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WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE -- 11:00 AM
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1993

Latin American Counternarcotics Policies

[Background: The New York Times and the Washington Post have carried major articles about our deficient Latin American counternarcotics policies during the past week (two in the Post have been front page articles).]

Q: Is the Clinton Administration de-emphasizing the counternarcotics efforts in Latin America?

A: -- No. Latin American countries have made remarkable progress in countering the threat and spread of the drug trade. We are committed to supporting those efforts.

Q: Is the Administration reducing counternarcotics support funds to the drug producing and transiting countries?

A: -- As has been reported, we are currently reviewing our international counternarcotics policies and programs. Limited funds will be factored into this review, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of programs. The purpose of the review is to improve the quality of our efforts.

file
GS Briefing
03.29.93

Iran/Iraq

Q: What is U.S. policy on lifting sanctions on Iraq?

A: -- As Secretary Christopher said yesterday (Sunday) on CBS, our objective is full Iraqi compliance with all the UN Security Council resolutions. It is inconceivable based on Saddam's past and current behavior that Iraq will meet this standard under his leadership.

-- Iraq is not now in compliance with any of the UNSC resolutions. We are confident they will be extended when the UN Security Council meets today in its periodic 60-day review of sanctions.

-- The resolutions requirements are not personalized and they will apply to any Iraqi regime. They reflect the determination of the international community to ensure that Iraq will not again threaten its neighbors or repress its people. We want to see those requirements met. And our conversations in the region and at the UN suggest there is broad understanding and support for this approach.

-- We have reiterated our policy to Iraq as recently as last Friday when Ambassador Albright and her British, French and Russian colleagues jointly reminded the Iraq Ambassador to the UN of Iraq's responsibilities under the UN resolutions and cautioned Iraq not to take provocative actions.

(FYI: Ambassador Albright and the P4 ambassadors made a public statement on March 26 after seeing the Iraqi Ambassador in New York).

Q: What can you say about press reports that the U.S. has demarched Iran for violating UNSC sanctions against Iraq by importing Iraqi oil? (Washington Post Sunday)

A: -- We are concerned by evidence that Iraqi oil is being exported to Iran in violation of UN sanctions.

-- The Government of Iran is aware of our concerns.

-- We do not intend to discuss the details of our diplomacy or intelligence methods and sources.

Q: [IF ASKED]: Have you raised these concerns with other states?

A: -- We have had consultations with our allies on sanctions violations since the sanctions were imposed in 1990. We are consulting with our allies on this incident.

Pan Am 103 Families

Background: Although the families gave a press statement after the meeting, I did not see anything in the press this morning. Saturday, the families will meet with Senator Kennedy in Newton, Mass. Jane Schultz will announce to a larger group the support of the President for the memorial cairn at Arlington. Privately, I mentioned to Schultz, Geri Kolesar from Sen. Lautenberg's office, Trina Vargo (just before she got on the plane this afternoon), and Jack Wheeler who is representing the families on this issue, that the President's statement about the method of approving the memorial was still being staffed and that we would select the most expeditious method. In that regard, I mentioned that it would be helpful if any comments they made to the press focused more on the intention of the President to support their request, rather than the process.]

[IF ASKED]:

Q: What is the Administration's position on the request by the families of the victims of Pan Am 103 to build a memorial at Arlington?

A: -- The President has advised the families that he will support a Joint Resolution to build a memorial cairn at Arlington Cemetery.

Q: Does this break with tradition of Arlington Cemetery being used as a military cemetery?

A: -- There were 25 military personnel killed over Lochbuie on Pan Am 103. They, and the rest of the passengers were killed in a terrorist action directed against the United States.

-- The cairn will also serve as a memorial to all those killed by terrorist actions and as a symbol of our continued vigilance against terrorism.

Q: Was the Pentagon consulted before the President made this decision?

A: -- Yes.

