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Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer

Aired February 22, 1998

Is America Ready for War? Legal Strategy of War Between

White House, Ken Starr and Monica Lewinsky

WOLF BLITZER, HOST: Welcome to LATE EDITION, the last  
word in Sunday talk.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES: Let me be clear. If diplomacy fails, we must

be --

and

we are -- prepared to act. The choice is Saddam

Hussein's.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: The U.S. military ready for war?

(SOUND OF AIRCRAFT)

BLITZER: Are the American people?

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PROTESTERS: No more war!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Will eleventh-hour diplomacy head off a  
confrontation  
with Iraq?

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Substantial progress was made today.

We feel that a deal is within reach.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: We'll get the latest on the standoff from a man at the center of the U.S. strategy, Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering.

Will the president get congressional support? Two senators on the Armed Services Committee face off, Democrat Chuck Robb and Republican Robert Smith.

Then a legal war between the White House, Ken Starr and Monica Lewinsky. We'll talk legal strategy with former White House counsels Jack Quinn and C. Boyden Gray.

Plus our roundtable -- Roberts, Page and Blankley.

And Bruce Morton has the Last Word on war, what is it  
good  
for?

ANNOUNCER: Live from CNN in Washington, this is LATE  
EDITION, with Wolf Blitzer.

BLITZER: It's noon in Washington, 9:00 a.m. in Los  
Angeles, 8:00  
p.m. in Baghdad, and 8:00 p.m. on board the USS  
Independence  
in the Persian Gulf.

Wherever you're watching, from around the world,  
thanks for  
joining us.

Q&A with our guests shortly, but first, let's go live  
to  
Baghdad for  
the latest developments on our top story. Christiane  
Amanpour is  
standing by live.

Christiane, what is the very latest on this possible  
breakthrough in  
the diplomatic initiative?

CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR, CNN CORRESPONDENT: The  
very latest is that the secretary-general, Kofi  
Annan, has  
ended his  
round of meetings now with Iraqi Deputy Prime  
Minister  
Tariq  
Aziz.

Now, this was a round of meetings to finalize what  
apparently he  
managed to hammer out with the Iraqi president,  
Saddam  
Hussein,  
this afternoon.

We are told that he had three hours of meeting with  
Saddam  
Hussein. Two of those hours were alone, just with an  
interpreter,  
that he felt that he was on the verge of a  
breakthrough,  
that he

could emerge from this with a package, we understand,

that

would

be acceptable to members of the Security Council.

When we asked, did that include the United States

demands

that

UNSCOM remain in charge of all the weapons

inspections and

that all the weapons inspectors get free access to

everything,

including the presidential sites, we are told that

that

was the

implication, and the impression, rather, that Kofi

Annan

was

coming here with. That was a given; that was taken

for

granted.

And that yet, we're told, we're not quite sure

whether a

final deal

has been arranged on that, and they are going back

tonight

to

hammer out a final deal.

They hope to be able to sign either tonight or tomorrow. We understand that there's a press conference scheduled, or at least a statement from Kofi Annan, tomorrow morning.

He expects to be able to leave here with something that he can sell to the Security Council, that would be acceptable to everybody, including the United States and Britain, and that will fly also here in Iraq.

We're waiting to see exactly what that is.

Wolf.

BLITZER: OK.

Christiane Amanpour, thanks so much for joining us.

If there are any breaking developments for the next  
hour  
or any  
time soon, of course, you'll be back, and all of our  
viewers will  
know the very latest.

Christiane Amanpour reporting live from Baghdad.

Turning now to the official U.S. view, joining us now,  
Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas  
Pickering.

During the Gulf War, Ambassador Pickering served as  
the  
U.S.  
representative to the United Nations.

Mr. Ambassador, thank you so much for joining us on  
LATE  
EDITION.

THOMAS PICKERING, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE:

Thanks, Wolf. And it's very nice to be with you.

BLITZER: Thank you.

Now, your reaction to word from Kofi Annan, from his

spokesman, that there -- it looks like everyone is on  
the  
verge of a  
breakthrough, a diplomatic solution.

PICKERING: My reaction to that, Wolf, is, we of  
course  
have to  
wait and see what this solution is.

The secretary-general has gone out with the thoughts,  
indeed with  
the ideas, and indeed with the bottom lines, if we  
could  
call it that,  
of the permanent five members of the Security  
Council: o  
pen and  
free access, maintaining the integrity of UNSCOM,  
making  
sure  
that UNSCOM remains in operational control of the  
inspections.

We now hear that we're on the verge of an agreement.  
That,  
of

course, remains to be seen.

The secretary-general has said he'll bring this back  
to  
the Security  
Council and present it to the Security Council.

With these things, Wolf, as you know, there is always  
the  
question  
of the devil being in the details.

That will then have to be examined by the countries  
concerned,  
including our own, and clearly by the president, who  
remains  
actively, personally and closely in touch with all of  
these things.

BLITZER: Now, Kofi Annan is an astute diplomat. He  
knows --  
fully understands the U.S. government's position, the  
Clinton  
administration's position.

Is it conceivable to you that what might be  
acceptable to

him, as

the chief UN diplomat might not necessarily be

acceptable

to

President Clinton?

PICKERING: He certainly knows out views, Wolf. He

will of

course be making up his own mind, as will we. And I

think

it's not,

at this point, wise or useful to try to predict who

may do

what to

whom, under what circumstances about a deal that we

haven't

seen,

which is a deal that is now said to be only on the

verge

of coming

together.

BLITZER: If the Iraqis insist on some sort of

timetable

for easing

or removing the sanctions against Iraq, the sanctions

that  
have  
been imposed since the Gulf War, in exchange for  
complete,  
unfettered inspections by the UN weapons inspectors,  
is  
that  
something the Clinton administration would look  
favorably  
upon?

PICKERING: Well, that's a hypothetical. Let's go back  
to  
the  
resolutions that put all of this into place.

Resolution 687 put the monitoring into place. It was  
to be  
free and  
unfettered. The UN is not there to pay a price for  
monitoring; it's  
there to ensure that it happens.

The question of sanctions coming off is also deeply  
involved in  
Resolution 687. When he complies fully and completely  
with

all the  
relevant resolutions, that's the time when you can  
look to  
that to  
happen.

BLITZER: Now, there has been some speculation from  
Iraqi  
sources that they might be willing to accept at  
60-day or  
90-day  
inspection of these restricted presidential sites in  
order  
to end this  
impasse and get on with the diplomacy. Is that  
something  
that  
would be acceptable to the United States?

PICKERING: Well, Wolf, you and I are not here  
negotiating  
this.

I said free and unfettered access. It wouldn't, I  
think,  
take a genius  
to figure out that time limits don't involve that  
kind of

thing.

But let's see what kind of a deal there is,  
certainly.

Let's see what  
happens.

Free and unfettered access is clear. That's what it  
means.

It means  
access to any site and any time with any method of  
inspection that  
the UNSCOM executive chairman and his inspectors  
choose to  
apply. That's what the original resolution said;  
that's  
the governing  
standard.

BLITZER: But the Iraqis keep insisting, and some of  
their  
allies, in  
effect -- the French, the Russians, the Chinese, much  
of  
the Arab  
world, a lot of the developing Third World -- insist  
that

there must

be some light at the end of the tunnel, that the

Iraqis

have to see an

end to these sanctions, otherwise the U.S. will

insist

that they go on

forever.

PICKERING: There is an end to the sanctions. I just

told

you

what the end was. It's contained in the United

Nations

resolutions.

That's always been clear.

What's been interesting and important is that for

seven

years, in

fact, it was Saddam Hussein who stood and blocked the

light at

the end of the tunnel by his refusal to go along with

what

was

required by those resolutions to implement them, to

have

the free

and unfettered access for monitoring, to open up the  
sites, to make

declarations of

his weapons of mass destruction within 15 days as he  
was

required

at the beginning of the inspection process.

None of that's been complied with. And in fact, he's  
tried

to play

cat and mouse with the inspection operation for a

very

long period

of time, hiding things, and then, later when they're

discov

ered,

declaring them.

Recently, within the last few days, there's been some  
very

interesting reports coming out of Baghdad that they

were

involved

in deception operations with respect to missile

warheads

that can

carry chemical and biological weapons.

You know, the record of this is very clear. The

American

people

know the record of this. This is the central feature

of

the situation,

and sanctions clearly aren't going to come off until

he fu

lly and

completely complies with the resolutions.

BLITZER: You were the United States ambassador to the

United

Nations during the Gulf War. Is it conceivable, in

your

mind, that if

Kofi Annan comes back and says it's acceptable to

him, and

he

reports that to the Security Council, the U.S.,

unilaterally, would

still prepare and go to war?

PICKERING: Wolf, let's not talk about hypotheticals.

Let's

look

at the real world. We have no agreement -- it's on

the

verge. Let's

see what the details of that agreement are.

The United States and the other permanent five have

come

together on the standards, the principles that have

to be

met.

Clearly any agreement will be judged against the

basis of

those

principles. That's the basis on which he has gone.

That's

the basis

on which he understands where the Security Council

is.

