

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	re: Trade Minister on Lamb. (3 pages)	08/27/1999	P1/b(1)
002. cable	re: China WTO Accession. (4 pages)	09/01/1999	P1/b(1)
003. cable	re: The President's Meeting with Jiang Zemin. (2 pages)	09/02/1999	P1/b(1)
004. cable	re: China/WTO. (5 pages)	10/28/1999	P1/b(1)
005. cable	re: Treasury Secretary. (13 pages)	10/29/1999	P1/b(1)
006. cable	re: Presidential Letter. (6 pages)	11/03/1999	P1/b(1)
007. cable	re: Political Dimensions. (6 pages)	11/22/1999	P1/b(1)
008. cable	re: Saudi WTO. (3 pages)	11/23/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([China, WTO, Barshefsky, Kantor])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/27/1999-12/01/1999]

2010-1024-F

vz1896

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/27/1999-12/01/1999]

2010-1024-F
vz1896

RESTRICTION CODES

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Clinton Presidential Records
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OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

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004. cable	re: China/WTO. (5 pages)	10/28/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([China, WTO, Barshefsky, Kantor])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/27/1999-12/01/1999]

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBJA0147 3020920-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 290920Z OCT 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
OSRI: RUEHBJ
DTG: 290920Z OCT 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8181
INFO: RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 0756
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 0030
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 8976
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0461
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 2317
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2410
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR REGIONAL INTERACTIVE ON THE
UPCOMING WTO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SEATTLE

TEXT:
UNCLAS BEIJING 010147

STATE PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY/CASSIDY/LUND
STATE FOR: PA/PI/OBS/P, EAP/CM, EAP/PD, EB/TPP/BTA/ODC
GENEVA FOR TAGLIANI

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, ECON, WTRO, USTR, CH
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REGIONAL INTERACTIVE ON THE
UPCOMING WTO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SEATTLE

1. POST REQUESTS A LATE NOVEMBER REGIONAL INTERACTIVE
PRIOR TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION MINISTERIAL
MEETING FOCUSING ON THE EVENT AND OUTLINING U.S.
OBJECTIVES.

2. AS IS TRUE IN MANY COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,
THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN CHINA IN THE
UPCOMING SEATTLE MEETING. WHETHER OR NOT CHINA ACTUALLY
ENTERS THE WTO ON THIS ROUND, INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION
ENSURES THAT THERE WOULD BE A MOTIVATED AUDIENCE FOR A
PROGRAM ON WTO ISSUES. SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD PROVIDE AN
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A KNOWLEDGEABLE AMERICAN
TRADE OFFICIAL TO ARTICULATE THE U.S. GOALS AND
PRIORITIES FOR BOTH THE MINISTERIAL AND EXPECTED
UPCOMING ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE REGIONAL FORMAT
WOULD ALSO UNDERLINE TO CHINESE AUDIENCES, WHO
FREQUENTLY VIEW WTO AS A U.S.-CHINA BILATERAL ISSUE,
THE GLOBAL NATURE OF WTO ACTIVITIES.

3. THE IDEAL GUEST FOR THIS PROGRAM WOULD BE AN ADMINISTRATION TRADE OR ECONOMIC OFFICIAL ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING MINISTERIAL WHO COULD SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY ON U.S. PRIORITIES FOR THIS EVENT.

4. POST PREFERS THAT THIS PROGRAM BE IN THE TRADITIONAL QUESTION-AND-ANSWER FORMAT. HOWEVER, WE DO HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE SOME TIME FOR LOCAL PARTICIPANTS TO BRIEFLY SHARE THEIR VIEWS WITH FELLOW INTERLOCUTORS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. CHINESE TELEVISION STATIONS HAVE RECENTLY SHOWN GREATER INTEREST IN USING INTERACTIVE FOOTAGE ON THEIR NEWS PROGRAMS. EXCERPTS FROM BOTH OF THE RECENT DIALOGUES ON APEC AND Y2K WERE USED BY BOTH BEIJING TV AND XINHUA NEWS AGENCY'S AUDIO-VISUAL DEPARTMENT. WHILE THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES IN CHINA, THERE IS AN VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT SOME FOOTAGE FROM THIS DIALOGUE COULD BE REBROADCAST AS WELL.

6. POST IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DIALOUGE ANY TIME IN THE SECOND HALF OF NOVEMBER. THE ACTUAL DATE CAN BE SELECTED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE WASHINGTON GUEST. PROGRAM OFFICER FOR THIS WORLDNET WILL BE AIO/E LISA HELLER. SHE CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE AT 8610-6532-1161, EXT. 7144(O), 8610-6532-1476 (H) OR 8610-6532-2951 (FAX). POST LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE PRODUCTIONS UNIT ON THIS PROGRAM.
MCCAHILL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0147

TOR: 991029055447 M4123670

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. cable	re: Treasury Secretary. (13 pages)	10/29/1999	P1/b(1)

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006. cable	re: Presidential Letter. (6 pages)	11/03/1999	P1/b(1)

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NSC Cables
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OA/Box Number: 530000

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHBJA0477 3130928-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 090928Z NOV 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
OSRI: RUEHBJ
DTG: 090928Z NOV 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8539
INFO: RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR 1122
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0136
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1311
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT 0162
RUEHPL/AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS 0055
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0131
RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 0932
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 9150
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 0209
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0538
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 7029
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 2470
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5202
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SUBJ: NOVEMBER 9 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: USTR IN WTO
TALKS, FALUNGONG, TAIWAN, HONG KONG HUMAN RIGHTS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 010477

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/PA
CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, ETRD, WTRO, PHUM, CH, MO
SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 9 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: USTR IN WTO
TALKS, FALUNGONG, TAIWAN, HONG KONG HUMAN RIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: MFA SPOKESPERSON ZHANG QIYUE ON NOVEMBER 9 SAID THAT USTR CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY WOULD ARRIVE IN BEIJING TODAY FOR A ROUND OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON CHINA'S ACCESSION TO WTO. CHINA HAD MADE "SOLEMN REPRESENTATIONS" TO THE U.S. REGARDING AN IMMIGRATION COURT'S GRANTING ASYLUM TO A FALUNGONG PRACTITIONER, ZHANG SAID. ANTI-FALUNGONG STORIES IN THE MEDIA HAD CAUSED PRACTITIONERS TO LEAVE THE "CULT," ZHANG SAID, WHEN THEY REALIZED ITS "TRUE NATURE." THE CROSS-STRAIT DIALOGUE COULD NOT RESUME -- AND WANG DAOHAN COULD NOT VISIT TAIWAN -- UNTIL LEE TENG-HUI RETRACTED HIS "TWO-STATE THEORY," ZHANG SAID. THE PRESENTATION OF THE

FIRST REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONG KONG TO THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SHOWED THE "GREAT IMPORTANCE" CHINA GAVE TO THE ISSUE. THE MONGOLIAN PRIME MINISTER HAD JUST COMPLETED A WORKING VISIT TO CHINA DOMINATED BY ECONOMIC ISSUES, ZHANG SAID. ZHANG ANNOUNCED A VISIT BY LI PENG TO AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY.

USTR ARRIVING FOR TRADE TALKS

2. USTR CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY WOULD ARRIVE IN BEIJING NOVEMBER 9 FOR A NEW ROUND OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON CHINA'S ACCESSION TO WTO, ZHANG SAID. FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR THE TALKS, ZHANG REFERRED A REPORTER TO THE "RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS." ZHANG REPEATED THE STANDARD RHETORIC ABOUT CHINA'S WTO ACCESSION, REFERRING TO CHINA'S "POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND POSITIVE EFFORTS"; "BALANCE BETWEEN RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS"; "RECOGNITION AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY"; AND "THE INSTITUTIONAL LIMITS TO THE TERMS CHINA COULD AGREE TO." ZHANG SAID THAT CHINA HOPED THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT, AND ALSO HOPED "THE PARTIES CONCERNED WOULD ADOPT A PRAGMATIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE IN TALKS WITH CHINA." AS FOR PENDING TALKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES REGARDING WTO ACCESSION, ZHANG SAID SHE HAD NO NEW INFORMATION.

FALUNGONG: ASYLEE IN U.S.

3. ZHANG SAID CHINA HAD MADE "SOLEMN REPRESENTATIONS" TO THE UNITED STATES ASKING IT TO "CORRECT THE ERRONEOUS ACTS" OF THE IMMIGRATION COURT THAT GRANTED "SO-CALLED" POLITICAL ASYLUM TO A FALUNGONG PRACTITIONER. SHE ADDED THAT THE COURT HAD "DISREGARDED THE BASIC FACTS" AND THAT CHINA HAD ASKED THE U.S. "NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT INTERFERES IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS SO AS TO PREVENT CREATING NEW DIFFICULTIES IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS." CHINESE POLICY WAS TO PUNISH THE "SMALL NUMBER OF CRIMINALS THAT PLOTTED, ORGANIZED OR INSTIGATED TROUBLE," AND TO EDUCATE THE MAJORITY OF PRACTITIONERS, ZHANG EXPLAINED. SHE INSISTED THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS "PROSECUTING" THE PRACTITIONERS OF FALUNGONG. THIS WAS "A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THE DOUBLE-STANDARD ON THE QUESTION OF CULTS" ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES, SHE CONCLUDED.