Japan: Linkage Between Aid to Russia
and the Northern Territories

[Background: In recent meetings with high-level Japanese officials, the issue of a link between Japan's aid to Russia and its position on return of the Northern Territories was raised. Japan sought confirmation that U.S. support of its position on the four islands was unchanged despite our desire to craft an aid package for Russia. We confirmed our support and probed Japan on the extent to which its contribution of aid was linked to Yeltsin's cancellation of his visit to Tokyo and lack of resolution of the disputed territories issue. Ambassador Kuriyama and Vice Minister Owada repeated that Japan was not insisting on rapid resolution of bilateral concerns, but hoped that aid to Russia could be coordinated in the G-7 context in a way that would promote Japan's longer term goal of return of the islands.]

We should avoid embarrassing the Government of Japan by characterizing its position as a change in policy. Our answer should instead focus on praising Japan for its willingness to provide aid, and our continued support of its position on the Northern Territories.]

Q: What is your view on Japan's policy vis-a-vis aid to Russia and a link to the Northern Territories?

- A: -- The United States remains committed to our long-standing support of Japan's position on return of the Northern Territories. Our policy has not changed one iota.
- We are confident Japan shares our belief that a successful outcome of the reform efforts currently underway in Russia is vital to peace and stability in Europe and Asia.
- Japan is coordinating with other G-7 countries an approach to provide support for those reform efforts. We welcome Japan's contribution and leadership in this regard.

Bosnia

Q: Have the talks broken down as Lord Owen has stated?

A: -- These discussions have stalled before only to be restarted.

-- We note that all parties are still in New York, and we urge them to return to the talks with renewed determination to move forward.

Q: What is the status of the No-Fly Zone resolution?

A: -- We are working with other UNSC members on this proposal.

-- We believe a consensus has been reached, and we look forward to an early vote, possibly next week.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Assistant Secretary/Spokesman

For Immediate Release

25
March 24, 1993

STATEMENT BY
SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER

Signing of Bosnian Peace Plan

The signature today by the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian Croatian Delegation of the principal documents of the Bosnian Peace Plan, developed in the process of negotiations conducted by co-chairman Vance and Owen, marks a vital step toward a settlement of the conflict in Bosnia.

The United States Government welcomes the difficult and courageous decision made by the Bosnian Government. President Izetbegovic has shown commendable statesmanship. We also commend the efforts made by the Bosnian Croatian Delegation in reaching this conclusion.

We now have an agreement signed by two of the three parties. It is imperative that the Bosnian Serbs reach agreement immediately so that a final settlement of this tragic conflict can be achieved. We call upon the Bosnian Serbs to immediately cease their attacks, to lift the siege and bombardment of Sarajevo and other cities, and to end their campaign of ethnic cleansing. We believe the entire world community must do its utmost to impress upon the Bosnian Serbs and their supporters in Belgrade that they must abandon their present policies.

As I stated on February 10, if there is a viable agreement entered into in good faith by the parties, the United States is prepared to do its share to help implement and enforce such an agreement, working with NATO and under the United Nations.

We believe it is of critical importance that this conflict be settled on terms which will preserve the independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia. Such a solution would be in keeping with our values as a nation and the goal of preventing a wider Balkan war.

Looking to the day when a settlement of this terrible conflict has been reached, the entire international community should do its utmost to provide economic aid and reconstruction assistance to the Bosnian state.

#

Ukraine/Russia Nuclear Arms

Q: How do you feel about the report in the Washington Post which quotes Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko as saying the current crisis in Russia has dimmed political support in Ukraine for eliminating nuclear weapons?

A: -- The Ukrainian Government has publicly committed itself to becoming a non-nuclear state.

-- We expect it to live up to that obligation.

-- We believe it is in the best interest of Ukraine and the community of nations if these nuclear weapons are destroyed.

Homosexuals in the Military

Q: At Tuesday's press conference, the President was asked whether he would consider limiting homosexuals to non-combat positions if the ban on their participation in the military were lifted. He indicated that he thought that a distinction could be made on duty assignments if the ban is lifted. Has a decision been made on this?

A: -- No decision has been made on this issue.

-- I'm sure that the possibility of restricting duty assignments will be one of the options discussed during deliberations at the Department of Defense and during Congressional hearings on this issue.

-- As the President noted, the courts have long recognized that the Armed Forces can restrict duty assignments based on a number of factors, such as gender, physical ability and age. These are distinctions that cannot be legally drawn in civilian life, but can be made for reasons of national security. Restrictions on duty assignment are a matter of policy, not of law.