BLITZER: You're also a former United States

ambassador to

Russia. And Russian president Boris Yeltsin, over

these

past few

weeks, has repeatedly warned that there could be  
another,  
quote,  
"world war," if the U.S. were to strike militarily  
against  
Iraq.

You're concerned about the impact of such a strike on  
U.S.-Russian relations?

PICKERING: Wolf, let's be also careful. We also know  
that  
Yeltsin spokesman said in fact that his Russian was  
misunderstood  
in that particular case.

The important thing here is that the Russians, the  
French,  
the  
Chinese, the British, we and the other members of the  
Security  
Council support the bottom line. The resolutions must  
be  
implemented. That means free and unfettered access to  
the  
sites,  
the use of UNSCOM and its maintenance of its  
operational

control

over the inspection process.

We want professional inspections, not potemkin

inspections, not

shams. And we want to be sure that the weapons of mass

destruction that UNSCOM has been created to root out,

those are

rooted out, that he isn't able to recreate those,

that

they're able to

keep on monitoring that situation. You can't do that

if

sites are

closed off, and that's the crisis we're facing now.

He's insisting on closing off part of Iraq to a

operation

which is

designed to root out those dangerous and difficult

weapons

of

mass destruction.

BLITZER: And you're also a former U.S. ambassador to

Israel.

You've just ordered -- you've just told nonessential

diplomatic

personnel and their families to leave Israel -- and

to

leave Kuwait,

for that matter -- because of the situation. Are you

ready

to

reverse that order yet as a result of this verge --

of

being on the

verge of a breakthrough in the diplomatic process?

PICKERING: Again, let's be careful, Wolf, with our

words.

We

haven't ordered anything. What we have done is we

have

provided

in three posts in the Middle East for American

families

who wish to

leave voluntarily the authority to do that with

government

compensation. But no one has been ordered to leave

the

Middle

East. Once we do that, of course, we let the public

know.

We practice a no double standard with the way in which we are handling things.

This is a prudent and careful precaution. I would read it only as that.

BLITZER: Do you have any doubt, Mr. Ambassador, that the government of Prime Minister Netanyahu would respond against Iraq if Israel were again attacked by Iraq.

PICKERING: We're in close touch with the government of Prime Minister Netanyahu. First and foremost, of course, we believe Israel must be responsible for its own self-defense and security.

Secondly, as you know, as a close partner, friend and strategic ally, we are committed to support and secure and to help maintain the security and the defense of Israel. As this crisis develops we will continue in our closest contacts with Israel on this particular basis.

BLITZER: OK. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, it was very kind of you to join us today on LATE EDITION. Thank you.

PICKERING: Thank you, Wolf.

BLITZER: And later in our program, we'll have the very latest on the Monica Lewinsky story.

But first, coming up next, when we come back, more on Iraq with

the view from the U.S. Capitol Hill. Will President

Clinton get

congressional authorization to use force? We'll speak

with

two

senators with very different views on the crisis --

Republican Bob

Smith and Democrat Chuck Robb.

Please stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: Welcome back to LATE EDITION. Joining us now

to

discuss the situation in Iraq, two members of the

Senate

Armed

Services Committee, Democrat Chuck Robb of Virginia

and

Republican Bob Smith of New Hampshire.

Senators, thanks so much for joining us today.

Senator Robb, looks like there may be a deal in

Baghdad.

Obviously that would be very good news if that were

to

occur.

Your assessment.

U.S. SENATOR CHARLES ROBB (R-VA): Well, if indeed

Saddam Hussein has agreed to all of the stipulations

that

have been

laid down by the UN Security Council, that would be a

good

deal.

I don't think there's anyone that really wants to

have to

go into

armed conflict at this particular moment, but I think

that

we ought

to be appropriately worried to see if there is,

indeed,

full

compliance. And if there is and the regime in Iraq

under

Saddam

Hussein carries out all of the provisions that are

required under the

UN Security Council resolutions, fine.

But we ought to have some sort of a trigger so that  
if he  
doesn't, he  
knows that we don't just pull back for a short period  
of  
time and  
go through this drill again.

There ought to be some clear and specified reaction  
to any  
failure  
to live up to any part of that agreement.

BLITZER: And just a reminder to our viewers from  
around the  
world, we will be taking your phone calls during this  
segment, so  
get ready for those.

Senator Smith, it does seem, though, that if there is  
a  
diplomatic  
breakthrough, the Clinton administration's policy of  
credibly  
threatening the use of military force may have helped  
in  
convincing

Saddam Hussein to back down, if in fact there is an agreement.

U.S. SENATOR ROBERT SMITH (R-NH): Well, that could be -- that could very well be true. If in fact the agreement is solid --

and I certainly agree with Senator Robb; I hope it is. But Saddam has brought us to the brink before. He seems to enjoy watching us, you know, gear up and get all of our troops and equipment over there and then play these games.

I mean, this is, as I think Senator McCain said on another program this morning, these are American lives, not UN lives. And I hope that it is a solid agreement. But I'm skeptical. But let's wait and see.

BLITZER: Well, are you confident that President

Clinton

knows

what he's doing right now, moving these troops

around,

making

these threats, and using diplomacy at the same time?

SMITH: Honestly, no, on that.

I don't have a lot of confidence there. I think

there's a

huge

credibility problem with the American people. There's

a

credibility

problem with our allies. The coalition is not

together. I

don't think

they feel that -- that if something starts, if it

flashes

off, if you will,

with Saddam, will we stay?

You know, we have -- we had 24 air wings. We now have

We had 18 Army divisions. We now have 10. We had in

1991

over two million armed forces. We now have a 1.4

million.

Our

training and our -- and our maintenance is less and

less.

You know, you can't continue to ask the military to

do

more and

give them less to do it with, and I'm very concerned

about

that.

BLITZER: Well, Senator Robb, you were with President

Clinton

last night at the Washington Wizards-Chicago Bulls

basketball

game. You sat with Secretary Cohen as well.

What is your assessment of what they're telling you

about

the

capability to carry out this kind of military strike,

if

so ordered?

ROBB: I have enormous confidence in the fact that they are on top of their game and that they're ready. I spent the last 48 hours down with troops, recruit troops down in Fort Jackson and Parri s Island and then came up yesterday. And I was standing on the deck of newest aircraft carrier, the Stennis, and I was asked about diplomacy. And I said you're standing on one of the most important elements of diplomacy that we have.

If it weren't for the fact that we have shown resolve and moved to this point, we wouldn't be at the position of where we could conceivably have a deal that we and the rest of the international

community could live with.

BLITZER: Well, for the president's national security  
adviser -- I

believe, he was with you last night as well -- he was  
on  
another TV

show this morning, on Fox, and he suggested that it's  
not e  
ven

necessary at this point for Congress to pass a formal  
resolution  
authorizing the use of force.

Let's -- let's listen to Sandy Berger's remarks.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SANDY BERGER, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER: We  
would welcome a congressional resolution, but I don't  
think that

we believe we need it as a matter -- as a legal  
matter, but  
obviously it would be a preferable way to proceed.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Senator Smith, is he going to get that kind  
of  
resolution?

SMITH: Every president, Democrat or Republican, feels  
the  
same  
way about the War Powers Act, but I think, as  
President  
Bush did  
in 1991, when he came to the Congress, I think it  
would be  
a  
terrible  
mistake of the president not to go to the Congress  
and ask  
for  
support for his policy.

I'm not sure that he's going to get it. I think it  
depends  
on what the  
end game is.

BLITZER: Would you, at this minute, right now,  
knowing what

you know now, assuming that Kofi Annan does not  
succeed;  
whatever his agreement with Saddam Hussein may be,  
it's not  
acceptable to the Clinton administration; and the  
president still  
goes forward with the order for a military strike,  
would  
you  
support that resolution?

SMITH: No. Not knowing what I know right now. I  
couldn't  
do it.

ROBB: I'm convinced that not only my friend Senator  
Smith  
but  
the rest of Congress will have enough information to  
respond  
affirmatively. I think there will be an overwhelming  
positive  
response if indeed that is where we are.

Congress, like everyone else, wants to be a bit  
hesitant.  
They want

to wait as long as they can before committing  
themselves.

Only the president can make that decision, but I am  
very  
much

convinced that the Congress will be behind the  
president,  
the

American people will be behind the president. And  
many of  
our

allies, some of whom are not necessarily profiles in  
courage in  
terms of indicating their willingness to support the  
United States at

this buildup period, if we decide that it's in the  
interests of the

international community in order to take care of a  
situation that is

far more dangerous than I think the American people  
fully  
appreciate, we'll be ready to go.

SMITH: But the Saudis aren't going to let us use  
their  
bases, at

least for the attack aircraft and the bombers. The  
Jordanians won't  
let us fly over. The French aren't with us. The  
Russians  
aren't with  
us.

I mean, we don't have that coalition together, and  
you  
know, if  
they don't feel it's urgent, why should all of the  
American lives be  
put on the line? I mean, I think this is the issue.

ROBB: You...

SMITH: I mean, it's -- go ahead, Chuck.

