

World NEWS

Agence France-Presse



Asian economic turmoil triggers global unrest. In October, Hong Kong's stock market crashes. Asian countries receive billions in bailout dollars from the International Monetary Fund.

Hong Kong reverts to China at 12:01 a.m., July 1, after 156 years of British colonial rule. China says Hong Kong will continue its Western way of life and free-market economy.

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A 15-day school strike in Ontario, Canada, affects 2.1 million students. Late in October, 128,000 teachers walk out to protest a controversial bill that would alter educational funding and centralize government control of education.

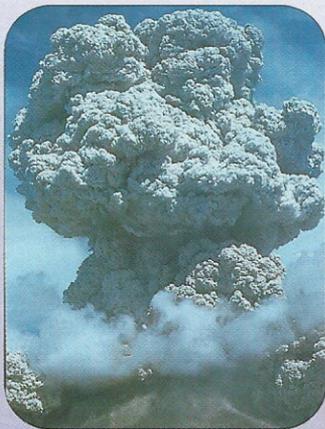


Reuters/Archive Photos



AP/Wide World

Powerful earthquakes in central Italy kill 11 people and damage art treasures, including centuries-old frescoes by Italian Renaissance painters, in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.



Savino, Sipa

Montserrat, once called "the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean," is devastated by ongoing eruptions from a volcano that had been dormant for 400 years. Two-thirds of the populace evacuates.

flash

Change sweeps Great Britain as Labor Party leader Tony Blair's landslide election in May 1997 ousts the Conservatives and makes Blair, at 44, Britain's youngest prime minister in 185 years.

Hurricane Pauline slams into Mexico's Pacific coast in October, causing flash floods, landslides and at least 200 fatalities.

The resort city of Acapulco is heavily damaged.



Reuters/Archive Photos

Halloween fever seizes France. At the base of the Eiffel Tower in Paris 8,000 pumpkins are displayed, and French children participate in an American-style Halloween celebration.

Jan 1, 2000

Governments and businesses worldwide race to remedy the "Year 2000" problem. Unless key computer systems are reprogrammed to recognize dates in the new century the world faces the threat of catastrophic failure in critical areas like banking, air safety, public utilities and defense.

Archive Photos



The remains of Ernesto "Che" Guevara, martyred Marxist revolutionary, are laid to rest in Cuba in October, 30 years after his execution in Bolivia, where his bones recently had been found.

AP/Wide World



After 32 years of autocratic rule, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire is deposed in May 1997 and later dies in exile. His successor, Laurent Kabila, changes Zaire's name to Democratic Republic of the Congo.