-- The option of restricting homosexuals from combat units or other assignments, therefore, will be reviewed along with all other policy implications.

Q: Does the President still support his campaign pledge to lift the ban?

A: -- The President is firmly committed to ensuring that American citizens who want to serve their country should be able to do so unless their conduct disqualifies them from doing so.

-- President Clinton believes that behavior can and should be strictly regulated. He does not think people should be disqualified merely on the basis of status.

-- The President does not believe individuals should be excluded from military service solely on the basis of their status.

Q: The New York Times reported that the Administration has done little work on lifting the ban on gays in the military, and that the Pentagon is actively undermining the President's policy. Are you satisfied with the progress to date? Is the military in control on this issue?

A: -- When President Clinton met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in January, they set forward a plan to address this issue over the next several months. The President is confident that the Defense Department and the military Services are approaching this issue seriously, and he looks forward to working closely with them as final decisions are made.

-- The President expects to receive Secretary Aspin's recommendation on July 15, as planned.

Q: Do you believe that the Navy acted improperly in providing to Congress a court document that contends that the reinstatement of Navy Petty Officer Meinhold has been disruptive to his squadron?

A: -- No. The document in question -- a statement by Petty Officer Meinhold's commanding officer -- was provided to Congressional committees at their request. As part of the documentation filed with the District Court in California, it is publicly available and is not of a privileged nature.

Q: Is the President concerned that lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military will hurt recruiting so badly that the military might have to return to the draft?

A: -- No. President Clinton agrees with Senator Nunn's assessment in that regard -- that we will continue to be able to draw top caliber men and women and to maintain ready, quality military forces.

STATEMENTS ON MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS FOR HOMOSEXUALS

"The military is studying the practical problems about duty assignments and other things, and we'll revisit this in about six months."

-- The President, Detroit Town Meeting, February 10

"There are a lot of things that could effect the details of how this is done. You know, what kinds of duty? Or should any duty be off limits and all that sort of stuff. There are a lot of issues here."

-- The President, Interview by WSB-TV, Atlanta
February 5

"It's not impossible that there would be different rules to apply to different sets of people. That's not impossible. It's very easy to contemplate -- would have different sorts of assignments, different situations for the different sets of people."

-- George Stephanopoulos, Press Briefing, January 29

"Q: Is he considering lifting the ban but keeping it in terms of combat?"

A: Again, that's one of the details I think we have to get into in the future."

-- George Stephanopoulos, Press Briefing, January 27

TIMETABLE ON GAYS IN THE MILITARY

April 1:	Involve California-based think tank, Rand to provide a wider scope of information on the issue. (FYI -- the idea is to include more civilians in the process)
Mid April:	Establish an internal DoD Task Force
April/May:	Agency review
June/July:	Review with Joint Chiefs, White House Staff and POTUS
July 15:	Announcement

South African Nuclear Announcement

Q: Any comment on South African President de Klerk's statement that South Africa has built nuclear weapons?

A: -- Of course, we have had long-standing concerns about South Africa's nuclear program. That is why we were pleased South Africa joined the Non-Proliferation Treaty (in 1991) and accepted International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections.

-- We welcome President de Klerk's statement that South Africa has destroyed all its nuclear devices and is adhering strictly to the requirements of the NPT and will continue to do so.

-- Of course, we will continue to monitor the situation.

Q: Isn't that a double standard, being forgiving of South Africa while you are pitting the whole world against North Korea, which may not have even one nuclear device?

A: -- No, there is no double standard. We would welcome a North Korean decision to accept IAEA inspections and declare all of its nuclear activities to the IAEA. The difference is that North Korea has violated its safeguards obligations, while South Africa is cooperating with the international community.

China/North Korea

Q: Any comment on the Chinese Foreign Minister's statement in the New York Times that China doesn't support sanctions against North Korea?

A: -- Foreign Minister Qian's statement reiterated China's opposition to nuclear proliferation in Korea.

-- We're in touch with the Chinese, and have urged them to use their influence to get North Korea to change its mind about withdrawing from the NPT and to comply fully with its non-proliferation obligations.

