

Where there's smoke, there's smoke

Much to the annoyance of tobacco-free diplomats, the U.N. Security Council can often turn into a world-class smoke-filled room. With international envoys wrangling over Zaire or the American veto of Secretary General **Boutros Boutros-Ghali's** bid for a second term, the Security Council has been meeting almost daily—and churning out an excess of secondhand smoke. To clear the air, atmospherically if not politically, a number of nonsmoking diplomats are trying, well, diplomatically, to get their colleagues to put out their cigars and cigarettes. But at the U.N., a simple solution is rarely as attractive as more complicated alternatives. Instead of calling for outright sanctions, the World Health Organization, a U.N. agency, can only urge that smoking be prohibited in U.N. buildings. Still, with rising complaints from nonsmokers, the world body has taken what it considers action. Not content with the standard no-smoking symbol of a red slash over a burning cigarette, a sign has been posted in the Security Council chambers that reads: "Smoking discouraged." In an apparent effort to soften even this blow, the sign measures only 2 inches by 10 inches—about as direct as civil servants in charge of house-keeping for the organization can get in pressuring often imperious diplomats to stash their tobacco. The result is an air of resignation about the dangers from secondhand smoke. Sighs one nonsmoking envoy: "We may have diplomatic immunity, but not bodily immunity."

PAYING HOMAGE

The heavy Hispanic turnout that helped propel **President Clinton** to victory in Florida, California and Arizona may well help boost **Maria Echaveste**—the daughter of immigrant Mexican farm workers—into the top job at the Labor Department, replacing **Robert Reich**,



who is returning to Boston. Not only is the administration keen to repay the Hispanic community for its electoral support, it would like to keep at least one Hispanic in the cabinet now that both **Henry Cisneros**, secretary of housing and urban development, and **Federico Peña**, secretary of transportation, are leaving. As head of the department's wage and hour division, Echaveste, a former bankruptcy lawyer who was national Latino coordinator for the 1992 Clinton campaign, currently oversees programs ranging from enforcing fair-pay standards in garment sweatshops to ensuring compliance with the Family and Medical Leave Act. But some U.S. apparel makers, who applaud her efforts against sweatshops,

worry that as the offspring of migrant workers, she might shrink from getting tough with illegal garment shops because of the impact on undocumented immigrant workers. If opposition to Echaveste proves too strong, the administration may yet opt for another candidate for secretary, despite her obvious appeal as a woman, a minority and an activist. High on the list of alternatives: **Harris Wofford**, former Pennsylvania senator who impressed the White House with his strong support for health care reform during Clinton's first term.

DEEP DARK SECRETS

Iran is apparently going deep underground to keep its nuclear weapons development program hidden from the world. According to European-based intelligence sources, the Iranians are attempting to build a network of mine shafts several

FAULT LINES

California Republican Party Chairman **John Herrington** is running into resistance in his own back yard in his effort to become chairman of the national committee. A majority of the state party's board of directors, says a well-

wired source, is poised to issue a vote of no confidence in Herrington if it looks like he has a good shot at the national chairmanship. Among its gripes: Herrington's heavy-handed leadership. "The members of the board were completely kept in the dark on many decisions," says **Bok Pon**, the GOP state party's northern vice chairman. "If he goes to the national party it will be the same." Perhaps more damaging, these leaders blame Herrington for the Republican's poor showing statewide in last month's elections by, among other things, failing to create a successful get-out-the-vote program. Three Congressional Republicans, including nine-term Congressman **Bob Dornan**, were defeated and the party lost control of the state Assembly only two years after winning a majority for the first time in 25 years. Herrington could not be reached for comment.