ROBB: No. I'm just going to say. Let me respond...

SMITH: Yes.

ROBB: ... because they're right in the region. They  
don't  
want to  
be in a position where they can be intimidated by  
Saddam

Hussein,

particularly if nothing comes of all of this and

there is

no specific

action taken.

But if this thing goes down in whatever form, I am

convinced that

all of those nations -- the Saudis, the rest of the

GCC

states -- I've

been in the region a number of times; I've been

throughout

area. I

spent yesterday, as I say, with the groups that are

getting ready to

deploy. They're ready.

The support is going to be far stronger than it may

appear

at this

moment, because nobody is certain whether or not

we're

going to

have anything go down.

SMITH: I think the key, though, is the word ready. I

have

no

qualms about the ability of the United States forces

or

their

courage and their dedication to get -- to try to do

the

job as best

they can.

But it doesn't mean that we shouldn't give them the

best,

and this

president has not given them the best to work with in

the

past five

years. He's cut the military dramatically. He didn't

even

fund the

Bosnian operation. He's going to ask for a

supplemental

for that.

And we're raiding accounts. We're cross-decking.

We're

switching

pilots back and forth on aircraft. We're losing good  
pilots. We're  
cutting back in maintenance, and people are stressed  
out on  
OPTEMPO.

This is a huge stress on our military to build up.  
And let  
me ask you  
this: What would happen if we get all bogged down  
over  
here and  
North Korea invaded the South on the same day? We  
could not  
handle that.

BLITZER: But I thought the Pentagon was supposed to  
be  
ready  
for a two-front...

SMITH: They can't do it.

ROBB: Well, let me say that the reduction in defense  
spending has  
taken place over the last 10 years with the full  
support of

Congress. We have restored some money. I have fully supported that. I think we have clearly gotten to the point where we have to be very careful about even suggesting that any additional cuts would be proper. We have actually spent the so-called "peace dividend" over the last 10 years and bought a great deal of other peace and security for the United States with it.

BLITZER: We have to take a caller from Switzerland.

Please

go

ahead with your question for the senators.

Switzerland, are you there?

All right. We lost our caller from Switzerland. But you wanted to respond to Senator Robb.

SMITH: I think, also, there's a moral authority here,

a

question

here. This president has been diverted with the

domestic

crisis that

he faces. And to go out with a town meeting,

literally hour

s before

your planned attack -- and we didn't know about this

latest

development with the UN -- but to go out with a town

meeting and

try to sell a policy at this late hour is almost

pathetic.

I mean, I just

don't -- it's not the way to run the military.

BLITZER: Well, are you suggesting, Senator, that the

president's

creating it to distract attention?

SMITH: No. I've never said that, and I don't believe

that.

BLITZER: All right. Let's take a caller from

Cleveland,

Ohio. Go

ahead with your question please.

CALLER: Yes. I'm wondering if Kofi Annan comes back  
with a  
deal and it's not -- if the United States is not  
pleased  
with that deal

and goes ahead and starts bombing anyway, will the  
whole  
idea

that the United States is standing up for the  
international community  
and the United Nations is a big sham and just an  
excuse  
for the  
United Nations -- for the United States to be an  
imperialis  
t over

there?

BLITZER: Senator Robb?

ROBB: Well, we have to sometimes weigh the  
consequences of  
action versus the consequences of inaction, in this  
particular case.

We're at a stage in the development of this whole process,  
as we  
were in Desert Shield, which became Desert Storm,  
where the  
credibility of the United States and its role in the international  
community is at stake.

There are no attractive options available for anybody  
at  
this point.

And there are times when the United States has to be  
prepared to  
go it alone if they have to.

I am certain, again, that the international community  
will  
rally  
behind the United States if we are forced to take  
action.

BLITZER: Last word?

SMITH: Well, there was -- in 1991, it was a very  
overt

action.

They invaded Kuwait. Our policy was to get them out of Kuwait, and we had the unified support of the countries in the region and most of the world.

We don't have that now, and there's a reason for that. I mean, there's not a lot of confidence that this president has the staying power to stay there if something really bad happens as a result of this. And I'm very worried.

BLITZER: OK. Senator Smith, Senator Robb, kind of both of you to join us. We're all out of time for this segment.

But I'm sure the debate is going to continue irrespective of the

results of

what's

happening in Baghdad right now.

Thank you so much.

And when we come back, the other confrontation

brewing at

the

White House, the one with independent counsel Ken

Starr.

Should

the president's closest aides and his Secret Service

detail be forced

to testify in the Monica Lewinsky case?

The president's former counsel Jack Quinn, and George

Bush's

White House counsel, C. Boyden Gray, face off, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: Monica Lewinsky went out to dinner last night here in

Washington at a restaurant with her lawyers.

Meanwhile,

there's

been more legal wrangling involving her, Ken Starr  
and the  
president.

Starr's prosecutors questioned top presidential aide  
Bruce  
Lindsey  
amid talk that the White House might claim executive  
privilege.

Joining me now to discuss that and other matters, the  
latest on all  
of the Monica Lewinsky affair, Jack Quinn, former  
White  
House  
counsel for President Clinton, and C. Boyden Gray,  
White  
House  
counsel during the Bush administration.

Thanks to both of you for joining us.

Executive privilege. It seems like if the president  
were  
to assert  
executive privilege -- and he has not done that yet,  
Jack  
-- it might

appear to be an Nixonian kind of tactic asserted

during

Watergate.

JACK QUINN, FORMER WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL: Well, I

don't think so, Wolf. You know, executive privilege

is a

good

principle, but it's gotten a bad name -- got a bad

name

during

Watergate, and that's too bad, because it really is

an

important

principle for the institution of the presidency. In

fact,

what it makes

sure happens is that people giving presidents advice

are

honest and

candid in that advise.

But, you...

BLITZER: It would look like he's trying to stonewall,

conceal

something. Why assert that if there's nothing to

hide?

QUINN: Well, because there's an important reason why confidentiality ought to be the rule in the White

House in

governance. And you know, presidents need candid

advice

from

their advisers. If people think that what they tell a

president is going

to be out on the street in a month or a week or a

year,

then they're

not going to give -- they're going to hold back.

They're

not going

to give presidents candid advice.

BLITZER: Let's get a Republican view on that.

C. BOYDEN GRAY, FORMER WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL:

Well, I agree with Jack; executive privilege is

important.

But in

fact, President Bush asserted it only once in his

four

years. I think

President Reagan only three times. It does look like they're trying

to hide something, and I don't think if this case were

ever litigated

that it would be upheld. I don't know what official core

function of

government President Clinton was discussing with Bruce

Lindsey,

and that's the only thing that is protected.

BLITZER: It's not a national security issue. National security

people could understand. But on a subject involving an

alleged

affair with Monica Lewinsky, conversations between the

president

and his close adviser Bruce Lindsey, that would not seem

to be

part of that area.

QUINN: Let me try to explain that. It is a

complicated

issue. But

anything having to do with carrying out a president's  
constitutional

functions is subject to a claim of executive  
privilege. So

me things

get more protection than others. National security,  
diplomatic  
secrets, military secrets and so on get more  
protection.

But the whole range of presidential duties is subject  
to a  
claim of

executive privilege. Private matters are not.

So if the president goes out on the golf course with

Bruce

Lindsey

and lies about his handicap, or if Bruce Lindsey

perhaps

has a

conversation with a witness here like Linda Tripp,

those

things

might not all be subject to a claim of executive

privilege.

But understand, Wolf -- and it's really important  
that  
everyone  
understand -- that where the conversations are about  
how to  
handle Ken Starr's inquiries into this matter or to  
get  
ready for  
possible House hearings on this matter, those things  
go to  
the core  
of the president's ability to carry out his job.

BLITZER: Very quickly, do you have any response on  
that  
point?

GRAY: Well, defending a criminal prosecution or an  
investigation  
is not a bootstrap argument not to answer questions,  
and I  
don't  
know that the conversations that President Clinton  
had  
with Bruce

Lindsey were in anticipation of impeachment. This is  
all  
before the  
scandal blew open. I don't know they could possibly  
say,  
hey,  
we're worried about congressional investigations.

If they were worried about congressional  
investigations,  
than I  
think something really was wrong.

BLITZER: All right.

Now, you know the attacks against Ken Starr emanating  
from  
the  
White House, the president's supporters, from the  
Monica  
Lewinsky legal defense team, from other sources  
continue.

Only  
this morning, Monica Lewinsky's attorney, Bill  
Ginsburg,  
was  
railing once again against Ken Starr. Let's listen to

Bill

Ginsburg

this morning.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BILL GINSBURG, ATTORNEY FOR MONICA LEWINSKY:

And I believe that Ken Starr represents an individual

who

is willing

to break the law to enforce the law, and I frankly do

not

believe

that his respect for the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and

Fourteenth

Amendments to our Constitution is suitable.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Has Ken Starr gone too far in his search for

the

truth.