-- The U.S. is not looking for a confrontation with North Korea. If our non-proliferation objectives can be achieved without sanctions or other formal UNSC action, this would be a positive development.

Egypt: Arrest in WTC Bombing

Q: Can you confirm that Mahmoud Abu Halima is in American custody?

A: -- Yes. Any further details on this case would most appropriately be handled by the Justice Department.

Q: [IF PRESSED] Was this a snatch?

A: -- No. In the course of the investigation into the World Trade Center bombing, a number of governments were cooperative in the apprehension of the suspect.

Q: [IF PRESSED] Was Egypt one of those governments?

A: -- Yes.

Palestinian Leaders Meeting with Christopher

Q: Can you confirm that Secretary Christopher will meet with Palestinian leaders on today [Friday] in Washington?

A: -- Yes. As you know, we had been in touch with all the parties, including the Palestinians, asking them to send representatives to meet with U.S. officials before the beginning of the next round.

-- We are pleased that Palestinian representatives, including Faisal Husseini, will come to Washington and will meet with Secretary Christopher on Friday to discuss next steps.

HAITI

- CAPUTO EXTENDED VISIT TO HAITI
 - STILL ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL SIDES
 - AMBS. PEZZULLO + REDMAN ARE KEEPING INFORMED + ACTIVE
PEZZULLO IN WASHINGTON
REDMAN IN HAITI
-
- FYI - DON'T WANT TO GET OUT FRONT ON THIS - CAPUTO HAS NOT ANNOUNCED ANYTHING



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 1993

ASPIN MAKES ROLES, MISSION CHANGES, SETS BROADER STUDY

Secretary of Defense Les Aspin today announced he is ordering changes in the way the Armed Services do business as the first step in rationalizing their roles and missions for the new, post-Cold War world.

Aspin acted on recommendations made by General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a report to Congress on roles, missions and functions of the services. The chairman's report is mandated by law. The Congress required that the secretary transmit the report with his comments.

"General Powell's report is an important first step in this process," Aspin said in transmitting the report. "The next step is to tackle the larger issues of service airpower roles, ground force requirements, contributions to overseas presence, the proper roles of the reserve components and responsibilities in peacekeeping. These issues will form a major part of the Bottom-Up Review of defense needs and programs we are conducting now."

One of the key changes Aspin is ordering today involves how forces based in the United States are to be commanded. "We know today that forces based in the United States will play a key part in projecting power overseas in the future. That's why I agree with General Powell that we should put those forces under one commander-in-chief. I am directing the chairman to expand the responsibilities of the Commander-In-Chief Atlantic to include air and ground combat forces based in the continental United States as well as the Navy Atlantic Fleet and Marine Forces Atlantic."

-2-

Aspin also directed that the services:

- o consolidate initial fixed-wing flight training and agree on one common training aircraft.
- o consolidate some Army and Marine Corps attack helicopter maintenance and aircrew training, while examining the feasibility of consolidating initial helicopter training for all services at Ft. Rucker.
- o develop a standard accounting system for aircraft inventories.
- o integrate attack helicopters into close air support planning while standardizing joint doctrine for close air support to allow safe, effective support by all service elements.

Aspin's actions and the report were transmitted today by letter to Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A copy of the letter and the list of actions directed by the secretary are attached.

