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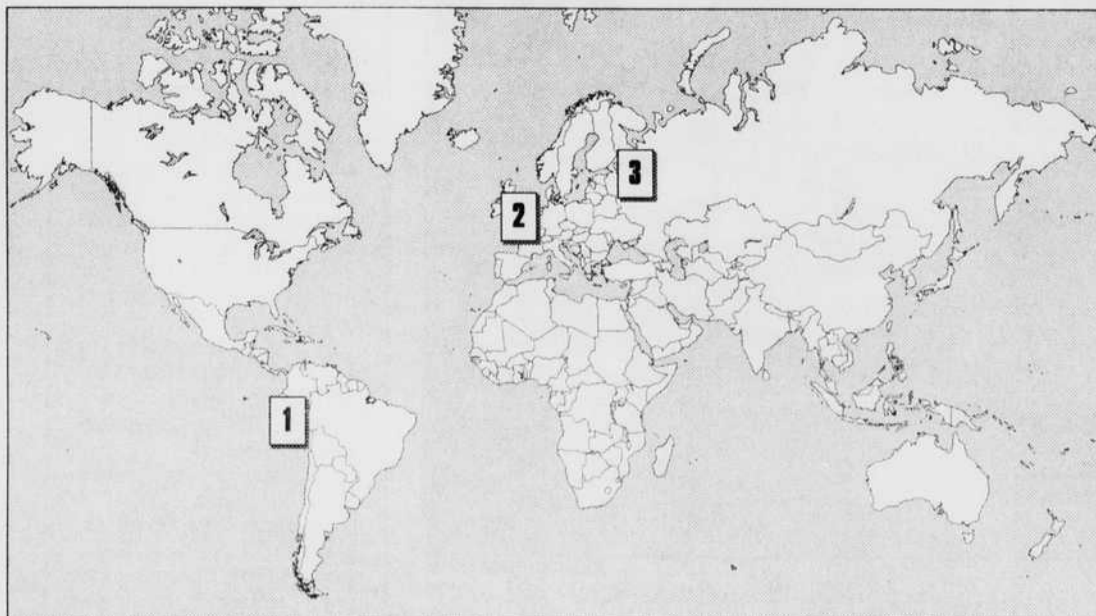
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## WORLD BRIEFS



### Peru, Ecuador try to solve land dispute

**1** LIMA, Peru — International mediators have failed to resolve a standoff between Peruvian and Ecuadorean troops in a stretch of disputed territory near where the Andean neighbors fought a brief war in 1995.

But representatives of the United States, Brazil, Chile and Argentina — who met in Ecuador's capital, Quito, on Sunday to try to broker a deal — said they would try again.

"The dialogue is not broken," said Hugo de Zela Martinez, spokesman for the Peruvian delegation.

Peru is willing to resume the talks with Ecuador's new president, Jamil Mahuad, who took office Monday, a Peruvian Foreign Ministry communique said.

On Sunday, Mahuad asked former President Carter to help mediate the conflict. Carter, who is in the United States, has not said if he will accept the offer.

The latest flare-up in the long-running dispute between Peru and Ecuador over 49 miles of unmarked border began Thursday, when Peru charged that Ecuadorean troops had entered its territory. Ecuador denies it.

Peru and Ecuador fought brief border wars in 1941, 1981 and 1995, but had appeared set to negotiate a resolution to the dispute.

### Scientific tests prove meteorite from Mars

**2** LONDON — A meteorite discovered in the Sahara Desert was positively identified Monday as originating from Mars, British scientists said.

Out of 20,000 found worldwide, the 4.8-pound rock is only the 13th meteorite proven to be from the red planet.

Meteorite experts hope this latest discovery, called Lucky 13, will tell scientists more about environmental conditions on Mars and aid in the search for evidence of life on the planet.

"This is another piece in the jigsaw puzzle," said Colin Pillinger, a space scientist at the Planetary Sciences Research Institute in Milton Keynes, 50 miles northwest of London. "And this particular meteorite is exciting because it seems to be from a different formation and possibly a different age than the others."

The meteorite's age is not yet known. But Pillinger said it left Mars at least a million years ago, when a comet or asteroid smashed into the planet's surface. After drifting through space, the meteorite eventually crashed onto Earth, where it probably lay undiscovered in the desert for about 40,000 years, Pillinger said.

Other Martian meteorites have been found to be 4.5 billion years old.

### Stones play Russia for the first time

**3** MOSCOW — The Rolling Stones may be one of rock 'n' roll's hardest bands, but their Russian fans — who've waited 31 years to hear them perform in Moscow — are harder.

"Better late than never," Keith Richards quipped at a news conference Monday.

The four middle-aged rockers play their first Russian concert in Moscow's Luzhniki sports stadium on Tuesday, three decades after they first applied for permission.

The problem, band leader Mick Jagger said, was "entirely political."

In 1967, the Soviets sent officials to watch the Stones play a concert in Warsaw, Poland, which the band hoped would win them permission to play in Moscow.

But unlike the Polish fans, the Soviet officials didn't like what they saw.

"They thought the show was so awful, so decadent, that they said this show would never happen in Moscow," Jagger said.

"We're thankful to be here at last," he added.

The long-lived rock stars are 11 months into their "Bridges to Babylon" tour, which will include 90 concerts in 20 countries.

Jagger said he's not sure what to expect from Russian concertgoers.

## Brush fires near Gorge still burn

*The Associated Press*

**THE DALLES** — A fire in the Columbia River Gorge was about 60 percent contained Monday after forcing temporary closure of Interstate 84 a day earlier.

In all, weekend fires blackened about 30,000 acres in Oregon.

The Gorge fire began Sunday near Rowena, about 10 miles northwest of The Dalles. It had burned about 1,000 acres of grass, brush and some scattered timber, said Mike Fitzpatrick of the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland.

Oregon State Highway 30, the Historic Columbia Highway, remained closed between Rowena and the Dalles.

Most of the 500 Rowena-area residents evacuated Sunday were back home Monday.

About 200 firefighters were assigned to the fire Sunday. Twenty-four more from Portland and Gresham joined them on Monday afternoon.

Firemen called in air tankers and water-dropping helicopters, while fire engines were at the ready in case of structural fires.

Nobody has been injured and no structures have been damaged.

The cause was under investigation, but similar fires in the past resulted from motorists who threw burning cigarettes out of their car windows, said Randy Parr of the Oregon Emergency Management Division.

In central Oregon, a fire that began Saturday afternoon near Clarno remained at about 8,000 acres of grass and juniper Monday as firefighters worked to keep it away from the Muddy Ranch complex, the former Rancho Rajneesh compound near Antelope. It was 25 percent contained.

The former compound is now a Christian youth camp.

In southeastern Oregon, firefighters were trying to contain a 21,000-acre brush fire near the popular Steens Mountain recreation area.

More than 150 firefighters were at the blaze in Harney County, said Mark Armstrong, a U.S. Bureau of Land Management spokesman.

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