FALUNGONG: MEASURES AGAINST PRACTITIONERS

4. ASKED WHAT MEASURES THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN TO "EDUCATE AND TRANSFORM" FALUNGONG PRACTITIONERS, ZHANG REPLIED THAT THE MEDIA HAD "PRESENTED FACTS SHOWING THAT FALUNGONG WAS A CULT" THAT HAD COMMITTED ILLEGAL ACTS. MOST PRACTITIONERS, SHE CONTINUED, HAD REALIZED THE "TRUE NATURE" OF FALUNGONG, AND AT THAT POINT HAD "DRAWN A LINE BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND

FALUNGONG" AND LEFT THE ORGANIZATION. ASKED BY THE BBC ABOUT A REPORT FROM HONG KONG THAT CLAIMED THAT 500 FALUNGONG PRACTITIONERS HAD BEEN SENT WITHOUT TRIAL TO ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION AND LABOR REEDUCATION, ZHANG SAID SHE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE REPORT.
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BEIJING 010477

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/PA
CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, ETRD, WTRO, PHUM, CH, MO
SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 9 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: USTR IN WTO TALKS, FALUNGONG, TAIWAN, HONG KONG HUMAN RIGHTS

CROSS-STRAITS DIALOGUE STILL ON HOLD

5. ONLY WHEN LEE TENG-HUI RETRACTED HIS "TWO-STATE THEORY," ZHANG SAID, WOULD THERE BE A RESUMPTION OF THE CROSS-STRAIT DIALOGUE AND A VISIT TO TAIWAN BY WANG DAOHAN. CHINA'S CONSISTENT POSITION HAD BEEN THAT THE TWO SIDES CARRY OUT POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA, BUT THE TWO-STATE THEORY HAD UNDERMINED THE BASIS OF CONTACTS AND DIALOGUE, ZHANG SAID.

REPORT ON HONG KONG HUMAN RIGHTS

6. PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS CONTINUED TO BE EFFECTIVE AND IMPLEMENTED IN THE HONG KONG SAR AFTER THE TAKEOVER, ZHANG SAID, EVEN THOUGH CHINA WAS NOT A PARTY TO IT. THE FIRST REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONG KONG THAT CHINA HAD PRESENTED TO THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WAS AUTHORED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ITSELF, ZHANG SAID, AND THIS SHOWED "THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN HONG KONG SAR." A DELEGATION FROM HONG KONG PARTICIPATED IN THE REVIEW OF THE REPORT AT THE U.N. COMMISSION ON NOVEMBER 1 AND 2, ZHANG ADDED.

VISIT OF MONGOLIAN PRIME MINISTER

7. THE MONGOLIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS IN CHINA ON A "COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL" WORKING VISIT FROM NOVEMBER 5-8, ZHANG SAID. THE PRESIDENT ATTENDED ACTIVITIES COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES, AND, DURING MEETINGS WITH JIANG ZEMIN, EXCHANGED VIEWS ON SINO-MONGOLIAN RELATIONS AND OTHER ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE TWO LEADERS "REACHED A BROAD CONSENSUS," ZHANG SAID. IN DISCUSSING THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, ZHANG SAID THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE ECONOMIES HAD

THEIR OWN STRONG POINTS AND ALSO A STRONG DEGREE OF COMPLEMENTARITY. THE MONGOLIAN PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO MAKE GREATER USE OF THE PORT OF TIANJIN IN CHINA TO TRANSSHIP MONGOLIAN GOODS, AND CHINA RECIPROCATED BY EXPRESSING ITS DESIRE TO PROVIDE "BETTER SERVICES FOR THIS PURPOSE," ZHANG EXPLAINED. ZHANG SAID THAT THE TWO SIDES ALSO REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISION OF AID TO MONGOLIA BY CHINA, AN ISSUE LEFT OVER FROM PRESIDENT JIANG'S VISIT TO MONGOLIA IN JULY OF THIS YEAR.

LI PENG TO AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

8. ZHANG ANNOUNCED THAT FROM NOVEMBER 15 TO DECEMBER 4, LI PENG WOULD VISIT MAURITIUS, SOUTH AFRICA, KENYA, ISRAEL, PALESTINE AND OMAN.

MCCAHILL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

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RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SUBJ: NOVEMBER 16 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: U.S.-CHINA WTO
AGREEMENT, TOKYO-TAIPEI TWINNING, KOFI ANNAN, FALUNGONG
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 010674

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/PA
DEPT PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY/CASSIDY/LUND
CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, ETRD, WTRO, PHUM, MARR, CH
SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 16 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: U.S.-CHINA WTO
AGREEMENT, TOKYO-TAIPEI TWINNING, KOFI ANNAN, FALUNGONG

1. SUMMARY: MFA SPOKESPERSON SUN YUXI ON NOVEMBER 16
CALLED THE U.S.-CHINA AGREEMENT ON CHINA'S ACCESSION TO
THE WTO OF "MAJOR PRACTICAL AND HISTORICAL
SIGNIFICANCE." CHINA HOPED THE U.S. WOULD GRANT IT
PERMANENT, NORMAL TRADING STATUS AT AN EARLY DATE.
CHINA'S POSITION ON TAIWAN FOLLOWING THE MAINLAND INTO
THE WTO REMAINED UNCHANGED, SUN SAID. HE EXPRESSED
"STRONG CONCERN" OVER A PROPOSAL FOR TOKYO AND TAIPEI TO
ESTABLISH SISTER CITY RELATIONS. SUN CLAIMED THAT
DURING MEETINGS IN BEIJING WITH CHINESE LEADERS, KOFI
ANNAN HAD EXPRESSED "UNDERSTANDING" OF CHINA'S POLICY
TOWARDS FALUNGONG. CHINA AND PORTUGAL WERE STILL
NEGOTIATING THE GUEST LIST FOR THE MACAU HANDOVER

CEREMONY, SUN SAID. SUN DENIED PLANS FOR CHINA TO PURCHASE AN EARLY WARNING AIRBORNE SYSTEM FROM ISRAEL. KAZAKHSTAN'S PRESIDENT WOULD VISIT CHINA NOVEMBER 23-27. END SUMMARY.

U.S.-CHINA WTO AGREEMENT

2. SUN GAVE FOUR REASONS WHY THE U.S.-CHINA BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO WAS OF "MAJOR PRACTICAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE." FIRST, IT WOULD FACILITATE CHINA'S ENTRANCE TO THE WTO. SECOND, IT WOULD FACILITATE "ALL-AROUND DEVELOPMENT" OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THIRD, IT WOULD FACILITATE THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. AND FOURTH, IT WOULD GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT CHINA WOULD ACCEDE, SUN SAID THAT "WE HAVE TO RESOLVE THIS AFTER WE CONCLUDE OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES." THE SPOKESPERSON CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT "AS LONG AS WE PROCEED FROM THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL ACCOMODATION, ALL QUESTIONS CAN BE RESOLVED." LATER, SUN SAID THAT DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS BOTH SIDES HAD "PROCEEDED FROM THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND MUTUAL ACCOMODATION, AND REACHED AGREEMENT."

3. ASKED TO COMMENT ON CHANCES THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD ACQUIESCE IN CHINA'S EXPRESSED HOPE TO JOIN WTO AS A FULL MEMBER, SUN NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD SAID IN TURKEY THAT HE WOULD TRY HIS BEST TO ATTAIN PERMANENT, NORMAL TRADING RELATIONS STATUS FOR CHINA. SUN ADDED ONLY THAT CHINA HOPED THE U.S. WOULD ACHIEVE THIS AT AN EARLY DATE. SUN REFERRED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON THE U.S.-CHINA WTO AGREEMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE.

WTO/TAIWAN

4. CHINA'S POSITION ON TAIWAN'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO WAS CONSISTENT, SUN SAID: TAIWAN COULD JOIN THE WTO AS A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY, BUT ONLY AFTER CHINA'S ACCESSION. MEMBERS OF THE WTO SHOULD ALL ABIDE BY THIS PRINCIPLE, SUN SAID. WHEN ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS WITHIN THE WTO FRAMEWORK, SUN REPLIED THAT FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN WTO MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE.

TAIPEI-TOKYO/SISTER CITIES

5. SUN EXPRESSED "STRONG CONCERN" OVER NEWS THAT THE MAYOR OF TOKYO HAD PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SISTER CITY RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI. BEIJING AND TOKYO HAD ESTABLISHED A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP ON THE BASIS OF THE SINO-JAPANESE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY, SUN SAID, AND THE EXISTENCE OF TAIPEI-TOKYO

SISTER CITY TIES WOULD UNDERMINE THE POLITICAL BASIS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN BEIJING AND TOKYO. SPECIFICALLY, SUN WENT ON, IT WOULD CONSTITUTE A "SERIOUS POLITICAL EVENT" AND UNDERMINE THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. CHINA WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY, SUN ADDED.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BEIJING 010674

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/PA
DEPT PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY/CASSIDY/LUND
CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, ETRD, WTRO, PHUM, MARR, CH

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 16 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: U.S.-CHINA WTO AGREEMENT, TOKYO-TAIPEI TWINNING, KOFI ANNAN, FALUNGONG

KOFI ANNAN IN CHINA -- FALUNGONG

6. DURING HIS VISIT TO CHINA, UN SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN WOULD MEET WITH CHINESE LEADERS, INCLUDING JIANG ZEMIN AND QIAN QICHEN, TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND UN REFORM. FM TANG JIAXUAN HAD MET WITH ANNAN ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 16, AND HAD HELD A PRESS BRIEFING AFTERWARDS.

7. DURING HIS MEETING WITH ANNAN, TANG EXPOUNDED THE POSITIONS AND MEASURES CHINA HAD TAKEN TOWARDS FALUNGONG, SUN SAID. ACCORDING TO SUN, "ANNAN HAD EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING TOWARDS THE MEASURES TAKEN BY CHINA."

FALUNGONG -- PROTESTER STRUCK BY CAR

8. ASKED TO COMMENT ON AN INCIDENT THAT MORNING IN TIANANMEN SQUARE WHERE A FALUNGONG DEMONSTRATOR WAS STRUCK BY A POLICE CAR, SUN REPEATED THE FAMILIAR LINE THAT ONLY THE "MASTERMINDS" BEHIND FALUNGONG'S CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE PUNISHED, WHILE THE MAJORITY OF ORDINARY PRACTITIONERS WOULD BE EDUCATED AND TRANSFORMED. THIS ISSUE HAD ALREADY BEEN UNDERSTOOD BY THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, SUN ASSERTED, INCLUDING BY SECRETARY GENERAL ANNAN HIMSELF.