####

IRAQ POLICY

- Q: Is the Clinton Administration still seeking the removal of Saddam Hussein?
- A: Our steadfast objective is to have Iraq comply FULLY with ALL UN Security Council Resolutions.
- Those resolutions include UNSCR 687 and 715 which require Saddam Hussein to give up all his weapons of mass destruction. The also include UNSCR 688 which requires Saddam Hussein to cease repressing the Iraqi people.
- We do not believe Saddam Hussein's regime can comply fully with these UN resolutions and still remain in power.
- Q: Are you relenting on the Bush administration's policy of not lifting sanctions as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power?
- A: Our objective is full compliance with all UN resolutions. In practice there is no difference because we do not believe that Saddam Hussein can comply with all UN resolutions and still remain in power.
- Saddam Hussein is not in compliance with any of the UN resolutions at this stage. Given his track record there is no reason to believe he will ever be in compliance. So the question is very hypothetical.
- As Secretary of State Christopher told NBC "Meet the Press" a month ago: "I suppose we all hold out the hope that people may be converted, but I am an agnostic on that front. I'm not very enthusiastic about Saddam Hussein or the likelihood that he will change. He's done too many things in his life. There are just too many acts that he has not only admitted but really bragged about that I think show the character of the person. So I think we need to watch that situation very carefully and to be ready to enforce all the UN resolutions."
- Q: Aren't you making a concession to Saddam that he will welcome?
- A: Our policy is the same as the longstanding policy of the UN and our coalition partners. We have maintained a common front and a united resolve.
- We have also just released the War Crimes report that the Bush administration refused to release. It clearly establishes the criminal nature of the Saddam Hussein regime.
- Saddam Hussein should make no mistake. Any provocative action will be met by a firm response from the coalition.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

29-Mar-1993 08:10 EDT

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE BELOW

FROM: Bruce O. Riedel
(RIEDEL)

SUBJECT: Iraq/Iran press guidance

Following has been coordinated with State:

Q: What is US policy on lifting sanctions on Iraq?

A: As Secretary Christopher said yesterday on CBS, our objective is full Iraqi compliance with all the UN Security Council resolutions. It is inconcievable based on Saddam's past and current behaivior that Iraq will meet this standard under his leadership.

Iraq is not now in compliance with any of the UNSC resolutions. We are confident they will be extended when the UN Security Council mets today in its periodic 60-day review of sanctions. The resolutions requirements are not personalized and they will apply to any Iraqi regime. They reflect the determination of the international community to ensure that Iraq will not again threaten its neighbors or repress its people. We want to see those requirements met. And our conversations in the region and at the UN suggest there is broad understanding and support for this approach.

We have reiterated our policy to Iraq as recently as last Friday when Ambassador Albright and her British, French and Russian colleagues jointly reminded the Iraq Ambassador to the UN of Iraq's responsibilities under the UN resolutions and cautioned Iraq not to take provocative actions.

(FYI: Ambassador Albright and the P4 ambassadors made a public statement on March 26 after seeing the Iraqi Ambassador in New York).

Q: What can you say about press reports that the US has demarched Iran for violating UNSC sanctions against Iraq by importing Iraqi oil? (WPost Sunday)

A. We are concerned by evidence that Iraqi oil is being exported to Iran in violation of UN sanctions.

The government of Iran is aware of our concerns.

We do not intend to discuss the details of our diplomacy or

intelligence methods and sources.

Q: IF ASKED: Have you raised these concerns with other states?

A: We have had consultations with our allies on sanctions violations since the sanctions were imposed in 1990. We are consulting with our allies on this incident.

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PM-CIS-Russia-Politics, 4th Ld, a0521,0189

URGENT

Lawmakers Cut Yeltsin Powers, OK Referendum

Eds: UPDATES with Congress approving April 25 referendum on presidential and parliamentary elections and economic reforms.

By BRYAN BRUMLEY=

Associated Press Writer=

MOSCOW (AP) _ The Congress stripped Boris Yeltsin of more power today and authorized a referendum for next month to ask Russian voters to approve early elections for president and parliament and judge his economic reforms.

Presidential aides had denounced the proposed question on the economy as being designed to elicit a ``no'' vote on the effort to build a market economy that began early last year.

The actions by the Soviet-era Congress of People's Deputies deepened the power struggle between Yeltsin and the legislative branch _ a constitutional crisis that has paralyzed political life for nearly a year.

Frustrated by their failed weekend effort to oust Yeltsin, his legislative opponents began work today by passing a resolution rescinding presidential decrees in 1991 that placed regional administrators in power across Russia.

Yeltsin relies on these personal representatives to promote his reforms. They govern in 66 regions, including Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Later in the day, Congress voted 666-83 to approve four questions for an April 25 referendum:

_ Whether voters have confidence in Yeltsin.

_ Whether they approve of his free-market reforms.

_ Whether there should be early presidential elections.

_ Whether there should be early parliamentary elections.