GRAY: I do not believe he has gone too far. I do not

believe he

has done anything which any other prosecutor wouldn't

do

to any

other person. Maybe politically he's not handled it

as

well as he

could. I don't know whether he's got a press office

the

way Judge

Walsh had in Iran-Contra, but I do not believe he's

gone

behind

any line any prosecutor would go.

BLITZER: Jack Quinn.

QUINN: As I think you know, Wolf, I think he's way

over the

line. And I think...

BLITZER: Give us two examples.

QUINN: They go back a long way -- making speeches to  
conservative organizations, financial...

BLITZER: But now. What is he doing now that's way

over the

line?

QUINN: He's involved...

BLITZER: Forget about...

QUINN: He's involved in the Paula Jones matter, when  
before  
becoming Whitewater counsel, he tried to find out...

BLITZER: But Janet Reno was -- Janet Reno approved  
that.

QUINN: He tried -- she did not approve that. He tried  
to  
file...

BLITZER: Didn't she approve giving him the mandate to  
expand  
his authority to look after these allegations?

QUINN: She refrained from taking it away from him  
after he  
went  
to her having already engaged in a sting operation.

But let me -- look, let me get to this bottom-line  
point.  
He is the

independent counsel in this matter. That is almost  
certainly not  
going to change.

But we're almost at the point where the two people in  
America  
who might think Ken Starr ought to be handling this  
are  
Ken Starr  
and Bill Clinton. He's doing such a good job at  
destroying  
his own  
credibility that this -- this whole investigation,  
I'm  
afraid, is just so  
tainted by this excessive behavior.

BLITZER: C. Boyden Gray?

GRAY: Well, I think the point you made is absolutely  
accurate.  
After he'd got the additional information that  
suggested  
there may  
be a problem, he went to the attorney general and  
said,  
here's the

information, you can do it, you can investigate it,

we can

do it

jointly, or I can do it alone. It's your call, your

pick.

She said you

do it. So he's now doing it.

The worst thing for the White House would have been

for

her to

have appointed a whole new independent counsel to

investigate

this matter, and I think the White House is lucky,

because

they

have tarred Ken Starr, and he's a nice whipping boy.

QUINN: Well, I must say, Ken Starr tarred himself

here. It

was

Ken Starr who went after the Secret Service. It was

Ken

Starr

who put this young woman's mother in front of the

grand

jury. It's

Ken Starr who is going over the line as much as he  
is.

He has no one to blame for this but himself.

BLITZER: It looks like there are some cracks in --  
among  
the  
White House advisers, and also some cracks emerging  
between  
the president and his close friend Washington  
attorney  
Vernon  
Jordan.

And I wonder, you know, Jack Quinn, as someone who's  
been  
in  
the White House, who's been around Washington for a  
long  
time,  
if Vernon Jordan's story begins to alter in order to  
protect himself,  
which, as you see in the media, at least, that gives  
the  
impression,  
from the president's, that could be a serious problem

for

Mr.

Clinton.

QUINN: Well, it's interesting. On the one hand, there

have

been

rumors around town the last few days that Vernon

Jordan's

not

part of any joint defense arrangement with -- with

others.

On the other hand, if you really look carefully at

what

he's alleged

to be saying, it's consistent with what the

president's

saying.

What he is saying, in fact, is the president told me

a

long time ago

that he did not have any affair with this young

woman.

Well, that,

after all, is what he's telling all of us now.

So it's entirely consistent, and on the substance of the allegations, there doesn't seem to be any bright...

BLITZER: C. Boyden Gray, put this through the Washington fog and explain to the people out there, is there a crack emerging between Vernon Jordan and Bill Clinton?

GRAY: There certainly could be. The fact that he has not joined with the other lawyers to share and pool information, the fact that he's now obviously leaking -- these leaks clearly come from his camp and his camp alone, not other lawyers, not the independent counsel.

So he's trying to get some running room to protect

himself

in the

event that certain things turn bad.

But it's too soon to say how it's going to turn out.

It is, however, the critical part of this  
investigation

from my vantage

point. The question is, how did the affidavit that  
denied a

relationship get prepared? Who did the talking  
points? How  
do

those things relate to the special job efforts made  
for  
Monica

Lewinsky? Those are at the heart of this case, and  
Vernon  
Jordan

is at the heart of that matter.

BLITZER: All right. We are all out of time. That has  
to be  
the last

word in this segment.

C. Boyden Gray, Jack Quinn, a lot more to discuss, as  
always.

We leave the audience hanging, as we always do.

Thanks for

joining us on LATE EDITION.

And when we come back, we'll go round the table.

Roberts,

Page

and Blankley go to town on a raucous town-hall

meeting.

Are the

American people ready for war?

Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: Welcome back.

Time now to go around the table. Susan Page, White

House

bureau chief for USA Today; Steve Roberts, columnist

for

the

New York Daily News; and Tony Blankley, editor at

large for

George Magazine, thanks so much to all of you, our  
weekly  
panel.

All right. If there is a deal, and Kofi Annan says,  
hey,  
it's a good  
deal, good enough for me, if the Clinton  
administration  
doesn't like  
it, is it theoretically possible the president can  
still  
order a war?

STEVE ROBERTS, CNN COMMENTATOR: It's theoretically  
possible, but I don't think very likely, because I  
think  
that, in some  
ways, I think the president would welcome a deal. You  
know,  
there are so many loose ends. The public isn't really  
behind him.  
Allies have been frayed.

Going to war carries a lot of risks: civilian  
casualties,  
American

casualties. I think, in the end, the president probably would take a deal.

TONY BLANKLEY, CNN COMMENTATOR: I think the president has been caught in his own rhetoric. When he said earlier, a few weeks ago, that he wanted a diplomatic remedy, if possible, I don't think he expected one. And I don't think he should have asked for one, because after all, as the president said, this man, Saddam, has been violating his diplomatic agreements for six years.

So even if we get an agreement, that doesn't mean he's not going to violate it a week or a month from now. So unfortunately, Clinton having said we want a diplomatic solution, if he gets a diplomatic

solution, it's hard to take yes for answer and still  
declare war.

PAGE: And in fact, one of the things that has most  
concerned the

administration is the idea there would be a  
last-minute

diplomatic

initiative that offered something but not everything  
that

they

wanted. And it would create just this dilemma about  
what  
to do.

I think it's possible, in that case, the president  
would

go forward,

but it's going to be hard without the support of any  
ally

except

maybe Great Britain and with the U.S. public clearly

as con

cerned

as we saw at that disastrous town hall meeting.

BLANKLEY: You know, there's always an 11th-hour

diplomatic

effort. Remember with Bush, he sent Baker, his

secretary

of state,

there. So he knew he wasn't going to have an

agreement.

This time, unfortunately, they've sent a guy who

isn't

working for

Bill Clinton to do the last-minute negotiations.

BLITZER: You know, the town hall meeting in Ohio

tremendously

backfired from the administration's perspective. They

wanted to

show the world...

ROBERTS: You're being kind.

(LAUGHTER)

BLITZER: They wanted to show the world that the

American

people were united.

It wasn't so much the protesters -- it was the tough

questions that

were asked of the president's national security

advisers.

ROBERTS: You know, I had a certain sympathy for the

administration, because they are trying to take a

middle

course --

they are trying to take a middle course here. On one

hand,

you

have people who are saying, go for the gold, thinking

this

is an

Olympic event, let's whack Saddam.

You have other people, it's easy to say, morally we

shouldn't be

going to war.

It's much harder to explain a middle ground. You

know,

contain

Saddam is not a ringing bumper sticker. But I think

they're largely

on the right course. But it's clear they have not

done a

very good

job of explaining to the American people why a

moderate

middle

ground makes sense. I think it does make sense, but

they

haven't

said why.

SUSAN PAGE, CNN COMMENTATOR: Because there's only

one person who can persuasively make that argument,

and

that's

the president of the United States. You cannot expect

the

national

security adviser to the White House, however

competent he

might

be, to make that persuasive case to the American

people.

And my question continues to be, where is President

Clinton on

this? I think this is where we see one of the real

impacts

of the

Monica Lewinsky affair. Why didn't he do the town  
hall  
meeting?

Why isn't he doing news conferences, interviews? It's  
because he's  
leery of getting questions about Monica Lewinsky. And  
it's  
robbed  
him of his ability to make the case on Iraq.

BLITZER: You heard Senator Smith, Bob Smith of New  
Hampshire, say that he simply doesn't have confidence  
in  
this  
president.

BLANKLEY: Well, I heard him say that, and I know a  
lot of  
people don't have confidence in him. I'm not sure  
what  
that mean  
in the context of supporting the president if he  
moves  
forward into  
military action.

Seems to me that whatever level of confidence you

have or

don't

have, we have one president at a time. And I think

most

people

are going to fall in line behind the president if he

decides to move

militarily.

ROBERTS: And it's also easy to make that kind of

criticism

and

say, well, I disagree with the president. But then

you

say, as you

did last week with Senator Gregg, the same

conversation,

all right,

what's the alternative?

If you say we're not going to do anything, there's a

cost

there, as

Senator Robb was saying. And if you go in full bore,

are

you

willing to make the kind of commitment of troops that

that's going

· to take?