MACAU HANDOVER CEREMONY

9. ASKED TO DESCRIBE PARTICIPATION IN THE MACAU HANDOVER CEREMONY BY PEOPLE FROM TAIWAN, SUN SAID THAT CHINA WAS STILL NEGOTIATING THE INVITATION LIST WITH PORTUGAL, AND HE COULD SAY NO MORE.

ISRAELI EARLY WARNING AIRBORN SYSTEM

10. SUN DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF PLANS FOR CHINA TO PURCHASE AN EARLY WARNING AIRBORNE SYSTEM FROM ISRAEL, EMPHASIZING THAT THERE WAS NO "DEFENSE COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

KAZAKH PRESIDENT TO VISIT

11. THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN WOULD VISIT CHINA NOVEMBER 23-27 FOR MEETINGS WITH CHINESE LEADERS, SUN ANNOUNCED. AFTER BEIJING, THE PRESIDENT WOULD ALSO TRAVEL TO HAINAN.

MCCAHILL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 2551

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5223

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SUBJ: NOVEMBER 18 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: DOD DAS

CAMPBELL VISIT, U.S.-CHINA WTO AGREEMENT, TMD

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 010745

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/PA

DEPT PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY/CASSIDY/LUND

ROME PASS VATICAN CITY

CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, ETRD, WTRO, MARR, CH

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 18 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: DOD DAS

CAMPBELL VISIT, U.S.-CHINA WTO AGREEMENT, TMD

1. SUMMARY: MFA SPOKESPERSON SUN YUXI ON NOVEMBER 18 SAID THAT CHINA HOPED THE U.S. WOULD WORK TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE RESUMPTION OF MIL-MIL EXCHANGES. DOD DAS KURT CAMPBELL WOULD BE IN CHINA AS A GUEST OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, SUN SAID, AND WOULD MEET WITH CHINESE MILITARY OFFICERS. IN ONE BREATH SUN CLAIMED THE WTO AGREEMENT INDICATED THAT THE U.S. AND CHINA COULD WORK "HAND IN HAND" ON MAJOR ISSUES, WHILE IN THE NEXT HE ASSERTED THAT ONLY AFTER THE U.S. HAD GIVEN CHINA AN "ACCEPTABLE EXPLANATION" FOR THE BELGRADE BOMBING WOULD RELATIONS DEVELOP "ON A SOUND TRACK." CHINA'S ENTRY INTO WTO WAS NOT EXPECTED TO PUT PRESSURE ON ITS CURRENCY, SUN SAID. CHINA HOPED ITS WTO TALKS WITH CANADA AND THE EU WOULD

MAKE "POSITIVE PROGRESS." THE DEVELOPMENT OF TMD WAS OPPOSED BY CHINA, SUN ASSERTED; CHINA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE FOR SELF-DEFENSE, AND IT WOULD NEVER TAKE PART IN AN ARMS RACE. END SUMMARY.

VISIT OF DOD DAS CAMPBELL TO CHINA

2. CHINA HOPED THE U.S. WOULD "TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES" TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND FOR THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY EXCHANGES, SUN SAID. DOD DAS KURT CAMPBELL WOULD BE A GUEST OF THE U.S. EMBASSY WHILE IN CHINA, SAID SUN; DURING HIS STAY CAMPBELL WOULD BE MEET WITH RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS OF THE CHINESE MILITARY. LATER, SUN REPEATED THAT CHINA HOPED THAT THE U.S. "WOULD DO MORE CONCRETE DEEDS AND CREATE CONDITIONS" IN ORDER FOR HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY-TO-MILITARY EXCHANGES TO BE RESUMED. ASKED IF THE CAMPBELL VISIT MEANT THAT THE CHINESE CONSIDERED THAT THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY EXCHANGES THAT HAD BEEN CUT OFF AFTER THE BELGRADE BOMBING HAD BEEN RESUMED, SUN WOULD SAY ONLY THAT CHINA HAD HOPED FOR "MORE CONCRETE DEEDS" FROM THE U.S.

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS: WTO AND BELGRADE

3. CHINA BELIEVED IT COULD WORK WITH THE U.S. "HAND IN HAND" ON MAJOR ISSUES, SUN SAID. HE HAD BEEN ASKED WHETHER THE U.S.-CHINA WTO AGREEMENT SIGNIFIED THAT CHINA HAD ACCEPTED THE EXPLANATION OF THE BOMBING OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN BELGRADE AS A MISTAKE. THE BOMBING HAD BEEN "DONE SINGLE-HANDEDLY" BY THE U.S., SUN SAID, AND CHINA HOPED THAT THE U.S. WOULD "HANDLE IT SERIOUSLY AND GIVE FULL AND EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION AND AN ACCEPTABLE EXPLANATION TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND CHINESE PEOPLE." ONLY THEN, SUN CONTINUED, WOULD BILATERAL RELATIONS IMPROVE AND DEVELOP "ON A SOUND TRACK." THE WTO AGREEMENT ALSO SHOWED, SUN SAID, THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY DIFFERENCES EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES -- IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS, VALUES, AND IDEOLOGY -- AS LONG AS THE TWO SIDES COULD "STAND ON A STRATEGIC HEIGHT IN THE SPIRIT OF EQUALITY, MUTUAL BENEFIT AND MUTUAL RESPECT," THEY COULD "SEEK COMMON GROUND WHILE PUTTING ASIDE DIFFERENCES."

4. ON THE WHOLE, THE SIGNING OF THE WTO AGREEMENT WOULD FACILITATE THE "ALL-AROUND DEVELOPMENT" OF SINO-U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS, SUN SAID. HE ADDED THAT IN THE FUTURE HE HOPED TO HAVE MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE WTO AND THE RMB

5. CHINA DID NOT EXPECT ITS ENTRY INTO WTO TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE CHINESE YUAN (RENMINBI), AS SOME EXPERTS HAVE PREDICTED, SUN SAID. DURING THE REFORM ERA, SUN

EXPLAINED, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT "ACCUMULATED RICH EXPERIENCE IN MICROECONOMIC CONTROL," AND IT WAS CAPABLE OF PREVENTING AN IMBALANCE IN THE ECONOMY BY "OPENING IT UP." CHINA WOULD JOIN THE WTO WITH AN OPEN ATTITUDE, SUN EXPLAINED, AND THEREFORE MEMBERSHIP WOULD "PROVIDE MORE FAVORABLE TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BEIJING 010745

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/PA
DEPT PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY/CASSIDY/LUND
ROME PASS VATICAN CITY
CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, ETRD, WTRO, MARR, CH
SUBJECT: ^, SUN SAID, CHINA'S
WTO ACCESSION WOULD NOT HAVE AN EFFECT ON CHINA'S
BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS, AND ON THIS BASIS THE
RENMINBI WOULD REMAIN STABLE.

WTO: CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS

6. ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR CHINA'S WTO TALKS WITH THE
EU AND CANADA, SUN REPLIED THAT CHINA HAD BEEN
CONSULTING WITH THE RELEVANT COUNTRIES AND THE EU AND
HAD HOPED THESE TALKS WOULD MAKE "POSITIVE PROGRESS."

WTO: WORKERS RIGHTS

7. ASKED ABOUT PROVISIONS OF WTO MEMBERSHIP DEALING WITH
WORKERS RIGHTS, SUN OFFERED THAT CHINA "HAD DONE A LOT"
TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS AND "TO GIVE MORE
FLEXIBILITY TO ENTERPRISES." THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION
AND RECENTLY ADOPTED REGULATIONS HAVE BOTH PROVIDED
LEGAL PROTECTION TO BOTH ENTERPRISES AND WORKERS, SUN
ADDED, ALTHOUGH IN THIS REGARD CHINA WAS "STILL
IMPROVING."

TMD/MISSILES

8. CHINA WAS OPPOSED TO "ANY EFFORTS LEADING TO TMD,"
SUN SAID. DEPLOYMENT OF TMD WOULD "RUN COUNTER TO THE
TREND OF THE TIME AND TO DISARMAMENT EFFORTS," HE
CHARGED, AND WOULD HAVE "A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE
BALANCE OF THE WORLD IN THE NEXT CENTURY." SUN SAID
THAT CHINA HAD A LIMITED NUCLEAR CAPACITY FOR PURPOSES
OF SELF-DEFENSE, BUT DID NOT POSE A THREAT TO ANY
COUNTRY: "CHINA, IN THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE, WILL
NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY ARMS RACE." CHINA WAS DETERMINED
TO DEFEND, AND CAPABLE OF DEFENDING, ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SUN CONCLUDED.

U.S. PORT VISITS IN HONG KONG

9. SUN COULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY REPORTS THAT VESSELS FROM THE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION TO CALL AT HONG KONG. HOWEVER, HE COULD STRESS THAT UNDER THE HKSAR BASIC LAW, THE ENTRY OF FOREIGN VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT INTO HONG KONG WAS HANDLED BY BEIJING "ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY."

