

## NEWSREEL REWINDING

2001

Twenty Arab terrorists were arrested by agents of the Palestinian Authority and confessed to having plotted to destroy several government buildings in the United States by flying fuel-laden airplanes into them. The arrests were part of an agreement made by Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, newly elected President of the State of Palestine, with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to crack down on terrorism in return for the dismantling of Jewish settlements. Among those world leaders to welcome the arrests were U.S. President Al Gore and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev.

1992

Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev conceded defeat today after narrowly losing an election to opposition leader Boris Yeltsin despite his decisive handling of an attempted coup by members of his own Party. "The people wanted a change," said Premier Gorbachev, "but once they have seen the economic hardships the capitalist system inflicts on them, they will vote us back into power."

In other developments, negotiations are under way to hammer out the final details of the power-sharing agreements arranged by the United Nations between the Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda, the Serbs, Croats and Muslims in Yugoslavia and the Communists and Muslims in Afghanistan. The success of these negotiations is further indication of the vital role played by the United Nations in maintaining world peace.

1980

U.S. President Jimmy Carter was returned to office by a landslide victory thanks to his peaceful resolution of the Iran hostage crisis. First to congratulate him was Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, whose decision not to invade Afghanistan was seen as another factor in President Carter's reelection.

In other developments, Sweden overtook the United States this year as the country with the world's highest living standard. Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme modestly refused to accept the credit for his country's success. "Our people realize that they have to work hard despite the temptation to shirk offered by the social safety net if they want to continue to enjoy its benefits," he said.

1974

Gloria Steinem attributed the success of the feminist movement in achieving its goals to the decision of large numbers of women around the world to select men who are sympathetic to their goals. "It's a lesson we learned from the civil rights movement," she said. "The majority of Afro-Americans are following Martin Luther King's advice to accept all those who are sympathetic to their goals, whatever their skin colour, and it's working for them; so we decided to follow their example."

1969

Czechoslovakian President Alexander Dubcek agreed to allow opposition parties to contest elections. This move was welcomed by newly elected U.S. President George McGovern and reluctantly accepted by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Soviet dissidents Daniel and Sinyavski spoke on Soviet television, exhorting their Premier to follow the Czechoslovakian example.

1956

Hungary's reformist Premier Imre Nagy is slowly regaining control of his country. Since his accession to power, Western leaders have been urging the rebels to use non-violent tactics to press him to continue instituting reforms, and most of them seem to be listening. For his part, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev expressed his hope that Hungary would remain in the Socialist camp, but added, "The Socialist camp gained another member with the election of Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam after the Americans persuaded their puppet Ngo Dinh Diem to allow the election to take place; so if Hungary drops out, well, you win some, you lose some."

In other developments, negotiations are under way between Britain and Egypt for a peaceful resolution of the Suez Canal crisis.

1950

Maverick Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy demanded that Congress create a Committee to investigate unAmerican activities and that the Communist Party be outlawed. Republicans and Democrats alike rejected his demands on the grounds that such repressive measures would leave America in no position to lecture other countries about freedom and that the Communist Party has often called upon the Soviet Union to legalize opposition Parties.

1945

U.S. President Henry Wallace announced the successful testing of an atomic bomb. "The next step will be controlled fission," he said, "which will be used to provide the world with a source of energy that is less polluting than coal or even oil."

Among those world leaders to congratulate the United States were Soviet Premier Nikolai Bukharin, German Chancellor Ernst Thälmann and Japanese Emperor Hirohito. "This development vindicates my decision not to attack Pearl Harbor," said the Japanese Emperor. Other sources suggest that his decision was guided at least in part by the electoral defeat of Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini and the military defeat of Generalissimo Francisco Franco at the hands of the Spanish Republicans aided by both the Soviet Union and the West.

1932

The governing Socialist-Communist coalition beat back an attempted power grab by right-wing parties led by Franz von Papen's conservative DNVP and Adolph Hitler's Nazis in elections held in Germany today. The first among many world leaders to congratulate them was Soviet Premier Nikolai Bukharin, who had urged the German Communist Party to form a united front with the Socialists. Their victory was also greeted with immense relief by Jews around the world, who had been alarmed by the increasing anti-Semitism shown by the Nazis.

1924

Nikolai Bukharin has taken control of the Russian Social Democratic Party, defeating his nearest rival Joseph Stalin. He attributed his victory to the decision of the Party not to split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks and of the Western powers not to intervene in the Civil War that followed the Revolution, and promised to continue with the New Economic Plan conceived by his predecessor Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. He also vowed to carry on Lenin's policies of making health care and education accessible to the masses and combatting unemployment and anti-Semitism but to ease up on repression now that the class enemy has been defeated. "In this way we will be able to set an example that will be attractive even to workers who have been seduced by the pretensions of bourgeois democracy," he said.

1915

Professor Albert Einstein claims to have been contacted by aliens and briefed on their latest advances in theoretical physics. "They also told me that they had been observing us for centuries," he added, "and had become so alarmed by our World War that they decided to use their technology to make us Earthlings act more rationally."