So it's easy to sit back and criticize. It's much

harder

to come up

with an alternative, and Senator Smith certainly did

not

have one.

BLANKLEY: But an alternative was brought up this week

by an

outside group of former Democratic congressmen and a

lot

of...

BLITZER: Steve Solarz and Richard Perle.

BLANKLEY: Steve Solarz and Richard Perle. And they

laid out

at least a concept of how to deal with this at a

strategic

level, how

to bring Saddam down and bring some kind of democracy

--

or at

least a better form of government -- to Iraq

systematically, with, if

necessary, the use of ground forces.

That's the kind of comprehensive analysis we should

be

getting, I

think, from the Clinton administration, and we

haven't

gotten,

which is why, when they get to Ohio State, it's very

hard

to defend

something that is disproportionate in its solution to

the

danger that

they have identified.

BLITZER: OK. We have to take a quick break.

In the midst of this Iraq crisis, the Lewinsky issue

hangs

over the

White House. We'll talk about that with the

roundtable

next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: There it is. The White House today looks relatively quiet -- a beautiful sunny day here in Washington.

What's going on inside? Probably a lot of discussions about Iraq.

Maybe some discussions about Monica Lewinsky as well.

Susan, Mike McCurry gave an extraordinary interview to The Chicago Tribune this week in which he said, this

whole

Monica

Lewinsky relationship with the president may be a lot

more

complicated than a lot of people thought. Then the

next

day he

said, well, I misspoke, I shouldn't have said what I

said.

What is going on with Mike McCurry?

PAGE: Well, I'll tell you the problem with believing

that

he

misstepped is that Mike McCurry almost never  
missteps.

He's an  
extremely skilled spokesman, even in the most  
difficult of  
circumstances.

And I have to believe that he was floating what the  
White  
House  
likes to call an alternative storyline -- that is  
some  
kind of  
explanation that reconciles President Clinton's  
denials  
with the  
mounting evidence of some relationship between Monica  
Lewinsky  
and himself. So it's a complicated relationship;  
maybe it  
wasn't a  
sexual relationship. Maybe it wasn't a very wise  
relationship. But I  
thought he was trying to float some possible trial  
balloon  
on how  
this could all be explained.

BLITZER: And Tony, you're on the opposite side. But

you

know

Mike McCurry quite well.

BLANKLEY: Mike and I, when I worked for Newt, we were

dueling every day for three years. I don't think he

ever

put a foot

wrong, and the idea that he'd have a whole paragraph

of

mistakes

in one interview, I think, is pretty farfetched.

On the other hand, it is strange to launch a trial

balloon

with the

name of the spokesman for the president attached to

it.

Normally

-- maybe this is a new concept a trial balloon. But

traditionally, you

launched it without your name attached. So it's odd.

ROBERTS: I think you're both being too cynical. I

think

that Mike

McCurry, who I also know, not as well as you do --

he's a

very

sure-footed person. But in private, he can be much

franker, as you

know, than he can be on camera.

(LAUGHTER)

And what it seemed to me was, as my wife will

sometimes

say, he

was spreading vicious truth. He was saying what a lot

of

people

inside that White House believe, which is, if there

was an

innocent

explanation, we would have heard it already.

BLANKLEY: As a former press secretary, I got to say,

when

you're talking to The Chicago Tribune, you're not in

private.

(LAUGHTER)

ROBERTS: You're not on camera. And I think look...

BLANKLEY: Oh, come on. He understood.

When you're talking to a reporter for a major  
newspaper,  
you  
don't have the illusion that you're in a private  
dinner  
conversation.

ROBERTS: I understand that, but I think that there is  
a  
welling  
emotion. It's like water that's seeping out through  
the  
cracks there.

You saw it with Vernon Jordan this week, distancing  
himself a little  
bit. You saw it with Leon Panetta last week, saying,  
you  
know, the  
president's got to come clean. You saw it with Dee  
Dee Me  
yers,

saying there is no good explanation here.

People inside the inner circles still do not really believe the president's explanation on it. And I think that's what you're seeing.

BLANKLEY: If you're saying that distancing themselves from the president, that's different from a trial balloon launched on the president's behalf. And I would think, if your second theory is true, that should be much more disconcerting to the president -- if his own spokesman and close friend in Vernon Jordan are actually beginning to publicly distance themselves.

That is a dangerous signal.

PAGE: The Vernon Jordan story is the most interesting of

the

week, I thought, in that this was clearly an

authorized

leak to The

New York Times yesterday explaining how -- suggesting

really

that he was being used without his knowledge by

President

Clinton. I mean that -- that for Vernon Jordan, who's

been

the

president's best friend in Washington, to do that is

really quite

extraordinary.

ROBERTS: Because the people who know this president

and who

know him well find it very hard to believe his

explanation. That is

the bottom line. That's been true since the beginning

of

this story,

and it's still true.

BLITZER: All right. We've got to go. We've run out of

time

for

this segment. This subject, I'm sure, will continue

next

week.

And coming up, our LATE EDITION newsstand and Bruce  
Morton's "Last Word."

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: Welcome back.

Time now for Bruce Morton and the "Last Word."

Today, of course, it's all about Iraq.

BRUCE MORTON, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Polls show  
Americans approve of President Clinton's handling of

Iraq,

but if

you start posing choices, it turns out a lot of

people

really don't.

Their objective, they say, is to get rid of Saddam

Hussein.

Bombings, they say, won't do that.

And of course, unless some smart bomb is really  
lucky, it  
won't.

The administration says its objective is to lessen,  
not  
eliminate,  
Iraq's ability to make chemical and biological  
weapons.

Bombing  
might do that, but it will certainly kill some  
civilians  
in the process,  
and some Americans don't like that.

And those two arrests in Nevada are a reminder of  
just how  
small  
a supply a biological weapon can be. Whatever those  
men  
were  
carrying, it was tiny.

And that's a reminder that bombing probably won't  
find all  
the  
weapons Saddam may have hidden away.

And of course civilians will die.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE:

The United States...

PROTESTERS: One, two, three, four, we don't want your

racist

war!

One, two, three, four, we don't want your racist war!

One, two, three, four...

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MORTON: So as this week's town meeting at Ohio State

suggested, hawks and doves are unhappy with a policy

whose

backers, including the president, admit it won't

succeed

100

percent.

The hawks say, work to remove Saddam, and that

certainly

would

be the ideal solution.

The administration says, can't, we'd have to invade,

and

casualties

would be too high.

The hawks then say, don't invade, just try to contain

Saddam,

encourage the opposition in Iraq, and hope they

eventually

topple

their dictator. Whether that would work depends on

how

effective

the opposition to Saddam is and how much the United

States

could help it. Experts disagree about that.

In the meantime, we know the old Gulf War coalition

has

been

shrinking. Some European former coalition members

want to

trade

with Iraq. Arab states worry that U.S. bombing will

leave

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TO: Robert J. Nassif ( Robert J. Nassif@EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )

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TEXT:

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!

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14 of 19 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/28/98

Lawmakers Press Clinton On Kosovo

\*Foreign Policy\*

(WR 09/26/98 p. 2602; 95 lines)

Item Key: 3833

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FOREIGN POLICY

## Lawmakers Press Clinton On Kosovo

By Miles A. Pomper, CQ Staff Writer

As the Clinton administration moves closer to using military power to confront Serbia in Kosovo, Congress has been largely supportive, with little of the dissension that has marked the peacekeeping mission to Bosnia.

In fact, the administration has drawn the most criticism for not moving more quickly and vigorously on Kosovo.

Nearly 300,000 residents of the Serbian province have become refugees and almost 1,000 have been killed in the past seven months as the Serbian government has sought to crush an insurgency led by members of the province's Albanian majority.

Western leaders fret that the situation could become far worse as the harsh Balkan winter sets in.

"Winter is coming, and tens of thousands of Kosovar Albanians are in the hills and will soon die if something is not done to ensure their rights, to ensure their safety and to stop the bloodshed," said Gordon H. Smith, R-Ore., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's European Affairs Subcommittee.

The Clinton administration has taken steps to gather diplomatic support for a military operation in Kosovo.

The U.N. Security Council on Sept. 23 voted unanimously, with China abstaining, to demand a cease-fire. U.S. officials said the resolution gives NATO authority to undertake military action in Kosovo, a point still disputed by some allies.

NATO on Sept. 24 ordered its members to prepare air and naval forces that could be used for an escalating series of military actions -- from a salvo of cruise missiles to large-scale bombing.

Despite prodding by Germany and private pressure by the United States, NATO has not yet issued a public ultimatum to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that Serbia end its attacks.

In briefing congressional staff, administration officials have said they are confident that a deadline soon will be set. And Pentagon officials have warned Congress that military intervention could require as many as 60,000 NATO troops, the same number initially assigned to the Bosnia mission.

But while Republican lawmakers resisted sending troops to Bosnia, they have pressed the administration for months to take bolder action in Kosovo. (CQ Weekly, p. 1628)

**BOLDER ACTION**

Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan. (House, 1961-69; Senate, 1969-96), currently chairman of the International Commission on Missing Persons in Bosnia, has been in the forefront of that effort.

