

News in brief

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Fabius offers to stand trial on Aids claim

THE leader of France's ruling Socialist Party, Laurent Fabius, yesterday asked parliament to indict him at a special session on Sunday for his alleged role in Aids-tainted blood transfusions.

Mr Fabius, prime minister in 1985 when more than 1,200 haemophiliacs were contaminated by blood transfusions, was widely criticised for trying to avoid a trial.

His statement followed a day of outrage among haemophiliacs after the party blocked parliamentary moves to bring the social affairs and health ministers, Georgina Dufoix and Edmond Herve, to trial.

The outcry was a severe blow to the socialists three months before elections. — Reuter.