

Poorest nations suffer blows, World Bank says Gulf crisis adds to economic hardships

WASHINGTON — The world's poorest nations suffered financial setbacks last year, compounded by the economic shocks from the Persian Gulf crisis, the World Bank said Sunday.

In its annual report, the 155-nation lending agency said overall economic growth in the Third World edged up 2.3 percent in 1990, the worst showing since 1982.

The situation was even more dire when the weak growth was measured against population increases in the developing nations, the report said.

Per capita income rose just 0.2

percent in 1990, compared to gains of 2 percent in 1988 and 1 percent in 1989 in the Third World.

The poor economic showing was blamed on many factors, including the spillover from the economic slowdown in rich industrial countries and a slowdown in the growth of world trade.

But the report said many of the shocks came from the turmoil associated with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which sent oil prices soaring, disrupted trade flows and triggered a flood of refugees from the war zone.

Broadcast Station Seized



Georgian opposition seizes TV station

MOSCOW — Renegade troops and armed opponents of Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia seized a government broadcast station Sunday in a widening conflict the president is calling a coup attempt.

Later Sunday, Gamsakhurdia reportedly met with a parliamentary opposition leader in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi in an effort to end the crisis that has left at least 41 people injured.

But no agreement was reported, and Gamsakhurdia kept up appeals over a clandestine television channel

for supporters to defend him against "the pseudo-opposition that is preparing an attack on parliament and the legally elected government," the Georgian mission in Moscow reported.

Critics have called repeatedly for Gamsakhurdia to resign, and opposition leaders who seized the government radio and television center were demanding air time.

But power to the building was cut Sunday, and Prime Minister Bessarion Gugushvili told the Russian government news agency that Gamsakhurdia "cannot satisfy the illegal demands being presented to him."

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Canada's prime minister aims to appease Quebec

TORONTO — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney takes his best shot at keeping Quebec in Canada this week when he announces proposed constitutional changes aimed at appeasing the French-speaking province.

Quebec wants the constitution to recognize it as a "distinct society" and will hold a referendum on sovereignty next year if its demands are not met.

Mulroney promises that his proposals "will be the beginning of the process and not the end." They are to be presented to Parliament on Tuesday.

The Meech Lake accords, an earlier attempt to appease Quebec, collapsed last summer, spurring a new rise in Quebec nationalism and the feeling among many Quebecers that they had been rejected by English Canada.

Quebec, which has about 7 million of Canada's 26 million people, believes that its French language and culture are threatened by the sea of

English speakers on all sides. The province already has its own legal system based on the Napoleonic code and laws making French the only official language.

Quebec refused to sign the 1982 constitution, although the province is still covered by its provisions. The federal government has spent much of the past decade trying to woo Quebec back into the fold.

Although many issues are involved, Canadians outside Quebec are most disturbed about the demand for "distinct society" status.

"They fear that the word 'distinct' would be interpreted as meaning superior, and that such a definition would make them inferior," said Joe Clark, a former prime minister who now is Mulroney's minister for constitutional affairs.

Details of Mulroney's plan have not been disclosed, but Clark said in a speech last week that they would include giving Quebec this special status.

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A.S.U.N.	\$2.67
Daily Nebraskan	\$0.98
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