Dole has equated what is happening in Kosovo to the "ethnic cleansing" previously conducted by Bosnia's Serbs.

"If we do not act before winter sets in, if the Kosovars in the mountains begin to freeze to death, then Milosevic can get away with the claim that he didn't murder them," Dole said at a Sept. 17 hearing of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. "To do the right thing, we don't have much time."

Dole has won support from several key lawmakers, including House International Relations Committee Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman, R-N.Y., and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a senior member of the Armed Services Committee.

McCain called the situation in Kosovo "potentially more dangerous" than Bosnia, noting that the violence could spread to neighboring countries with large Albanian populations. He called for an all-out attack.

"A token number of cruise missiles will cost a lot of money but will not accomplish our goals," McCain said.

Some lawmakers have expressed confidence that a credible threat of force alone would persuade Milosevic to back down. Others oppose any military force.

If the United States sends troops, Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Calif., is considering testing the 1973 War Powers Resolution (PL 93-148) that requires congressional approval of major overseas actions. (1973 Almanac, p. 905)

Earlier this year, the House rejected Campbell's effort to force congressional approval of the U.S. troop deployment to Kosovo. (CQ Weekly, p. 760)

There are no more items to read.

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CREATION DATE/TIME: 2-OCT-1998 10:24:00.00

SUBJECT: STAR Radio and news from world press 10-2-98

TO: Richard H. Kobl ( Richard H. Kobl@EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:  
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October 01, 1998

HEADLINE: US Navy boat off Monrovia to protect US citizens: Pentagon

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Oct 1

A US Navy coastal patrol boat has taken up position in Liberian waters off Monrovia for the sole purpose of protecting US citizens if necessary, the Pentagon said Thursday.

The USS Chinook, carrying a contingent elite navy SEALs, arrived off Monrovia Tuesday following a shooting incident last week when a former faction leader Roosevelt Johnson and his followers took refuge at the US embassy.

Johnson left the country over the weekend, easing tensions at the US mission, but a 30-member standby force, including those aboard the Chinook, were sent in to beef up the embassy's ability to evacuate Americans, Pentagon officials said.

"This boat carries some military personnel who have one purpose,

and that is to protect Americans if necessary. That's their only purpose," Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said.

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AP Online

October 01, 1998

HEADLINE: 5,000 Liberians Flee Flooding

DATELINE: MONROVIA, Liberia

Heavy rains triggered flooding in northwestern Liberia, forcing more than 5,000 people to flee their homes in recent weeks to escape rising waters.

At least eight people have died in the floods and about 160 homes have been washed away, rescue workers were quoted as saying in Thursday's Inquirer newspaper.

The worst of the flooding affected about 20 villages in Grand Capemount County near the border with Sierra Leone, the newspaper reported.

The county is still struggling to recover from civil war fighting that ended in 1995 but has periodically flared up.

"We are in double trouble," said Tenneh Freeman, the mayor of Robertsport City. "After years of fighting, we are now facing natural disasters."

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has said heavy rains throughout Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea has halted the repatriation of tens of thousands of people displaced by conflicts in the region.

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Copyright 1998 PR Newswire Association, Inc.  
PR Newswire  
October 1, 1998

HEADLINE: International Corporation for Investment & Commerce (ICIC)  
Established to Facilitate Investment in Africa  
DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Oct. 1

The newly established International Corporation for Investment & Commerce (ICIC) was launched to serve as an intermediary financial institution. The focus is to stimulate and encourage commercial initiatives and activities in African countries to insure their sustained economic growth and development. Projects will include capital investments in the areas of agriculture, mining, forest products, trading, import and export, real estate development, fishing, and various service-type entities.

The ICIC's concentration will seek to provide other financial facilities such as letters of credit, guarantees, insurance, technical assistance, financial and economic advisory services to public and private sector institutions, and to medium and small scale enterprises, as well. The ICIC will create subsidiaries and affiliates in Africa, thereby collaborating with existing local organizations and institutions whose primary functions will be to identify and evaluate investment projects requiring funding in mainly the private sectors of African nations. These institutions and organizations will include government agencies, the International Financial Corporation (IFC), a subsidiary of the World Bank, the African Development Bank, European and Asian development corporations, foundations, etc.

The ICIC has initiated the formation of an affiliate and subsidiary in Liberia. Liberia was selected as the first African affiliate because its economic situation particularly demands very urgent private sector redevelopment and development, since the war and civil conflict. Rubber, palm, cocoa, coffee and livestock farming need revitalization. Projects such as these are lucrative investments and will catalyze export earnings, job opportunities, and increased revenue from taxes, etc. to the government.

The establishment of the ICIC and the accomplishment of its objectives of forming affiliates in Africa is timely, since First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (along with President Clinton), toured several African countries recently. Both President and Mrs. Clinton are

supportive of economic investment in Africa. Mrs. Clinton was invited to speak during the Congressional Black Caucus' 28th Annual Legislative Conference, on "Changing Perceptions of Africa." Mrs. Clinton reflected on the need to highlight Africa's successes. She challenged American investment in Africa, and outlined two (2) goals set by the Administration for Africa -- first, to combat transnational threats, and second, to integrate Africa into the global economy. Mrs. Clinton encouraged Congress to act on the U.S. Trade Bill which provides incentives for the American private sector to invest in Africa. She also implored congressional constituents for Africa to become more out-spoken about issues facing Africa, and to help America change its negative attitudes about Africa!

The organizers and incorporators of the ICIC are in sync with Mrs. Clinton's challenge to invest in Africa. The ICIC has shown that it is motivated by a strong and committed desire to reverse the unsettling and impoverished economic circumstances that pervade far too many African nations. Business institutions and potential investors are encouraged to invest in Africa because a strong global economy for this country will benefit the world! The ICIC is based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with contact offices in New York City, New York and Washington, DC.

SOURCE International Corporation for Investment & Commerce  
CONTACT: V. Williams, Senior Project Manager, 202-628-4755, for ICIC

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October 01, 1998

HEADLINE: US organisation wants probe into shooting at Monrovia embassy

DATELINE: MONROVIA, Oct 1

A US organisation on Thursday urged Liberia's government to investigate a fatal shooting incident in the US embassy compound here during a political showdown on September 19.

The Friends of Liberia group, made up of Americans who have worked in the west African republic, said in a statement that the gunfire on the mission premises during clashes between forces of President Charles Taylor and one of his foes was "a violation of international law."

The Monrovia government has denied that its men opened fire inside the diplomatic compound while pursuing Roosevelt Johnson and some of his aides, who sought refuge at the embassy following clashes between his supporters and government forces.

Some members of "General" Johnson's escort were killed, including one of his close associates, Madison Wion, who was shot at the gates of the compound, while two Americans were injured by gunfire.

The embassy has been closed since the clashes, and US Charge d'Affaires John Baumann said it would remain so until the government thoroughly investigates the shooting incident and apologises to the

United States.

In an interview published by a local daily on Thursday, Baumann said his government was "not satisfied with its relations with Liberia" and that the United States was "presently re-assessing" such ties.

The mission is currently dealing strictly with humanitarian affairs, and Baumann said a decision was pending on whether to finally close it, or scale down its operations.

During the brutal Liberian civil war of 1989-96, which began when Taylor launched an insurrection to oust then dictator Samuel Doe, Johnson headed a rival faction in the political and tribal violence that wracked the country.

He was reportedly airlifted to Nigeria from the embassy compound after the renewed violence in Monrovia, and is sought by the Taylor government, with 21 others, to stand trial on treason charges.

Friends of Liberia, which comprises Americans who formerly lived in the country and worked as schoolteachers and technicians, also urged the Monrovia government to investigate the gun battle last month, and to guarantee the safety of those detained in connection with the fighting.

The group also made recommendations concerning the Nigerian-led ECOMOG intervention force, initially despatched by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to Liberia in 1990.

It said ECOMOG should be allowed to play a leading role in guaranteeing safety in Monrovia and recommended that all security personnel "show absolute respect for press freedom and political association."

The movement stated that it recognised the right of the government to respond to security threats, including reported lawlessness on Camp Johnson Road, scene of the recent clashes, and did not support anyone or any former faction attempting to overthrow the democratically elected government, noting that such an "act would receive worldwide condemnation."

Taylor was elected president in 1997 after tortuous international bids to resolve the conflict, and the militia forces of the rival factions were theoretically disbanded, but looting and harassment of local people has been frequent since last month's clashes.

Friends of Liberia also suggested that the government currently move to reconstruct its security forces, mainly dominated by members of Taylor's former National Patriotic Front (NPFL) militia, in keeping with an accord mandating ECOMOG to restructure the military and paramilitary forces that were operating before the elections in July last year.

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## BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

October 1, 1998

HEADLINE: President Taylor encourages French businessmen to invest in Liberia

SOURCE: France 2 TV, Paris, in French 1800 gmt 29 Sep 98

Excerpts from report by France 2 TV on 29th September

The Liberian president, Charles Taylor, is on a visit to Paris. Mr Taylor, who was elected last year, is better known as a former warlord in a conflict that lasted seven years and in which 200,000 people died. Less than two weeks ago, violent fighting broke out in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia.