No date was given for when the elections would occur. Currently, presidential elections are scheduled for 1996 and parliamentary elections are scheduled for 1995.

The question about his market reforms is potentially hostile to Yeltsin, because Russians have seen their living standards deteriorate sharply in the past year as prices skyrocketed. Many Russians support Yeltsin personally, but are angry about soaring inflation.

The Congress made no provisions for replacing the administrators, but the regions still have local councils elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union.

There was no indication Yeltsin's representatives would obey lawmakers' orders to step down.

The resolution also urged Yeltsin to form a coalition ``government of national accord'' that presumably would include hard-liners who want to slow down or reverse his economic reforms.

The deputies approved the resolution 535-213, with 31 abstentions.

Yeltsin spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov denounced the Congress' action as ``a continuation of the destruction of the president,''' and he said that ``adequate measures'' would be taken. He did not elaborate.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY -- NSC PRESS OFFICE
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1993

Yeltsin Survives Impeachment Vote: A total of 617 legislators voted in favor of the impeachment motion, 72 votes short of the required two-thirds majority of Congress. The attempt to dismiss Yeltsin, whose five-year mandate is not due to expire until June 1996, capped the most dramatic week in Kremlin politics since the failure of a hard-line Communist coup in August 1991. It followed a series of political reversals for Yeltsin, whose once-formidable authority has been sapped by a draining constitutional conflict with Parliament and the vast economic problems associated with Russia's transition from communism to capitalism.

The failure of conservatives to muster enough votes in the Congress to topple Yeltsin leaves the President and the Parliament locked in an apparent stalemate over how to resolve Russia's political crisis. The Congress overwhelmingly rejected a compromise drafted by Yeltsin and Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov that proposed to hold early elections for both the President and Parliament in November. (WP A1, NYT A1, LAT A1, WT A1, WSJ A8)

Summit Query: Can U.S. Rescue Yeltsin and Reform? After days of discord between the Russian president and the conservative-dominated Congress of People's Deputies, that question preoccupies the Clinton Administration as it prepares for its first meeting with the teetering Russian leader. President Clinton, putting the final touches on an emergency aid package to be unveiled at the April 3-4 summit in Vancouver, Canada, lauded Yeltsin last week as the popularly elected leader of Russia's "historic movement toward democratic political reform." Clinton, who has already proposed increasing direct U.S. aid to Russia from \$417 million annually to \$700 million, wants to do something fast that yields immediate, tangible benefits for ordinary Russians. (LAT A1, WSJ A8)

Nunn Likely to Narrow Debate on Military Gays: Even as the Clinton Administration struggles to defuse the explosive gays-in-the-military issue, the debate over lifting the armed forces' ban on homosexuals will be thrown into the most combustible forum in Washington: Capitol Hill. Under the gavel of Senator Nunn, the redoubtable chairman of the Armed Services Committee and an avowed opponent of President Clinton's plan, the tone is supposed to be "thorough and objective," as the conservative lawmaker promised. (LAT A1, WT A1)

Bosnia President Sets a Deadline for Serbs on Pact: President Izetbegovic said he would give Bosnian serbs 10 to 15 days to accept the UN-sponsored peace plan he signed last week. (WT A7)

UN Aid Convoy Reaches Town as Truce Takes Effect in Bosnia: A UN-brokered cease-fire officially began Sunday, and a long-delayed UN convoy reached the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica, where thousands of refugees have been without food or shelter. (WP A12, NYT A8)

PLO Mulls Attending Peace Talks: A deal to resume Arab-Israeli peace talks seemed possible Sunday after the United States firmed up commitments to Palestinians in return for assurances they would attend the April 20 talks. Palestinian sources said leaders of the PLO would meet in Tunis on Thursday to decide whether to resume the talks. The peace negotiations were suspended in December after Israel deported 415 Palestinians it accused of supporting violent Islamic groups. (WT A7)