CHINA-VATICAN RELATIONS

10. SUN REAFFIRMED CHINA'S WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH THE VATICAN, AND REPEATED CHINA'S TWO PREREQUISITES FOR DOING SO: THE VATICAN WOULD HAVE TO SEVER ITS TIES WITH TAIWAN AND REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

MCCAHILL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
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RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 4378
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5759
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0674
SUBJ: HONG KONG MAINLY EUPHORIC OVER US-CHINA WTO DEAL,
AWAITS DETAILS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 HONG KONG 010056

USTR FOR BURNS/CASSIDY/ZIEGLER
USDA/FAS FOR SHEIKH AND DEATON

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, WTRO, HK
SUBJECT: HONG KONG MAINLY EUPHORIC OVER US-CHINA WTO DEAL,
AWAITS DETAILS

REF: A. HONG KONG 09886 B. HONG KONG 09983

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY. HONG KONG IS REACTING VERY POSITIVELY TO THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES ON CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO PRESS PLAY WAS ENORMOUS AND VERY POSITIVE. LEADING BUSINESS GROUPS, POLITICAL PARTIES AND HKG OFFICIALS HAVE ALL EXPRESSED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE DEAL. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO WILL LEAD TO INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG'S SERVICE SECTOR, A DECREASE IN HONG KONG'S UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR CHINA'S ENHANCED RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE HEARING SOME UNDERLYING NERVOUSNESS ABOUT HONG KONG'S NEED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINS GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE. THE STOCK MARKET RESPONDED POSITIVELY, ALTHOUGH THIS

PROBABLY REFLECTS A MIXTURE OF GENUINE POSITIVE SENTIMENT AND SHORT-TERM SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) WE HAVE PRELIMINARY RESPONSES TO THE WTO DEAL FROM A WIDE RANGE OF HONG KONG SOURCES, INCLUDING SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, VARIOUS BUSINESS SOURCES (TYCOONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, AND TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL GROUPS), POLITICAL PARTIES (SPANNING THE FULL POLITICAL RANGE), AND SOME BUSINESS ANALYSTS. THE GENERAL REACTION IS THAT THE WTO DEAL IS VERY GOOD FOR HONG KONG. CHINA'S ACCESSION IS EXPECTED TO BENEFIT HONG KONG BUSINESS BY ALLOWING HONG KONG TO CAPTURE ITS PORTION OF A GROWING TRADE AND INVESTMENT PIE. SOME SOURCES EXPRESS CONCERN THAT HONG KONG BUSINESSES WILL HAVE TO FIND NEW WAYS TO KEEP SERVING AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE MAINLAND AND ITS GLOBAL PARTNERS. OTHERS, HOWEVER, ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC, FEELING THAT DEEPENING CHINESE REFORMS (STIMULATED BY WTO ACCESSION) WILL LEAD TO MUCH GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG COMPANIES TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO CHINESE SOES. OUR CONTACTS HERE ARE ASKING TO KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE A DETAILED ASSESSMENT AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY. FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLING OF RESPONSES.

3. (U) IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT, FINANCIAL SECRETARY DONALD TSANG CLAIMED THAT CHINA'S WTO ACCESSION WILL PROVIDE RELATIVELY MORE TRADING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG BUSINESSES THAN FOR THE MAINLAND'S OTHER TRADING PARTNERS. TSANG EXPLAINED THAT HONG KONG'S EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN CHINA ALONG WITH ITS THREE STRENGTHS -- A VERY FREE MARKET, AN ADVANCED LEGAL SYSTEM AND A COMMON LANGUAGE WITH CHINA - WILL ALLOW HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS A BRIDGE FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS IN CHINA. TSANG REFERENCED A HKG RESEARCH GROUP THAT IS DIALOGUING WITH HONG KONG'S PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED JOINT COMMISSION WITH CHINA'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS EXAMPLES OF HOW THE HKG HAS BEEN PREPARING BEHIND THE SCENES FOR CHINA'S EVENTUAL ACCESSION TO THE WTO AND FOR POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WHICH MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY.

4. (SBU) CHIEF EXECUTIVE TUNG CHEE-HWA EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE WITH THE WTO DEAL TO THE CONSUL GENERAL IN PERSON. TUNG DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT AS HISTORIC AND GOOD FOR SINO-U.S. RELATIONS. HE QUERIED THE CONSUL GENERAL ON THE PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE OF CHINA'S PERMANENT NTR STATUS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH THE CONSUL GENERAL, THE CONVENOR OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, C.Y. LEUNG, ALSO PRAISED THE DEAL, NOTING ITS SIGNIFICANCE ABOVE AND BEYOND TRADE.

5. (SBU) MARTIN LEE AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS REITERATED TO US, ON THE DAY AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR CHINA'S ACCESSION. A KEY REASON FOR THIS SUPPORT IS THE ROLE CHINESE WTO MEMBERSHIP WILL HAVE IN HELPING FOSTER RULE OF LAW IN CHINA. LEE SAID THAT THE DEMOCRATS BELIEVE THAT CHINESE MEMBERSHIP IN RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL BODIES LIKE THE WTO WILL FORCE BEIJING TO IMPLEMENT BETTER SYSTEMS OF RULES AT HOME. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON, LEE STANDS READY TO EXPLAIN PERSONALLY TO MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS THE IMPORTANCE TO THE RULE OF LAW OF CHINA'S IMMEDIATE ACCESSION TO THE WTO.

6. (SBU) THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG EXPECTS CHINA'S ACCESSION TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR U.S. BUSINESSES, MANY OF WHICH OPERATE FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY FULLY EXPECT THAT US. EXPORTS TO CHINA WILL INCREASE AND MORE JOBS FOR U.S. WORKERS WILL BE CREATED.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 HONG KONG 010056

USTR FOR BURNS/CASSIDY/ZIEGLER
USDA/FAS FOR SHEIKH AND DEATON

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, WTRO, HK
SUBJECT: HONG KONG MAINLY EUPHORIC OVER US-CHINA WTO DEAL,
AWAITS DETAILS

7. (SBU) PRESS PLAY IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN ENORMOUS BY ANY STANDARD AND HAS INCLUDED LARGE PHOTOS SHOWING THE HAND-SHAKE AFTER THE SIGNING. THE COVERAGE HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. AS REPORTED REFTTEL B, AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY'S MENTION OF HER CALL TO C.H. TUNG WAS WIDELY REPORTED AND APPARENTLY MUCH APPRECIATED. THE CHINESE PRESS IN PARTICULAR WIDELY REPORTED BARSHEFSKY'S POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT HONG KONG.

8. (SBU) ON THE TWO DAYS FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WTO AGREEMENT, THE HONG KONG STOCK MARKET'S HANG SENG INDEX CLOSED AT TWO-YEAR RECORD HIGHS OF 14562 AND 14689 POINTS (THE HIGHEST LEVELS SINCE THE START OF THE ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS). PRICES OF RED CHIPS AND H SHARES, WHICH HAD BEEN DECLINING OVER RECENT MONTHS, INCREASED BY EIGHT TO TEN PERCENT ON THE DAY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT. LOCAL STOCK EXCHANGE ANALYSTS PREDICT THAT THE HANG SENG INDEX WILL CONTINUE TO RISE OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, PRESUMABLY DRIVEN BY OPPORTUNITY-SEEKING DAY TRADERS, LATE ARRIVALS PILING ON, AND A FEW GENUINE LONG-TERM INVESTORS.
KLOSSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 0056
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TOR: 991117223828 M4156211
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DIST: SIT: DUNCAN HAMMONDS HUSO KEITH LEE LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD SCHAEFER
SIT: NSC

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. cable	re: Political Dimensions. (6 pages)	11/22/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([China, WTO, Barshefsky, Kantor])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/27/1999-12/01/1999]

2010-1024-F
vz1896

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008. cable	re: Saudi WTO. (3 pages)	11/23/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 ([China, WTO, Barshefsky, Kantor])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/27/1999-12/01/1999]

2010-1024-F
vz1896

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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LINE3: O 301007Z NOV 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
OSRI: RUEHBJ
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY BEIJING
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RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 1169
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5246
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2527
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SUBJ: NOVEMBER 30 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: U.S. ELECTION
CAMPAIGN, CHINA'S WTO EFFORT, HK VOTE, VIETNAM BORDER
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 011040

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/PA
DEPT PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY/CASSIDY/LUND
CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, ETRD, WTRO, MARR, CH, HK
SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 30 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: U.S. ELECTION
CAMPAIGN, CHINA'S WTO EFFORT, HK VOTE, VIETNAM BORDER

1. SUMMARY: MFA SPOKESPERSON SUN YUXI ON NOVEMBER 30
CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN WAS
AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE UNITED STATES AND THEREFORE
CHINA WOULD NOT MAKE COMMENTS ABOUT IT. TRADE MINISTER
SHI GUANGSHENG WOULD USE THE SEATTLE MINISTERIAL TO MEET
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES THAT HAD NOT YET
COMPLETED WTO TALKS WITH BEIJING; AFTER SEATTLE, CHINA
WOULD HOLD WTO TALKS WITH THE EU. SUN HAD NO COMMENT ON
RECENT HONG KONG DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS OTHER THAN
TO SAY THAT CHINA WAS PLEASED THEY HAD GONE SMOOTHLY.
"POSITIVE PROGRESS" HAD BEEN MADE IN SINO-VIETNAMESE

BORDER NEGOTIATIONS, SUN SAID. PREPARATIONS FOR VISITS TO CHINA BY THE PRESIDENTS OF INDONESIA AND RUSSIA WERE UNDERWAY, SUN NOTED. SUN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT CURRENT MACAU VISA POLICIES WOULD CONTINUE IN EFFECT AFTER THE COLONY WAS HANDED OVER TO THE MAINLAND. END SUMMARY.

CHINA IN THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

2. WHEN AN NBC NEWS CORRESPONDENT ASKED HOW CHINA FELT ABOUT BEING AN ISSUE IN THE UPCOMING US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, SUN SAID THAT THIS QUESTION WAS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE US AND HE HAD NO COMMENT.

WTO TALKS

3. AT THE SEATTLE WTO MINISTERIAL, MINISTER OF TRADE SHI GUANGSHENG WOULD MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME COUNTRIES WHICH HAD NOT YET CONCLUDED A WTO AGREEMENT WITH CHINA. AFTER SEATTLE, AN EU DELEGATION WOULD TRAVEL TO BEIJING FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON WTO.

