

An earthquake kills 51 people on the resort-studded Pacific coast of Mexico. The quake measures 7.5 on the Richter scale and is felt 330 miles away in Mexico City.



J. Harris/Sygma

The first U.S. president to visit Northern Ireland, President Clinton receives a warm Christmas welcome for his show of support for peace between Irish Protestants and Catholics.

Hurricane Marilyn inflicts millions of dollars of damage in the Virgin Islands in September. Winds up to 127 miles per hour severely damage half the homes on St. Thomas.



G. Williams/Gamma Liaison

# flash

In November, the Republic of Ireland narrowly passes a referendum calling for an end to the country's 1937 constitutional ban on divorce.

While competing in an international balloon race in September, two hot air balloonists, one English and one American, are shot down when their balloon floats off course over Belarus. The Belarussian army sees the balloon as a security threat and fires without warning. The balloonists fall to their death.

More than four years after Desert Storm, Iraq's President Saddam Hussein remains in power, though two of his sons-in-law defect to Jordan on August 8 and call for Hussein's overthrow.

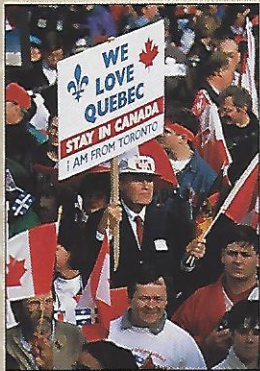


AP/Wide World



AP/Wide World

Hope blooms for peace in Bosnia when Bosnia's President Izetbegovic (left) shakes hands with Serbia's President Milosevic on the opening day of the November cease-fire talks in Dayton, Ohio. Croatia's President Tudjman looks on. The ensuing Paris peace agreement of December sends 60,000 NATO peacekeeping troops to the war-torn country.



Brooks Kraft/Sygma

Quebec, Canada's largely French-speaking province, defeats an October referendum on Quebec independence by a margin of less than one percent.



Thomas Renuf/Gamma Liaison

In July, without public explanations, Burma's military rulers free the country's most famous political prisoner, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the pro-democracy movement and Nobel peace laureate, after six years of house arrest.



Chie Brunsell/Allsport

Russian figure skater Sergei Grinkov, 28, collapses and dies from a heart attack during practice with his wife-partner Ekaterina Gordeeva on November 20. The pair won two Olympic gold medals and four world pairs titles.



Gamma Liaison

Great Britain's Princess Diana shocks Buckingham Palace with a tell-all BBC interview. Defying royal protocol, she discusses her marriage to unfaithful husband, Prince Charles, her struggle with depression and bulimia, and an extramarital affair. The majority of English people express their support and sympathy.



AP/Wide World

Securities trader Nicholas Leeson is arrested in Germany in March 1995 for fraud, forgery, and breach-of-trust. Leeson racked up a \$1.32 billion loss that caused the collapse of Barings PLC, the 233-year-old British bank.