Mr Taylor has met Mr Jacques Chirac. He has come to France to ask for financial aid.

Patrice Romedenne reports on the visit by the president of Liberia and on the recent history of that country.

[Romedenne - recording] ... Charles Taylor has come to tell France about the stability which prevails once again in Liberia, a country which needs to be rebuilt.

[Taylor, in English with French superimposed] What does a businessman want? He looks for where he can invest to get a very good

return, where the environment is right. Liberia has all of those qualities. We have resources, diamonds, gold and timber. In fact, Liberia is almost like a new country. At home, the environment is favourable. With a democratically-elected president, there is a form of stability. This is the time to invest, and I am sure that the French businessmen will want to seize the opportunity.

[Romedenne] This is what Charles Taylor has come to tell Jacques Chirac, a few socialist ministers and a few deputies. If he talks about the future so well, it is because he has a past... Charles Taylor eliminated his rivals before having himself elected president last year with nearly 80 per cent of the votes.

Charles Taylor may not be a dream head of state as far as France is concerned, but this man is better than a civil war. This is why Charles Taylor has had such a warm welcome in the country of human rights.

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Copyright 1998 News World Communications, Inc.  
The Washington Times  
October 1, 1998

HEADLINE: Clinton sends help for evacuations  
BYLINE: FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS

President Clinton said in a letter to congressional leaders Tuesday

he has sent about 30 combat-equipped U.S. military personnel from the European Command to Sierra Leone to help with possible evacuations of Americans from Liberia's capital, Monrovia.

Half the force, Mr. Clinton said, has moved onto the USS Chinook, now off Liberia. The president said he issued the order Sunday, one day after former Liberian warlord Roosevelt Johnson was airlifted from the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, where he took refuge as government troops tried to arrest him on treason charges.

Liberia reacted with barely concealed fury. The Liberian Embassy in Washington expressed "profound displeasure," noting that the force was dispatched in Liberian territorial waters "without the consent of the government" and was "a direct affront to Liberian sovereignty."

The action happened at a time when President Charles Taylor was in France, leading to speculation that the United States itself was displeased that the leader of an Anglophone nation was wooing the Francophone bloc in Africa.

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September 30, 1998

HEADLINE: ECOMOG calls for reinforcements to end war in Sierra Leone  
BYLINE: Michele Leridon

FREETOWN, Sept 30 (AFP) - ECOMOG needs at least 2,000 more troops to put an end to the conflict in Sierra Leone, according to the spokesman of the Nigerian-led west African intervention force.

"Ivory Coast, Gambia and Mali have promised their support. We need at least 2,000 men, real fighters, as well as logistical support," Lieutenant Colonel Jimoh Okunlola told AFP in Freetown on Tuesday.

The force is currently made up mainly of Nigerian soldiers, with some Guineans and Ghanaians, and is thought to number about 5,000, although Okunlola declined to specify the figure for "security reasons."

Traditional hunter-warriors from the southeast of the west African country known as Kamajors are also fighting alongside the ECOMOG troops.

ECOMOG, initially set up by the 16-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to intervene in the 1989-96 war in Liberia, in February helped to oust a junta from Freetown but has so far failed to defeat diehard rebels operating in the north and east of the country.

The junta, allied with longtime rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), had been in power nine months, having ousted now-restored President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in May 1997.

Peace has returned to Freetown, where roads are potholed but clogged with traffic and children wearing bright red or royal blue

uniforms are back in school.

But in the remote northern and eastern areas, the diehard junta members and RUF rebels are sowing terror. Hundreds of civilians have been mutilated with machetes, many with hands, arms or ears cut off, and entire families have been burned alive in their homes.

"Today we control 90 percent of the country," Okunlola said.

"Pockets of resistance remain especially in the (northern) Kabala and (eastern) Kono and Kailahun areas."

The ECOMOG spokesman said efforts to bring an end to the conflict were frustrated by insufficient numbers, unfamiliarity with the terrain and the alleged presence of mercenaries from neighboring Liberia.

"We don't have enough troops to cover the entire territory," Okunlola said, adding that with the enemy, "the more we kill the more of them there seem to be.

"We have information that Liberians and Sierra Leoneans (refugees) are being recruited from across the border," he said. "They give them 125 dollars to join the rebels."

Last week ECOMOG displayed four captured fighters including two who were under 20 years old.

He said the rainy season was also a factor, and noted that the

rebels are hiding out in dense forests.

The RUF fighters, who have opposed successive Freetown regimes since 1991, are particularly battle-hardened from seven years in the bush, having left the forests only for the nine months when the junta was in power.

Despite the call for reinforcements, the ECOMOG spokesman refused to speak of stagnation. "Our troops continue to advance but at a less sustained pace," Okunlola said.

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September 30, 1998

HEADLINE: Liberian president expected in Nouakchott on Thursday

DATELINE: NOUAKCHOTT, Sept 30

Liberian President Charles Taylor is expected on Thursday in Nouakchott for a two-day official visit, his first to Mauritania as head of state, officials said.

Taylor, who is currently on an official visit to France, is to have talks with his Mauritanian counterpart Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya on bilateral cooperation and African problems, they said.

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AP Worldstream

September 30, 1998

HEADLINE: U.S. rethinks relationship with troubled Liberia

DATELINE: MONROVIA, Liberia

The United States is reassessing its relationship with Liberia and is keeping its embassy closed until an investigation into a gun battle there is completed, a U.S. diplomat said Wednesday.

Liberian forces earlier this month opened fire on former warlord Roosevelt Johnson as he was tried to take refuge in the American embassy. The gun battle killed at least three of Johnson's aides and wounded two Americans at the embassy.

In the wake of that fighting, Deputy Chief of Mission John Bauman said the United States is rethinking its ties to this turbulent West African country.

"By West African standards, our embassy in Monrovia is one of the largest in the region, but the tone of relationship between Liberia and the U.S. following the shooting incident is quite unsatisfactory," Bauman said.

Taylor's government, however, says the shooting took place outside of the embassy on Liberian soil.

Bauman said most of the embassy diplomatic staff had been evacuated and some had been reassigned. It was unclear for how long.

All but essential diplomatic staff were evacuated from Monrovia following two days of pitched battles between President Charles Taylor's forces and Johnson's supporters.

Johnson managed to take refuge in the embassy after Taylor tried to have him arrested on treason charges. The former warlord and longtime Taylor rival was evacuated by helicopter over the weekend.

Liberia, a nation founded by freed American slaves, was for years one of the largest U.S. aid recipients.

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U.S. Newswire  
September 29, 1998

HEADLINE: Text of Clinton Letter on Liberia  
CONTACT: White House Press Office, 202-456-2100  
DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Sept. 29

The following was released today by the White House:

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

September 29, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Liberia is just emerging from a 7-year civil war. Since democratic elections were held in July 1997 there have been moments of instability in that country. In the past 10 days, conflict erupted between Liberian security forces and supporters

On the morning of September 19, Liberian government security forces fired on a small group of Liberians led by former Ulimo Krahn faction leader Roosevelt Johnson, who was speaking with U.S. Embassy officials outside the Embassy compound, after Johnson and his group were initially refused refuge. When Liberian government security forces opened fire on the group, the Embassy officials fled into the U.S. Embassy, and in the chaos were joined by the Johnson party. Two Americans were wounded in the melee and four members of the Johnson party were killed. The U.S. personnel injured in the gunfire were a government contractor and an Embassy staff member.

Responding to a U.S. request for enhanced security, forces of the Economic Community of West Africa Observer Group (ECOMOG) subsequently

positioned themselves in a defensive perimeter around the Embassy.

Later, a group of 23 supporters of Mr. Johnson was discovered hiding on the Embassy grounds. After extensive negotiations between President Taylor and representatives of the U.S. Government and western African states, permission was obtained to airlift Mr. Johnson and his party to Freetown, Sierra Leone. This was accomplished without incident on September 25, 1998.

The situation in Monrovia continues to be uncertain and could deteriorate. Although ECOMOG forces remain in the vicinity of the Embassy compound, their numbers have been reduced. Our Embassy believes that security could deteriorate rapidly during President Taylor's absence for an official visit to France. The Embassy does, however, project that, barring further incidents, security should significantly improve over the course of the next several weeks as factional tensions ease in the wake of Mr. Johnson's departure. There are approximately 230 non-official American citizens in Liberia and 29 official Americans at the Embassy.

On September 27, 1998, due to the tenuous security situation and the potential threat to American citizens and the Embassy in Monrovia, a stand-by response and evacuation force of approximately 30 U.S. military personnel from the U.S. European Command deployed to Freetown, Sierra Leone. About half of this unit has moved onto the Navy's coastal patrol craft, USS CHINOOK (PC-9), which is operating in the waters off Monrovia. The U.S. military personnel are prepared, if needed, to augment the Embassy's security unit in Monrovia and to conduct an

evacuation of American citizens, if required. Although the U.S. military personnel are equipped for combat, this action is being undertaken solely for the purpose of preparing to protect American citizens and property. The U.S. forces will redeploy as soon as it is determined that the threat to the Embassy compound has ended or, if an evacuation is necessary, it is completed.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action to assist in Embassy security and the security of American citizens overseas.