WTO PROTESTS

4. CHINA HAD NOTED PROTESTS IN SEATTLE AGAINST THE WTO, SUN SAID, BUT MAINTAINED THAT THE WTO "CONFORMED WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF ALL WTO MEMBER COUNTRIES." HE THEN REPEATED THE USUAL LINE ABOUT CHINA'S "POSITIVE ATTITUDE" TO WTO ACCESSION. AT ANOTHER POINT SUN CALLED THE U.S.-CHINA WTO COMPACT A "WIN-WIN AGREEMENT" AND SAID THAT IF CHINA COULD NOT JOIN THE WTO AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMULATION OF THE RULES OF TRADE, THIS WOULD HINDER ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD ECONOMY. CHINA HOPED THROUGH MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE AT THE WTO, TO MAKE "THE RULES OF THE GAME MORE BALANCED AND MORE BENEFICIAL TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES," SUN SAID.

HONG KONG DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

5. ASKED TO COMMENT ON RECENT HONG KONG DISTRICT ELECTIONS, SUN REPLIED THAT THIS WAS AN INTERNAL ISSUE OF THE HKSAR, BUT THAT CHINA WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT THE ELECTIONS HAD PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY. CHINA BELIEVED THAT UNDER THE SAR GOVERNMENT, HONG KONG WOULD ENJOY "FASTER DEVELOPMENT" AND "MAINTAIN PROSPERITY."

ANTI-AIRCRAFT EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

6. A REPORT IN NEWSWEEK ABOUT CHINESE PLANS TO DEVELOP AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT EARLY WARNING SYSTEM WAS WRITTEN "OUT OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES," SUN MAINTAINED. THE LIMITED DEFENSE CAPABILITY DEVELOPED BY CHINA WAS FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES ONLY, HE STATED. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD NO

COMMENT ON THE SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ISSUES INVOLVED.

ASEAN 10&3 CONCLUDES

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BEIJING 011040

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/PA
DEPT PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY/CASSIDY/LUND
CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, ETRD, WTRO, MARR, CH, HK

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 30 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: U.S. ELECTION
CAMPAIGN, CHINA'S WTO EFFORT, HK VOTE, VIETNAM BORDER

7. ASKED TO COMMENT ON RECENTLY COMPLETED ASEAN 10&3 TALKS, SUN SAID THAT STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN FINANCE, ECONOMICS, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF EAST ASIAN COOPERATION. "SOME COUNTRIES" HAD HOPED TO USE A DIALOGUE, ADVOCATED BY CHINA, AMONG THE REGION'S FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS TO STRENGTHEN THE REGION'S FINANCIAL COOPERATION. PARTICIPANTS IN THE TALKS HAD "FURTHER ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING" AND HAD ALSO SENT A POSITIVE SIGNAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ABOUT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION AND TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT CENTURY.

SINO-VIETNAMESE BOUNDARY ISSUE

8. POSITIVE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM ON BOUNDARY ISSUES, SUN SAID. EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THEIR BOUNDARY DISPUTES WAS THE COMMON INTEREST AND ASPIRATION OF BOTH SIDES, HE CLAIMED, AND FURTHERMORE WAS BENEFICIAL TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE TWO SIDES WOULD CONTINUE THEIR "FAIR, REASONABLE AND FRIENDLY CONSULTATIONS," SUN SAID.

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

9. CHINA WAS PREPARING FOR A VISIT BY INDONESIAN PRESIDENT WAHID, SAID SUN. FURTHERING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ENHANCING MUTUAL COOPERATION WOULD BE ON THE AGENDA, AS WOULD OTHER ISSUES SUGGESTED BY THE JUST-CONCLUDED 10&3 MEETINGS, HE ADDED. SUN EMPHASIZED THAT CHINA AND INDONESIA WERE "CLOSE AND FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS."

SCHEDULED YELTSIN VISIT

10. "CONSENTIOUS PREPARATIONS" WERE STILL BEING MADE FOR A VISIT TO CHINA OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN, SUN SAID WHEN ASKED BY A RUSSIAN REPORTER WHO REFERRED TO YELTSIN'S POOR HEALTH.

CHECHNYA

11. ASKED BY A RUSSIAN REPORTER FOR A COMMENT ON THAT COUNTRY'S "EFFORTS TO FIGHT TERRORISM" IN CHECHNYA AND ATTENDANT WESTERN CRITICISM, SUN SAID THAT CHINA HAD FOLLOWED THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND HAD TAKEN NOTE OF RUSSIA'S EFFORTS TO AVOID CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. CHINA HAD "ALL ALONG OPPOSED TERRORISM OF ANY KIND," SUN SAID.

MACAU VISA POLICY ANNOUNCED

12. FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO ENJOY VISA-FREE ACCESS TO MACAU WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO AFTER THE DECEMBER 20 HANDOVER, SUN ANNOUNCED. INDIVIDUALS WHO NEEDED VISAS TO TRAVEL TO BOTH THE HKSAR AND THE MAINLAND WOULD ALSO NEED A VISA FOR MACAU, HE SAID.

FM TANG GOING TO SEOUL

13. CHINA'S FM TANG JIAXUAN WOULD VISIT THE ROK DECEMBER 10-12 AT THE INVITATION OF THE SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER.

MCCAHILL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1040
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TOR: 991130051805 M4174252
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PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

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DTG: 011038Z DEC 99

ORIG: AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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RUHPOAA/COMSEVENTHFLT

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION WTO SEATTLE NUCLEAR ISSUES
INM(-0mVPASS USDA FOR FAS/ITP/PURDY
- USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA
- FOR BILL MURPHY
- USUN ALSO FOR CHUCK MAST

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08 NEW DELHI 008862

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR IN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION WTO SEATTLE NUCLEAR ISSUES

INM(-0mVPASS USDA FOR FAS/ITP/PURDY

- USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA
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SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT ARE:

1. WTO SEATTLE
2. NUCLEAR ISSUES
3. INDO-PAK

4. NORTHERN IRELAND

PAGE ONE SUMMARY
-----1. DEMONSTRATORS OVERRUN SEATTLE; INDIA, U.S. INCH
TOWARDS IT PACT:

-- LEAD STORIES FROM SEATTLE IN MAJOR NATIONAL DAILIES SAID THAT THOUSANDS OF DEMONSTRATORS RATCHETED UP NOISY STREET PROTESTS AND PARALYZED THE OPENING OF THE WTO MEETING AIMED AT PROMOTING FREER INTERNATIONAL TRADE. REPORTS NOTED THAT THE DISSONANCE WAS NOT ONLY OUTSIDE THE CONVENTION CENTER, BUT WILL ALSO BE INSIDE WHEN THE CONFERENCE GETS GOING. IT'S LIKELY TO FACE A LOT OF HURDLES, SOME OF WHICH BECAME APPARENT ON THE CONFERENCE EVE. THE DISCORD AMONG NATIONS SHARPENED, THE POWERFUL UPPED THE ANTE, THE WEAK GREW DESPERATE AND IT APPEARED THAT TRADE MINISTERS AND DELEGATIONS FROM 134 WTO MEMBER-COUNTRIES WERE HEADED FOR FOUR DAYS OF TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS, THE OUTCOME OF WHICH LOOKED INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN.

-- REPORTS ALSO SAID THAT A BREAK-IN SCARE RESULTED IN THE VENUE BEING COMPLETELY SEALED FOR A SECURITY SWEEP THAT TOOK FIVE HOURS AND DISRUPTED A NUMBER OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS, INCLUDING ONE OF THE G-15 TRADE MINISTERS WHICH INCLUDED INDIA.

-- THE TIMES OF INDIA STORY SAID THAT HARD-NOSED TRADE DIPLOMATS SENSED THAT THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION WAS OUT TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE USING THE PROTESTS. FROM THE NGO FORUM, USTR CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY UPPED THE ANTE FOR MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND CORE LABOR STANDARDS. SHE REPORTEDLY PRESSED FOR WTO WORKING GROUPS ON ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS TO GIVE TRADE LIBERALIZATION A HUMAN FACE. WITH THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS DRAWING NEAR, THE REPORT OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO KEEP ITS TRADE UNION SUPPORTERS HAPPY, WHILE USING THEIR PROTEST TO EXERT PRESSURE ON TRADE PARTNERS TO ACCEDE TO ITS DEMANDS ON LABOR AND ENVIRONMENT.

-- THE TWO LEADING PRO-ECONOMIC REFORMS BUSINESS DAILIES--THE ECONOMIC TIMES AND THE BUSINESS STANDARD--NOTED THAT THE U.S. AND THE EUROPEAN UNION HAVE SPLIT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY WEANING AWAY THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS) OF THE THIRD WORLD ON THE PRETEXT OF PERMANENT TRADE SOPS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE WTO. "IT (EXTENDING PREFERENTIAL TRADING STATUS TO LDCS) IS JUST A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RICHER COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE THIS A PERMANENT STATUS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WTO," BARSHEFSKY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. THE MOVE HAS REPORTEDLY RATTLED OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA, WHICH ARE NOW GRADUALLY FINDING THEMSELVES ISOLATED ON KEEPING ISSUES LIKE LABOR STANDARDS AND ENVIRONMENT OUTSIDE THE AGENDA FOR THE MILLENNIUM ROUND ON TRADE. THE INDIAN

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 08 NEW DELHI 008862

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR IN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION WTO SEATTLE NUCLEAR ISSUES

INDO-PAK NORTHERN IRELAND

DELEGATION HAS CAUTIONED AGAINST SURPRISES. WHAT IS BOTHERING OFFICIALS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MORE IS THE LATEST U.S. INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE NGOS AS AN ELEMENT OF THE WTO, WHICH HAS FORCED COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA INTO A CORNER.

-- DESPITE THESE DEVELOPMENTS, REPORTS NOTED THAT INDIAN OFFICIALS REMAINED FIRM IN THEIR BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER LINK BETWEEN TRADE AND LABOR STANDARDS.

