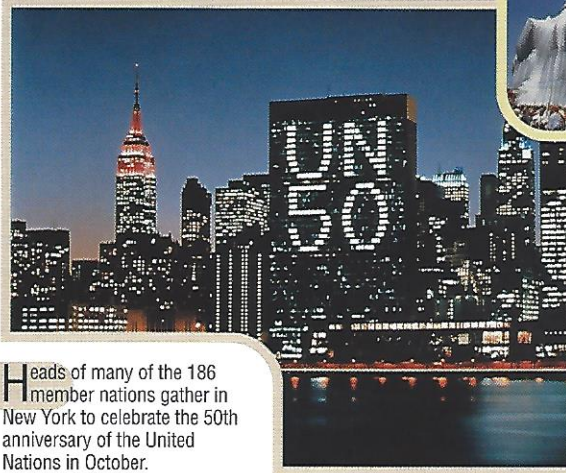
AP/Wide World



Pope John Paul II visits New Jersey, New York and Maryland, and addresses the United Nations. He speaks out on social, economic, political and moral themes.

Rueffers/Archive Photo

Wrap artist Christo creates "Wrapped Reichstag" for the city of Berlin by covering the former home of the German parliament with one million square feet of silver fabric in June.



Schneider Pool from Gamma/Liaison

Heads of many of the 186 member nations gather in New York to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in October.



Philippe Giraud, Sygma

In late May, a doctor performs emergency surgery aboard British Airways flight 32 using a coat hanger, a knife and fork, and a scissors sterilized in brandy to save a woman whose life is threatened by a collapsed lung.

Tahitian protests escalate into riots after France detonates a nuclear test device 750 miles from the South Pacific island. France's September resumption of tests after a three-year moratorium brings global condemnation.



John Fearn, Sygma

In a powerful address to the U.N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, attended by 30,000 women from 180 countries, U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton declares, "Women's rights are human rights," to a desk-thumping, applauding audience.



Dan Dean, Gamma/Liaison

Shock waves hit the Middle East when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is shot and killed while leaving a peace rally in Tel Aviv November 4. His murderer, Jewish extremist Yigal Amir, fanatically opposes peace negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.



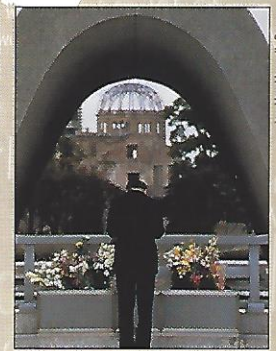
AP/Wide World

Marxist Cuban President Fidel Castro abandons his Havana cigar and military fatigues for a suit and tie on a diplomatic visit to New York in October, where he tries to convince the U.S. to lift its 33-year-old trade embargo on still-communist Cuba.



Jill Press/AP from Bettmann

Madman Shoko Asahara, leader of the Japanese apocalyptic religious cult, Aum Shinrikyo, is arrested on May 16 and charged with the Tokyo subway nerve-gas attack that left 12 people dead and injured 5,500 more in March.



Jon Van Hasselt, Sygma

Fifty years after the end of World War II, Japan remembers those killed by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. A solitary building left standing after the blast, now a memorial called the Atomic Bomb Dome, symbolizes the horrors of war and the price of peace.