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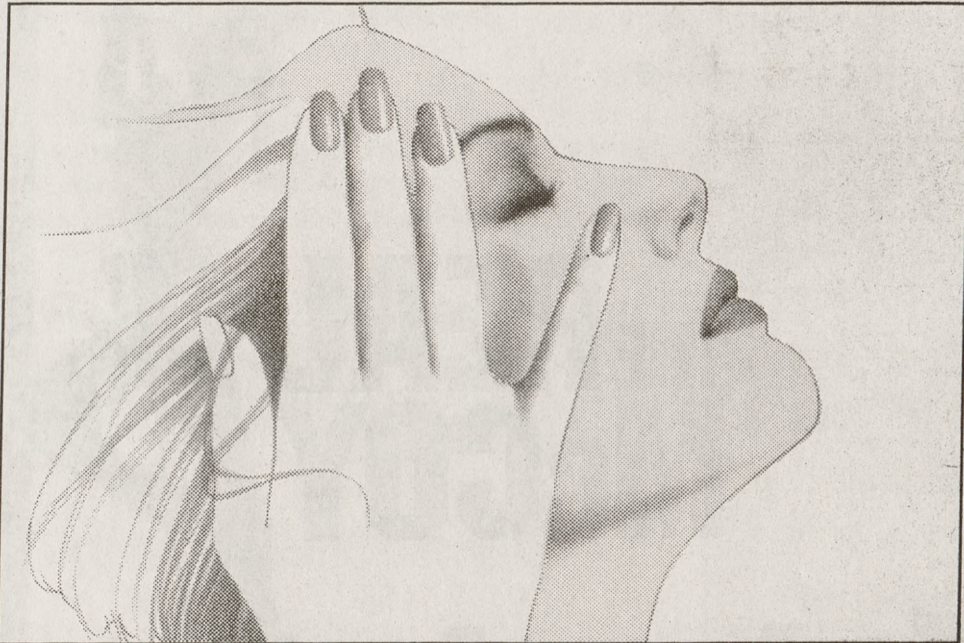
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INTERNATIONAL

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THE BATTALION

Tuesday, September 7, 1993

U.S. ambassador for Mexico causing stir on domestic issues

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The new U.S. ambassador has been front-page news for weeks — not particularly good, either — and he isn't even here yet.

After James R. Jones told the U.S. Senate he would be willing to pressure Mexico on such domestic issues as election fraud and government corruption, politicians and the press fretted that he would be an interventionist.

They have calmed down since, but intend to keep an eye on him. "We think the statements were

unfortunate," Mario del Valle Fernandez, a legislator from the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, told The Associated Press last week.

"For us, these are domestic issues, issues of sovereignty. Mr. Jones needs to respect us and listen to our point of view. And he needs to be careful what he says."

Mexico's relations with American ambassadors often have been difficult. Jones says he will be different, but he may have to prove it.

John Gavin, who once held the job, likened it to walking through a minefield.

In a telephone interview, Jones said the news reports did not bother him and that he would not interfere in Mexico's internal affairs.

He said his comment to Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., during his confirmation hearing in July was blown out of proportion by the Mexican press.

"Once the reporters get to know me and my way of operation, there won't be any problem," he said. Jones is scheduled to arrive in Mexico Tuesday to assume his new job overseeing Washington's largest diplomatic mission.

Ambush kills 7 soldiers, warlord to blame

The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The United Nations blamed an ambush that killed seven Nigerian soldiers on warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid, and a U.S. official said the attack demonstrated the need to quickly capture the fugitive leader.

The attack was the deadliest assault on U.N. peacekeepers in Somalia since June, when 24 Pakistani soldiers died.

Seven Nigerian soldiers and a U.S. diplomat were wounded Sunday. A Nigerian soldier was also missing.

The Nigerian commander accused the Italian U.N. contingent of not coming to his soldiers' aid.

Later Sunday, Somali fighters fired on a U.N. airfield, and American troops in helicopters responded by attacking the Somali mortar position with cannons and rockets, a U.N. spokesman in Mogadishu said.

Spokesman Maj. David Stockwell said he knew of no Somali or U.N. casualties.

He said the Somali fighters took cover in a nearby building used as a hospital, and the U.N. forces held their fire.

The seven Nigerians were killed as they went to the aid of other U.N. peacekeepers surrounded by a mob of stone-throwing Somalis.

Capt. Tim McDavitt, a U.N. military spokesman, said the platoon of Nigerian soldiers returned fire for at least half an hour, but it was not known if there

were any Somali casualties.

Somali bystanders said at least 30 of their countrymen were killed or wounded.

McDavitt said that in addition to the seven Nigerians killed and seven wounded, one was missing, Somali bystanders said one Nigerian, a sergeant, had been captured.

An unidentified American diplomat attached to the U.S. liaison office in Mogadishu was shot in the chest after he and five colleagues apparently stumbled onto the ambush, the official said.

The diplomat was later listed in fair to good condition at an American military hospital.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali deplored the deaths, and said they demonstrated "the urgent need" to disarm all of Somalia's factions.

Retired Adm. Jonathan Howe, the U.N. special envoy to Somalia, called the ambush a "wanton, unprovoked and premeditated attack" and blamed it on Aidid.

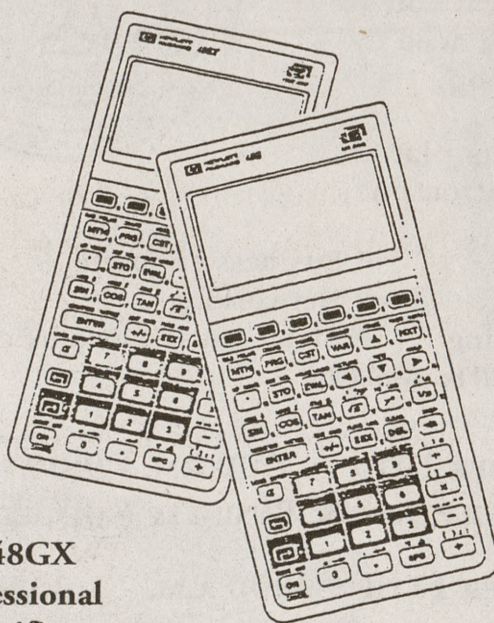
Robert Gosende, the U.S. special representative in Somalia, said the attack emphasized the need to quickly capture Aidid, who has been waging an urban guerrilla war against the United Nations for months.

The commander of Nigerian forces in Somalia, Lt. Col. Ola Oyinlolo, heatedly accused Italian troops of not coming to the aid of his soldiers, underscoring divisions within the 29-nation U.N. force.

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