-- THE HINDUSTAN TIMES REPORTED THAT INDIA AND THE U.S. ARE CLOSE TO ARRIVING AT AN AGREEMENT ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT CLINTON TO INDIA EARLY NEXT YEAR. THOUGH THE INDIAN AND U.S. NEGOTIATORS ARE FIGHTING ON A NUMBER OF WTO RELATED ISSUES AT SEATTLE, THERE IS A FEELING IN THE INDIAN SIDE THAT AN AGREEMENT ON ITA-II WILL BE IN INDIA'S INTEREST IF THE U.S. SIDE ABIDES BY ITS EARLIER COMMITMENTS.

-- THE LEADING TELEVISION NEWS CHANNELS GAVE PRIME TIME ATTENTION TO REPORTS FROM SEATTLE, HIGHLIGHTING THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND THE SECURITY-RELATED POSTPONEMENT OF THE OPENING CEREMONY. STAR NEWS CARRIED CLIPS OF COMMERCE MINISTER MURASOLI MARAN EMPHASIZING THAT ANY LINKAGE OF "CORE LABOR STANDARDS AND ENVIRONMENT TO TRADE" WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO INDIA AND NON-NEGOTIABLE. THE GOI-OWNED DOORDARSHAN NEWS CHANNEL HAD THE OPPOSITION CONGRESS PARTY'S ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY JAIRAM RAMESH STATING THAT INDIA SHOULD FIRST OF ALL GIVE "A CLEAR SIGNAL THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATION AND IN THE NEW ROUND OF TALKS, BESIDES EMPHASIZING THAT IT WILL BE A PRO-ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE WTO AND EVEN SET ITS AGENDA."

2. ANOTHER KARGIL CAMPAIGN AFTER SNOW MELTS: HARKAT:

-- THE INDIAN EXPRESS AND OTHER PAPERS CARRIED A PTI STORY FROM ISLAMABAD STATING THAT A LEADING PAKISTAN-BASED MILITANT OUTFIT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS MUJAHIDEEN WOULD ONCE AGAIN CAPTURE THE KARGIL HEIGHTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WINTER IN ANOTHER BID TO "LIBERATE KASHMIR FROM THE CONTROL OF INDIA." "A SECOND KARGIL CAMPAIGN WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AFTER THE SNOW MELTS THERE," HARKAT-UL MUJAHIDDEN SAID, ACCORDING TO URDU DAILIES, PAKISTAN AND KHABRAIN. HARKAT-UL MUJAHIDEEN, EARLIER KNOWN AS HARKAT-UL ANSAR, CHANGED ITS NAME AFTER BEING DECLARED AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION BY THE UNITED STATES.

-- MEANWHILE, INDIAN BORDER SECURITY FORCE (BSF) DIRECTOR GENERAL E.N. RAMMOHAN HAS WARNED THAT ATTACKS ON

SECURITY FORCES ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE IN VIEW OF THE REGROUPING BY MILITANTS IN SENSITIVE PARTS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR WITH HELP FROM PAKISTAN'S MILITARY REGIME. BRIEFING THE PRESS ON THE OCCASION OF BSF'S RAISING DAY ON TUESDAY, x FOREIGN MERCENARIES ARMED WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS HAVE BEEN INDUCTED, HE SAID. ACCORDING TO ROUGH ESTIMATES, THERE ARE MORE THAN 1,200 FOREIGN MERCENARIES PRESENTLY OPERATING IN THE STATE--500 IN THE JAMMU REGION AND 700 IN KASHMIR. THESE INCLUDE NEARLY 700 WHO HAD CROSSED OVER INTO THE VALLEY AFTER THE KARGIL CONFLICT.

-- AN INDIA ABROAD STORY FROM ISLAMABAD SAID THAT AN IMF TEAM, LED BY ITS MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR PAUL CHARIER, IS ARRIVING ON FRIDAY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE RELEASE OF THE THIRD TRANCHE OF 280 MILLION DOLLARS UNDER A 1.6 BILLION DOLLAR STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT LOAN TO PAKISTAN.

3. GOI KEEN ON GETTING INSURANCE BILL PASSED ON THURSDAY:
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 08 NEW DELHI 008862

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR IN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION WTO SEATTLE NUCLEAR ISSUES
INDO-PAK NORTHERN IRELAND

-- ALL PAPERS GAVE PROMINENT PAGE ONE ATTENTION TO STORIES STATING THAT THE VAJPAYEE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO PREVENT THE CONTROVERSIAL INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IRDA) BILL FROM BEING REFERRED TO ANOTHER SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT AND WANTS TO HAVE IT PASSED BY THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY. THE BILL HAS PUT THE MAIN OPPOSITION CONGRESS PARTY LEADERSHIP IN A SPOT AS SERIOUS OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED ON THE ISSUE WITHIN THE PARTY. AFTER A SERIES OF INCONCLUSIVE INTRA-PARTY DISCUSSIONS HERE ON TUESDAY, A THREE-MAN COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ASKED TO SCRUTINIZE THE BILL AND SUGGEST AMENDMENTS THAT COULD MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE DISSENTERS AND ENSURE THAT AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS GENERATED BY INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE DEPLOYED IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR. SEVERAL CONGRESS MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SUPPORTING THE BILL. THE LEFT PARTIES, WHICH STAGED A PROTEST WALKOUT ON THE BILL ON MONDAY, MADE YET ANOTHER BID TO BLOCK THE BILL ON TUESDAY.

-- MEANWHILE, INSURANCE EMPLOYEES BELONGING TO THE CLASS II, III AND IV CATEGORIES ARE OBSERVING A ONE-DAY STRIKE ON WEDNESDAY TO PROTEST ENACTMENT OF THE I; INDIA TO ATTEND SEMINARS BY THE CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY (CII) AND THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (FICCI) FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS HOPING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD OPEN UP THE SECTOR FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THE REPORT NOTED THAT THE BIG PROBLEM FOR FOREIGN PLAYERS IS TO IDENTIFY A GOOD, RELIABLE DOMESTIC

PARTNER ESSENTIAL TO SET UP AN INSURANCE COMPANY. SEVERAL, INCLUDING AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP, HAVE ALREADY IDENTIFIED THEIR LOCAL PARTNERS IN INDIA.

4. CARE PLANS 30 MILLION DOLLARS IN AID FOR ORISSA CYCLONE VICTIMS:

-- THE INDIAN EXPRESS REPORTED THAT CARE-INDIA ON MONDAY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS WORKING WITH VARIOUS DONORS TO MOBILIZE OVER 30 MILLION DOLLARS FOR REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES IN CYCLONE-AFFECTED DISTRICTS OF ORISSA, TO BE TAKEN UP DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

-- MEANWHILE, REPORTS NOTED THAT THE RELIEF OPERATIONS IN ORISSA HAVE GOT MIRED IN CONTROVERSY OVER ALLEGED KICKBACKS IN THE PURCHASE OF POLYTHENE SHEETS AT ALMOST DOUBLE THE MARKET PRICE.

1. WTO

"INDIA MAY AGREE TO SOME U.S. PROPOSALS,"EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 1 CENTRIST THE HINDU:

-- THE INDIAN NEGOTIATING POSITION AT THE THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION WTO APPEARS TO BE MOVING CLOSER TO THAT OF THE U.S. ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES, THOUGH INDIA IS INSISTENT THAT IT WILL NOT CONSIDER THE U.S. PROPOSALS THAT LABOR AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUES BE MORE ACTIVELY BROUGHT ON TO THE WTO AGENDA.

GIVING UP ITS LONG-STANDING OPPOSITION, INDIA IS NOW WILLING TO PLACE ON THE NEGOTIATING AGENDA SOME OTHER ISSUES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE U.S. CONFIRMING INFORMED SPECULATION IN TRADE CIRCLES OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS ABOUT THE CONVERGENCE OF INTERESTS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.S., UNION COMMERCE MINISTER, MURASOLI MARAN SAID IN A BRIEFING FOR JOURNALISTS TODAY THAT INDIA SHARED THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. IN E-COMMERCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. THESE ARE PROPOSALS FOR A
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PERMANENT ZERO TARIFF REGIME IN ELECTRONIC COMMERCE AND A SECOND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT (ITA-2) AND POSSIBLY AN AGREEMENT ON TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AS WELL..

-- "WITHOUT GETTING INTO DETAILS, A U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED TO THE HINDU TODAY THAT WHILE THERE REMAIN IMPORTANT AREAS WHERE INDIA AND THE U.S. DIFFER, THERE HAS BEEN A CONVERGENCE IN RECENT MONTHS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AT THE WTO. INDIA IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ALSO MOVED CLOSER TO SUPPORTING THE U.S.

FOR TALKS ON A MORE AGGRESSIVE LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE IN AGRICULTURE PROVIDED THE COUNTRY'S CONCERNS ON FOOD SECURITY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARM EMPLOYMENT ARE ADDRESSED. IF INDIA WANTED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON E-COMMERCE, ITA-2 AND OTHER ISSUES, NEW DELHI SHOULD HAVE VERY CLEARLY LINKED AGREEMENT ON THESE AREAS TO THE U.S. MOVING FORWARD ON CORRECTING THE IMBALANCES IN THE EXISTING AGREEMENTS ON TEXTILES, PATENTS, AND ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES.

-- "SO FAR, THE U.S. HAS REFUSED TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ANY MAJOR CHANGES TO THE EXISTING WTO AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE HURT INDIA AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. TRADE OFFICIALS SAY THAT IN ITS FAILURE TO EXPLICITLY LINK FLEXIBILITY OF THE U.S. ON INDIAN DEMANDS, NEW DELHI MAY BE REPEATING PAST MISTAKES AT THE GATT/WTO."

