carriages on the open road. try. Reuter born on Saturday on the side of the road.

No one listening as morse code sinks without trace

New York

THE US Coast Guard has turned off its Morse code equipment after nearly a century of monitoring telegraph distress calls such as the Titanic's 1912 collision with an iceberg.

The reason: "Modern technology", said Jim Wren, a Coast Guard master chief who has been a radioman for 23 years. "We've just found more rapid and secure ways of communicating."

But as the equipment was shut off at the weekend, some veteran radiomen complained that satellites and automatic navigation beacons don't have the same personal touch as the keyed dots and dashes the Coast Guard has sent and received since the early 1900s.

"It's the human touch," says Petty Officer Tony Turner, a 10-year radioman at the Coast Guard's Atlantic Communications Station in Chesapeake. "It's coming from a person's hand, through the air, into another man's ear — and there's no language barrier."

"I'm not real excited about this," Wren said. "It's a sad moment."

A group of local radio operators gathered at the Chesapeake station to bid farewell to the familiar clicks and clacks that carried news about ocean storms, ship arrivals and departures and sea emergencies.

The Coast Guard received only two morse SOS calls at all of its communication centres during 1994, and none so far this year, Mr Montoya said.

AP

on supposed plots against Islam from the West.

For example, Jordanian delegate Laith Shibailat told the meeting that the ozone hole was a myth created to make Muslims use less fuel in industrialising while the West continues to dominate the world economy.

Shibailat also railed at everything from financial institutions such as the World Bank to Pepsi Cola as part of the conspiracy intended to undermine Islamic culture.

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IN BRIEF

Trade Centre bomb links

SIX Arabs were arrested and a large quantity of weapons and explosives seized in a raid on an apartment in a Manila suburb, police said yesterday. Police linked them to defendants in the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing in New York. Earlier, police said a Pakistani businessman suspected of ties to the alleged mastermind of the New York City bombing also had been arrested.

Ramos retreats

PRESIDENT Fidel Ramos as rowed back on his threat to break ties with Singapore and said he was studying "other options" to settle an explosive row over the hanging of a Filipina maid.

Cult's nuclear interest

THE secretive cult being investigated in connection with nerve gas attacks in Tokyo may also have been trying to develop germ and nuclear weapons, news reports in Tokyo said yesterday. Police searching a follower who fled the Aum Shinri Kyo's facilities after the gas attacks found a secret document on uranium enrichment.

Taiwan backs off Spratlys

TAIWAN has called off its gunboat patrol to the

ANZ Indicator Rates

Cash Management Account

(Effective from 3/4/95)	Nominal Rate p.a.	Effective Rate p.a.
$100,000 and over	6.35%	6.54%
$50,000 to $99,999	5.90%	6.06%
$20,000 to $49,999	5.75%	5.90%
$5,000 to $19,999	3.25%	3.30%
$2,000 to $4,999	2.00%	2.02%

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