French Conservatives Seal Their Victory: France embarked on a new era of divided government as a coalition of conservative parties won the largest parliamentary majority in the nation's modern history and prepared to challenge Socialist President Francois Mitterrand. The looming phase of "cohabitation" government, in which Mitterrand must preside over a hostile prime minister and cabinet, may generate more friction than during a similar period of co-existence from 1986 to 1988. Then, the conservatives held a bare four-seat majority and were frequently outmaneuvered by Mitterrand. This time, the conservatives say they will use their crushing electoral majority to circumscribe Mitterrand's power and influence during his last two years in office. (WP A12, NYT A3, LAT A2, WT A7, WSJ A8)

Iran Said to Buy Oil from Baghdad: U.S. intelligence agencies have expressed concern that Teheran and Baghdad may have struck a deal calling for Iran to buy oil from Iraq in violation of UN sanctions. Such an agreement between the two Middle eastern adversaries would undermine international efforts imposed after the Persian Gulf war to deprive Iraq of oil revenue. (WP A7)

China's Congress Murmurs Rare Dissent: Hard-line Premier Li Peng was elected to another five-year term by China's nominal parliament, but there were a surprisingly high number of opposing votes and abstentions. Li, who played the most visible role in the Chinese army's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989, is the most widely disliked leader in the country. (WP A12, NYT A2, LAT A4, WT A7)

Somalia's Leaders Reach Agreement: Thirteen days of talks in the Ethiopian capital and plenty of international arm-twisting have led Somali leaders to agree on the first form of government their country has known for more than two years. But while expressing hope for peace, Western diplomats and United Nations officials were skeptical about the solidity of the pact without being propped up by outside countries. Incidents of looting and attacks against relief organizations in Somalia continue, emphasizing the fragility of the accord. (NYT A5, WT A9)

El Salvador's Ruling Party picks Presidential Hopeful: Signaling the official start of El Salvador's first postwar election campaign, the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance chose San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol as its candidate in elections next March that will have former Marxist guerrillas taking part for the first time. (LAT A2)

Indian Accuses Pakistan in Bombing Wave: Former Indian Defense Minister Sharad Pawar charged that Pakistanis, possibly Islamabad's main intelligence agency, organized bombings in Bombay two weeks ago that killed 250 people. Pakistan denied the accusation. (WP A13)

Israeli, Palestinian Killed in Gaza Strip: Two Palestinians stabbed an Israeli Jew to death in the occupied Gaza Strip, and Israel indefinitely banned Palestinian residents of Gaza from entering Israel, where about 30,000 of them work. Give Israelis have been killed in a month in Gaza. (WP A13, NYT A2, LAT A2)

China's Abuse of Political Prisoners Detailed: Despite efforts to show new concern for human rights, Chinese authorities continue to hold political prisoners from the 1970s and early 1980s and have been particularly hard on two men who symbolize the Democracy Wall movement of 1978-79. (WP A20)

In Angola, Seeking Peace "On the Cheap" Renews War: When it was signed in May 1991, the accord that ended Angola's 16-year civil war was hailed in capitals from Washington to Moscow as a model for post-Cold War peacemaking. The peace has exploded and the nearly two-year-old toasts ring hollow. More than 20,000 people are estimated to have been killed, including more than 10,000 in one battle alone, since a renewal of fighting last October. (WP A1)

World Trade Center Bombing: Federal officials refused to confirm a report published in The New York Times Sunday that a letter written to the paper claiming responsibility for the World Trade Center bombing had been linked to one of the five men arrested in connection with the explosion. (WP A4)

Head of Joint Chiefs Plans to Serve Out Full Term: General Colin Powell will serve out his full term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retiring September 30, his spokesman said. (NYT A12)

Japanese Candor Meets One Trilateral Goal: The Japanese co-author of a Trilateral Commission report on immigration had a question for President Clinton: Why did he appoint blacks, Hispanics and women but no Asians to his Cabinet? (WT A3)

U.S. Hopes Economic Group Will Help Bolster Trade with East Asian Nations: The Clinton Administration is throwing its weight behind a little-known U.S.-Asian economic organization as a way to bolster trade with the fast-growing economies of East Asia. The 15-member organization, called Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, is beginning a four-day meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia to plot its direction. The group's ambitious goals include trade and investment liberalization, as well as stronger protection for patents and copy-rights among the member states. "It has enormous potential," said USTR Mickey Kantor. (WSJ A9A)