--"INDIA LOOKS EAST BUT ASIA LOOKS AWAY,"EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 1 CENTRIST THE HINDU:

-- "IF INDIA CONTINUES TO DITHER ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT AND ALLOWS ITS METAPHYSICAL DEBATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY TO BLOCK NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR POWERS, IT MAY WELL BE MARGINALISED FROM THE EMERGING TRENDS IN ASIA. AS THE GOVERNMENT HOSTS THE PRESIDENT OF VIETNAM, TRAN DUC LUONG, HERE THIS WEEK, INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH EAST ASIA IS BACK IN FOCUS.

-- "BUT INDIA'S PROSPECTS IN ASIA ARE NONE TOO ENCOURAGING. INDIA IS INCREASINGLY SEEN IN THE REGION AS THE ''MIDDLE KINGDOM'', OBSESSED WITH ITS OWN DOMESTIC POLITICAL WRANGLING AND UNPREPARED FOR A SERIOUS REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT.

--"INDIA'S NUCLEAR TESTS FOLLOWED BY INCREASED POLITICAL TENSIONS WITH THE U.S., JAPAN AND CHINA PUT IT IN A DIFFICULT POSITION VIS-A-VIS REST OF ASIA. THERE IS A SENSE OF URGENCY AMONG THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN LEADERS TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FLUX IN THE REGION, AND THEY ARE WILLING TO OVERCOME OLD AND NEW SUSPICIONS OF CHINA AND JAPAN IN BUILDING A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR EXPANDED COOPERATION. BUT INDIA IS NOT PART OF THE CURRENT DRIFT IN ASIA. BUT THIS HARDLY SEEMS TO BOTHER THE INSULAR NATIONAL SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT. SINCE GOING NUCLEAR LAST MAY, THE DELUSIONS OF BEING A GREAT POWER HAVE BEGUN TO GRIP NEW DELHI. AFTER POKHRAN-II AND KARGIL, THE HAWKISH RHETORIC ON NATIONAL SECURITY HAS BEGUN TO FEED ON ITSELF, AND THERE APPEARS TO BE NO ONE IN THE SYSTEM TO GIVE IT A REALITY CHECK. ANY INDIAN EFFORT NOW TO REVITALIZE ITS ''LOOK EAST'' POLICY MUST HAVE AT LEAST FOUR ELEMENTS.

-- "FIRST, A MORE PURPOSEFUL ECONOMIC ORIENTATION WILL HAVE TO BE THE BEDROCK OF ANY RENEWED ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA.

--"SECOND, INDIA NEEDS TO END THE CURRENT UNCERTAINTY IN

THE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND JAPAN. AND THIS CALLS FOR AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE NUCLEAR TENSIONS WITH THE TWO NATIONS.

-- "THIRD, INSTEAD OF FANCYING ITSELF AS A RISING POWER IN STRATEGIC COMPETITION WITH CHINA, NEW DELHI MUST MOVE UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 08 NEW DELHI 008862

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QUICKLY TO EXPAND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH BEIJING.

-- "AND FINALLY, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, JASWANT SINGH, MUST UNDERTAKE AN EARLY TRIP TO SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS TO REVIVE BROAD-BASED INTERACTION WITH THE REGION."

--"POSITIVE AT SEATTLE" EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 1, LEFT-OF-CENTER MUMBAI-BASED THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL

-- "GIVEN THE FAST GLOBALIZATION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIES, THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION AND THE EASY MOVEMENT OF SKILLED LABOR FROM ONE CORNER OF THE WORLD TO THE OTHER, THE WTO HAS ASSUMED A SIGNIFICANCE WHICH WAS HARD TO CONCEIVE TILL ONLY A DECADE AGO. THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ITS COROLLARY, PROTECTIONISM, OFTEN DOES NOT SQUARE WITH THE TENETS ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF WTO. INDIA, AS A DEVELOPING NATION GINGERLY ENTERING THE GLOBALIZED MARKET PLACE, HAS ITS TASK CUT OUT AT SEATTLE. ADMITTEDLY, IT SHOULD NOT PAINT ITSELF IN A CORNER BY, LIKE IN THE PREVIOUS URUGUAY ROUND, ESPOUSING THE LOST CAUSES OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS. PRAGMATISM AND NATIONAL INTEREST BOTH DICTATE THAT INDIA TAKE THE SENSIBLE MIDDLE PATH OF GOING ALONG WITH THE DOMINANT CURRENT AT SEATTLE AND WORK FOR A GRADUAL OPENING UP OF ITS TRADE AND ECONOMY.

-- "IN ANY CASE, IT WILL BE FOOLHARDY FOR INDIA TO STRIKE A DISCORDANT NOTE AT SEATTLE SINCE SHE IS NOT, IF THE TRUTH BE TOLD, IN A POSITION TO REVERSE THE DIRECTION AND TREND TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED WORLD ECONOMY. WITH CHINA TOO JOINING THE WTO, INDIA WILL RISK COMPLETE ISOLATION SHOULD IT RE-CYCLE ITS OLD ANTI-WEST RHETORIC WHICH WAS ITS THEME SONG DURING THE URUGUAY ROUND. THE EXIGENCIES OF THE COLD WAR AND INDIA'S INFORMAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE NOW DEFUNCT SOVIET BLOC HAD NEEDLESSLY DISTORTED OUR STAND. THESE EXTRANEIOUS CONCERNS NO MORE INTERFERE WITH OUR PRAGMATIC POLICIES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THUS, INDIA SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THE BEST DEAL POSSIBLE AT SEATTLE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDED IT IS RECONCILED TO THE REALITY OF THE US AND THE UNITED EUROPE DOMINATING THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE. IN THIS

CONTEXT, THE VAJPAYEE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO BE COMMENDED FOR HAVING ASSOCIATED EXPERTS FROM THE ACADEMIC WORLD IN PREPARING ITS POLICY PAPERS FOR THE MILLENNIUM ROUND."

-- "WTO AND INDIA," EDITORIAL IN NOVEMBER 30 INDEPENDENT, CENTRIST NAVBHARAT TIMES HINDI DAILY:

-- "THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING HARD TO GET SOME KEY BILLS PASSED IN PARLIAMENT WHICH ARE MANDATED BY THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION. IS IT NOT A CONTRADICTION THAT ON THE ONE HAND THE INDIAN TEAM TO SEATTLE HAS PLEDGED TO NEGOTIATE HARD TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND ON THE OTHER, THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO RUSH AHEAD WITH THE SAME ISSUES AGAINST WHICH INDIA RAISED ITS VOICE IN THE URUGUAY ROUND?.... WHEN THE UNITED STATES -

UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE WTO -- IS NOT IN A HURRY TO AMEND ITS LAWS IN KEEPING WITH ITS WTO OBLIGATIONS, THEN WHY IS INDIA IN SUCH GREAT HASTE?....

-- "ACTUALLY, THE RICH NATIONS WANT TO USE THE WTO TO FURTHER THEIR OWN INTERESTS AT THE COST OF THEIR POOR COUNTERPARTS, BUT THEY WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT TRADE IS A TWO-WAY STREET AND HAS TO BENEFIT BOTH SIDES IF IT HAS TO CONTINUE.... AS PART OF THEIR STRATEGY TO CREATE ROADBLOCKS IN THE WAY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE DEVELOPED NATIONS ARE TRYING TO IMPOSE TOUGH LABOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.... INDIA SHOULD NOT MERELY UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 08 NEW DELHI 008862

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OPPOSE

FOR THE SAKE OF OPPOSING; IT SHOULD TRY TO INFLUENCE WTO."

-- "INDIA'S TASK AT THE WTO," EDITORIAL IN NOVEMBER 30 RIGHT-OF-CENTER RAJASTHAN PATRIKA HINDI DAILY:

-- "THE GREATEST DANGER POSED BY SEATTLE IS TRADE GETTING LINKED WITH NON TRADE-RELATED ISSUES. A CASE IN POINT IS THE ATTEMPT BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO IMPOSE TOUGH LABOR STANDARDS, WHEREAS AVAILABILITY OF CHEAP LABOR IS A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE THAT DEVELOPING NATIONS ENJOY. THE REAL MOTIVE IS TO CREATE HURDLES FOR EXPORTS BY DEVELOPING NATIONS TO THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN MARKETS. INDIA MUST COLLABORATE WITH OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO FIGHT

THIS ATTEMPT TOOTH-AND-NAIL. ENVIRONMENT IS ANOTHER STICKING POINT. THERE IS LIKELY TO BE AN ATTEMPT BY THE DEVELOPED NATIONS TO PUSH FOR TOUGH ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS. THE IRONY IS THAT IT IS THEY THEMSELVES WHO HAVE ABUSED THE ENVIRONMENT THE MOST AND NOW THEY WANT TO

SHIFT THE BLAME ON THE POOR NATIONS. AND IN ANY CASE,
THE FORUM TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SHOULD BE THE
U.N., NOT THE WTO...."

2. NUCLEAR ISSUES

--"AUTONOMY IN DEFENCE,"ANALYSIS IN DECEMBER 1
NATIONALIST THE HINDUSTAN TIMES:

-- "HAVING CREATED A SI'ZHAS
ALREADY BEEN TAKEN WITH THE EU DECIDING TO ASSIMILATE THE
MILITARY BODY, THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEU), BY THE
END OF NEXT YEAR. THE HELSINKI SUMMIT COULD APPROVE AN
ANGLO-FRENCH PROPOSAL TO CREATE A RAPID REACTION FORCE OF
50,000 TO 60,000 TROOPS THAT COULD INTERVENE IN ANY
REGIONAL CRISIS AND STAY ON THE JOB FOR A YEAR OR MORE.

