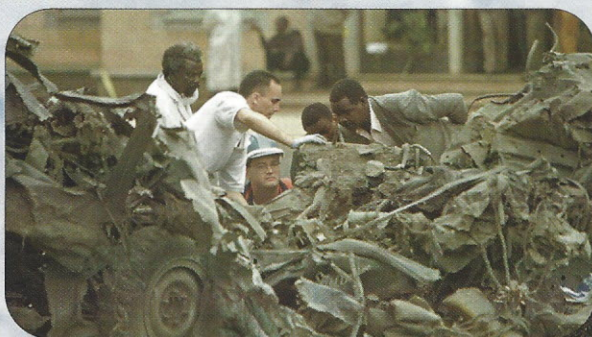
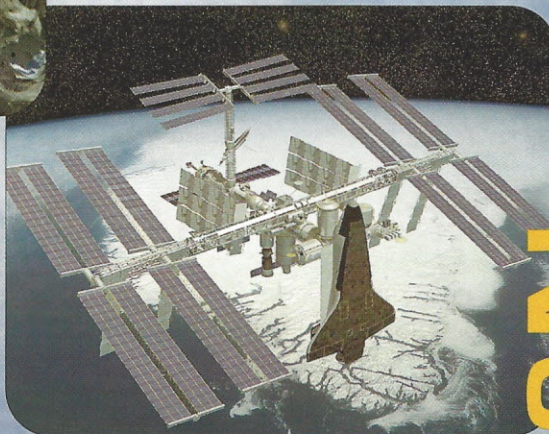


On August 7, powerful bombs explode outside the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killing 248 people, including 12 Americans, and injuring more than 5,000.



AP Photo/John McConnico

NASA and Russia will conduct 45 missions to launch and assemble the International Space Station *Alpha*. Set for completion by 2004, the station will be powered by almost an acre of solar panels and will weigh almost one million pounds.



NASA



The remains of Czar Nicholas II and his family, killed in 1918 in Central Russia and buried in a mass grave, are exhumed and laid to rest in St. Petersburg.

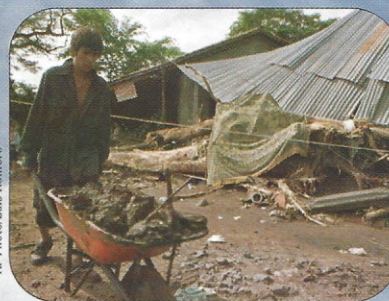


The worst summer flooding in China since 1954 kills 3,000 people, destroys 17 million homes and affects one-fifth of the country's population.



Gary Hershorn/Reuters

President Clinton becomes the first U.S. leader to visit China since the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. Many criticize Clinton for his apparent leniency toward China's human rights restrictions.



AP Photo/Luis Romero

Hurricane Mitch ravages parts of Central America and kills more than 10,000 people, making it the second deadliest storm in the region's history.

After months of negotiations, Swiss banks and Jewish groups reach a \$1.25 billion settlement in a lawsuit filed by thousands of Holocaust survivors to recover lost savings.



Mark Ganger/Corbis



AP Photo/European Union

On January 1, 1999, the euro debuts as the new currency in 11 European Common Market countries. It will be three more years before euro coins and cash are officially put into circulation.

Flash

John Hume and David Trimble, Northern Ireland's two main political party leaders, win the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end the violence that has plagued the British province for three decades.

After a stop in Mexico City in January 1999, Pope John Paul II arrives in St. Louis, Missouri, and celebrates Mass with over 100,000 people in attendance.

In January 1999, an earthquake that measures 6.0 on the Richter scale hits Colombia killing over 1,000 people.

King Hussein of Jordan, 63, dies on February 7, 1999, of lymphatic cancer. Hussein's 47-year reign made him the Middle East's longest-serving leader.