-- "NATO IS A TYPICAL ASYMMETRIC ALLIANCE IN WHICH A
GREAT POWER TAKES ON THE SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE
OR MORE SMALLER POWERS AND, IN RETURN, GAINS STRATEGIC
AND ECONOMIC LEVERAGE OVER THE JUNIOR ALLIES. THAT IS THE
REASON WHY AS EUROPE CONSIDERS A SEPARATE DEFENSE
IDENTITY, TWO EU MEMBERS, AUSTRIA AND SWEDEN, ARE RACKED
BY INTENSE NATIONAL DEBATES OVER WHETHER THEY SHOULD JOIN
NATO.

-- "THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE DEBATE IS BEING DRIVEN BY
NATO'S MILLSTONES - THE OVERPOWERING US INFLUENCE AND THE
MANNER IN WHICH THE ALLIANCE'S INTERVENTIONIST AND
ENLARGEMENT IDEAS ARE RATCHETING UP RUSSIAN HOSTILITY.
GIVEN THAT IT HAS AN ECONOMY THE SIZE OF AMERICA'S, THE
EU'S SEARCH FOR A DISTINCT DEFENSE IDENTITY SEEMS
REASONABLE. THE US BELIEVES IT HAS THE POWER TO INFLUENCE
THE DESIGN OF A EUROPEAN DEFENSE IDENTITY SO THAT ITS
INTERESTS ARE NOT UNDULY AFFECTED. FOR THE TRANSATLANTIC
ALLIANCE TO SURVIVE IN THE LONG RUN, THE US WILL HAVE TO
ACCEPT SHARED LEADERSHIP IN AN EXPANDED NATO AND A
GREATER EUROPEAN ROLE IN EUROPE'S SECURITY. NATO IS THE
MAIN ANCHOR OF THE US STRATEGIC HOLD OVER EUROPE.

-- "THE EUROPEAN SEARCH FOR DEFENSE AUTONOMY WHILE
HOLDING ON TO ALLIANCE BENEFITS IS OF INTEREST TO INDIA.
CONTRARY TO WHAT THE EXCESSIVE ATTENTION LAVISHED ON THE
UNITED STATES BY INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY MAY SUGGEST, THE
EU IS INDIA'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER. IT IS ALSO THE
BIGGEST INVESTOR IN INDIA AND THE PROVIDER OF THE LARGEST
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. INDIA CAN SEE FROM THE EU PROCESS
HOW NATION-STATES ASSERTIVELY ADVANCE THEIR INTERESTS
WITHIN AN ALLIANCE FRAMEWORK, BALANCING SECURITY AND
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AUTONOMY AND MAKING VARIOUS TRADEOFFS."

--"THE CTBT DEBATE,"ANALYSIS IN DECEMBER 1 NATIONALIST
THE HINDUSTAN TIMES:

-- "FOR QUITE SOME TIME, THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN
TREATY HAD PURSUED INDIA LIKE A GHOST. NOW, IN A
REVERSAL OF ROLES, INDIA SEEMS TO BE CHASING THE CTBT,
WHICH IS LOOKING EVEN MORE LIKE AN APPARITION AFTER THE
US SENATE'S MORTAL BLOW. HOW ELSE CAN ONE EXPLAIN THE
VAJPAYEE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO BUILD A NATIONAL
CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF A TREATY WHOSE FATE WAS EFFECTIVELY
SEALED BY THE SENATE VOTE? SINCE THE TREATY IN ITS
PRESENT FORM CANNOT COME INTO FORCE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER JASWANT SINGH IS SELLING THE LINE THAT INDIA HAS
LITTLE TO LOSE BY SIGNING. TWO QUESTIONS ARISE: IS
SIGNING THE TREATY SUCH AN INNOCUOUS STEP? AND HOW DOES
IT SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST? UNFORTUNATELY, THE
LATEST CTBT SPIN, TIME TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF
PARLIAMENT'S WINTER SESSION FLOWS FROM PALPABLY
DISINGENUOUS ARGUMENTS. AND AT ITS CORE LIES THE SAME
LINE OF REASONING AND LANGUAGE PUT FORTH BY US OFFICIALS
LAST JANUARY ABOUT THE VIRTUES OF INDIA "DISAGGREGATING"
ITS POSITION. PARLIAMENT, WHEN IT DEBATES THE CTBT
SHORTLY, HAS TO NOTE SEVERAL KEY POINTS. FIRST, UNLIKE
THE US SYSTEM, THE SIGNING AND RATIFYING AUTHORITY IS ONE
AND THE SAME IS INDIA - THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH - WITH NO
ROLE FOR PARLIAMENT.

-- "ONCE INDIA SIGNS ANY INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT, IF
CAN ONLY DELAY BUT NOT WITHHOLD RATIFICATION. SIGNATURE
WILL THUS DEPRIVE INDIA OF ITS CTBT LEVERAGE. SECONDLY,
FAR FROM BEING A HARMLESS, NO-COST STEP, THE SIGNATURE
WILL ENTAIL INDIA ASSUMING THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE
UNIMPLEMENTED TREATY, AS REQUIRED BY THE VIENNA
CONVENTION. THIRDLY, THE INDIAN SIGNATURE WILL LEND
LEGITIMACY TO A PACT DESIGNED AS A CENTRAL PILLAR OF THE
NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, WHICH PRECLUDES INDIA'S
RECOGNITION AS A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE. FOURTHLY, THE
SIGNATURE CAN HELP RESURRECT THE TREATY THROUGH A
CASCADING EFFECT THAT WILL BRING PAKISTAN AND POSSIBLY
NORTH KOREA IN LINE AND ENABLE WASHINGTON TO SALVAGE THE
PACT. FIFTHLY, THE INDO-US TALKS, IN PRESIDENT CLINTON'S
OWN WORDS, 'HAVE YIELDED LITTLE PROGRESS,' WITH THE
RECENT LONDON ROUND BREAKING UP AFTER THE INDIAN
NEGOTIATORS INSISTED ON KNOWING WHAT CONCESSIONS AMERICA
WAS WILLING TO OFFER. THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY DEVIATION
FROM A POLICY OF CAUTION."

3. INDO-PAK

--"SAARC GRAPES & WTO,"ANALYSIS IN DECEMBER 1 CENTRIST
THE TIMES OF INDIA:

-- "INDIA'S REFUSAL TO HAVE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL
DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTAN ON THE EVE OF THE WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION'S CRUCIAL SEATTLE CONFERENCE IS NOT JUST CHURLISH BUT DOWNRIGHT MYOPIC. THIS WAS THE SAME ILLOGIC WHICH LED TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE PLANNED SUMMIT OF THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC) PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR EARLIER THIS MONTH. ALL INDICATIONS FROM PAKISTAN SUGGEST THAT GENERAL PERVEZ MUSHARRAF IS GOING TO REMAIN IN CHARGE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT INDIA WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH HIM. THE KARGIL EPISODE IS A STUMBLING BLOCK BUT NEW DELHI'S RESERVATIONS IN THIS REGARD WOULD HARDLY BE DIFFERENT WERE NAWAZ SHARIF STILL CALLING THE SHOTS IN ISLAMABAD. EVEN THOUGH SAARC IS A POOR MAN'S CLUB, THE ADOPTION AND PUBLIC ENUNCIATION OF A JOINT STAND BY THE GROUPING WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE STRENGTHENED INDIA'S HANDS AT THE MULTILATERAL PARLEY.

-- "WHILE INDIA'S APPROACH TO THE WTO MEETING THIS TIME UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 08 NEW DELHI 008862

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IS REFRESHINGLY PRAGMATIC -- ASSOCIATIONS LIKE SAARC ARE NOT ENTIRELY WITHOUT UTILITY. TRADITIONALLY, INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE TENDED TO ACT TOGETHER AT MULTILATERAL TRADE FORAS AND THERE IS NEED, EVEN NOW, FOR SUCH COOPERATION. ALLOWING EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO COME IN THE WAY OF SOUND NEGOTIATING PRACTICE IS NO WAY OF SAFEGUARDING THE NATIONAL INTEREST. INDIA MUST PUSH TO ENSURE GREATER TRADE AND INVESTMENT LINKAGES BETWEEN ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE SUBCONTINENT. ONLY THEN WILL INDIA AND ALL THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE WTO AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM.

4. NORTHERN IRELAND

--"HISTORIC TURN IN ULSTER,"EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 1
CENTRIST THE HINDU:

-- "THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL HAIL THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF 30 YEARS OF SECTARIAN STRIFE IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH HAS LEFT MORE THAN 3,300 DEAD AND SPILLED VIOLENCE AND MAYHEM BEYOND THE PROVINCE'S BOUNDARIES. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS PERHAPS A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WHO HAD BORNE THE BRUNT OF THE MINDLESS VIOLENCE OF THE PAST THREE DECADES THAT A TERRORIST GROUP HAS HAD THE COURAGE TO AGREE TO GIVE UP ARMS AND JOIN IN THE POWER-SHARING AGREEMENT.

-- "THE PROMISE OF PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, MORE SIGNIFICANTLY THE IRA AGREEING TO DECOMMISSIONING OF ARMS, MUST KINDLE HOPE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT CAN SEND POSITIVE SIGNALS TO THE FEW OTHER POCKETS WHERE TERRORIST

GROUPS HAVE BEEN OPERATING UNDER INSPIRATION FROM THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY. IN THE COLD WAR DECADES WHEN ONE MAN'S TERRORIST WAS OFTEN ANOTHER'S FREEDOM FIGHTER, THE IRA HAD HELPED BUILD ARMS NETWORKS AND LIBERALLY EXPORTED ITS BRAND OF BOMBINGS AND KILLINGS FOR A CAUSE. THE IRA HAS SINCE CEASED TO BE THE ROLE MODEL FOR TERRORISTS. WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NOW DEMONSTRATING RARE DETERMINATION TO STAMP OUT ALL FORMS OF TERRORISM, THE IRA MUST RETOOL ITSELF IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE, AS OTHER SUCH OUTFITS HAVE DONE IN THE LAST HALF A CENTURY."

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