Sincerely,  
  
WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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Copyright 1998 Agence France Presse  
  
September 29, 1998

HEADLINE: Liberian pleads for French aid to rebuild  
  
BYLINE: Erwan Jourand  
  
DATELINE: PARIS, Sept 28

Visiting Liberian President Charles Taylor on Tuesday pleaded with French industrialists for investment to rebuild his country, devastated by a seven-year civil war that he himself started.

Flanked by several of his ministers, the former warlord also vaunted the opportunities that he said would be opened up by a programme of privatisations he plans to launch.

At a breakfast meeting with French employers, Taylor appealed for investment in joint ventures to rehabilitate the west African country's gold and iron-mining industries and rubber plantations and for irrigation projects in the countryside, a French participant at the meeting said.

Taylor also sought cash to rebuild infrastructure destroyed by the fighting and by looters, in particular water supply in the cities, telecommunications, electricity supply, roads and health care facilities.

On Monday Taylor received a red-carpet welcome from French President Jacques Chirac when he arrived for a three-day official visit.

On Tuesday evening he was also due to meet the Socialist government's Development Aid Minister Charles Josselin.

Taylor's own National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) guerrilla

faction unleashed the civil war that devastated the country in December 1989.

After seeing Chirac, Taylor told reporters he had come to revive bilateral cooperation dating back a century and a half. Liberia became Africa's first republic when it was founded in 1847 by freed US slaves.

Taylor overthrew his former master, the dictator Samuel Doe, who was tortured to death by a breakaway NPFL faction in 1990. The conflict lasted six more years and killed an estimated 150,000 civilians, as well as driving half the population of 2.5 million into exile.

Last week, deputy foreign ministry spokesman Francois Rivasseau said France would be "vigilant" over human rights in Liberia. Central Monrovia was rocked this month by gun battles between government forces and those of a rival to Taylor, Roosevelt Johnson.

Rivasseau said: "While France will remain vigilant on the issue of respect for human rights and on the pursuit of efforts for national reconciliation, France plans to participate in the reconstruction of this country and to help it become involved in a French-speaking environment, whose importance its leaders have been able to assess."

Before his uprising, Taylor had taken refuge in the United States after Doe accused him of embezzling 900,000 dollars, and also saw exile in Libya and former French colonies Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast, whence he launched his insurrection.

On being elected in July last year, Taylor said he had found just 17,000 dollars in the state coffers, while Liberia had a foreign debt of three billion dollars and a domestic debt of two million.

In France, Taylor is also due to meet the rightwing ex-premier Alain Juppe, who is mayor of the southwestern port city of Bordeaux.

During the war, France continued to import timber and iron ore from Liberia and, last May, a French trade delegation went to the country, but no major foreign investments have been made since the war. Taylor is due to sign several cultural conventions with France, notably regarding broadcasting and education.

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#### STAR radio DAILY NEWS

Local news bulletin aired in Monrovia on Friday, October 2, 1998

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#### NATIONAL NEWS

President Bill Clinton says he has ordered the deployment of a US Naval vessel in Liberia waters. He said he ordered the action amidst fears of a deteriorating security situation in the country. But the Liberian government has described the US action as an affront to Liberia's sovereignty. However a Pentagon spokesman said the Liberian government was informed about the deployment on September 29. He said American concern is fear of another eruption of violence following the events of

September 18 and 19 in Monrovia. During the fighting, the American Embassy alleged that government security forces shot at the American Embassy compound. The incident reportedly left two people dead and several others injured. At the time government forces were pursuing former faction leader Roosevelt Johnson and his collaborators.

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The Liberian National Police say it will forcefully remove street sellers still selling in the streets. Police in late August issued a month-long grace period for street sellers to leave the streets and relocate their businesses. The grace period, which police said was based on humanitarian grounds, expired October first. Spokesman Singbe Johnson said police would first be conducting an inspection. He told STAR radio that police expects street peddlers to have left the streets by now. He said violators would prove disrespectors of the law. But street peddlers have complained that police and marketing authorities have not provided them any alternative selling grounds.

\*\*\*\*\*

The House of Representatives says it won't allow US-Liberia relations to go out of hand. The House has therefore mandated Speaker Nydukeh Morkonmana to liaise with President Charles Taylor and the US Embassy in Monrovia on the state of affairs. The American Embassy in Monrovia said it wanted an investigation into the incident at the Embassy two weeks ago. It also requested an apology from the Liberian government on the incident. But the Liberian government has since denied that its forces shot at the Embassy while in pursuit of former faction leader Roosevelt Johnson. The lawmakers, in a statement yesterday, said they want to get an official account of the conflict to help them seek an amicable

resolution. The House of Representatives has meanwhile called on the US government through its Embassy in Monrovia to cooperate with Speaker Morkonmana in his mediation efforts.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Liberian Senate has ratified the status of forces agreement. The agreement was ratified following a briefing by three Cabinet Ministers. Senate approval of the agreement has been delayed by doubts of individual senators on the document. This prompted the upper House to invite the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Justice for clarifications. The agreement has now been sent to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Liberian Senate requested military police to remove armed soldiers that Senator Bedell Fahn posted at his office. The Margibi Senator had posted the soldiers to guard an office he previously occupied. The office was taken from him when he was removed as the Senate Chairman of Ways, Means and Finance. It was then given to his successor, Bomi County Senator Mohammed Dukuly. Senator Fahn was removed from the committee's chair before his travel to the US. His successor however moved into the office during Senator Fahn's absence. Senate officials say the Margibi Senator has been asked on a number of occasions to turn over the office but he refused. Now the Senate says it's against legislative rules for a legislator to carry armed men into the Capitol. The rules only allow the Speaker and Vice President to be escorted into the building by their armed body guards. Sources say the Senate is likely to take a decision on this matter next week.

\*\*\*\*\*

An official of the French government has given assurance of France's support for Liberia. French Cooperation Minister Charles Josselin is quoted as saying that Liberia can count on France's support in the international community. Mr. Josselin also called for a review of ECOMOG's presence in Liberia and the UN arms embargo imposed on the country. Josselin is reported to have made the remarks at a dinner in Paris with President Charles Taylor. The Liberian President ended a three-day official visit to France. The visit was the first by Mr. Taylor to a major western country since his election last year. President Taylor during the visit held talks with French President Jacques Chirac and other senior business and political leaders.

\*\*\*\*\*

The West African Force in Sierra Leone is requesting additional troops. ECOMOG says it needs some two thousand troops to defeat the RUF rebels. An ECOMOG spokesman in Freetown is quoted as saying that Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia and Mali have promised to assist. Lieutenant Colonel Jimoh Okunlola said ECOMOG also needs logistical support. The United States and Britain recently gave the force over seven million US dollars in financial and logistical assistance. According to reports, Nigerian troops and smaller Guinean and Ghanaian contingents make up ECOMOG's five thousand troops in Sierra Leone. Lt/Col. Okunlola said his force controls some ninety percent of Sierra Leone. But needed more men to flush out remaining RUF bases.

\*\*\*\*\*

The High Court in Freetown has ordered an inquiry. The court wants to know whether the Nigerian government has money for Sierra Leone rebel leader Foday Sankoh. The court gave the order when Corporal Sankoh

appeared at the start of his treason trial. The inquiry was prompted by Mr. Sankoh's claims that his money was seized by the Nigerian authorities following his arrest two years ago. He told the court he no longer had money to pay for his legal representation. Mr. Sankoh said he had earlier received money from several governments and the UN to change his rebel band into a political party. The trial has been adjourned until a legal counsel could be acquired for Sankoh.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Nigerian diplomat in Monrovia is calling on Liberians to follow the path of peace and unity. Mr. J. D. Audi of the Nigerian Embassy says only genuine reconciliation can sustain democracy in Liberia. The Nigerian Embassy official has ended his assignment in Liberia. He was speaking at his embassy in Congo Town during a farewell call by his colleagues. Mr. Audi served in Liberia for three years.

\*\*\*\*\*

More than a hundred people believed to be Liberians were airlifted out of the country by ECOMOG. They were flown on board a military aircraft from the Roberts International Airport. The Justice Ministry has expressed concern over the manner in which the people were taken out of the country. Justice Minister Eddington Varmah said ECOMOG disregarded all regulations at the airport. He ruled out that those airlifted were ECOMOG staff. Minister Varmah said the Liberian government will pursue the matter with the ECOMOG High Command. He said it was unusual for ECOMOG to carry such large number of people at the airport. Minister Varmah said the peace keepers did not allow Liberian security to screen those going on board. ECOMOG could not be contacted yesterday as Nigerians were observing their country's Independence Day. The Peace

Keepers maintain control over part of the airport exclusively for their military aircraft.

\*\*\*\*\*

A media peace advocacy organization has regretted the looting of a communication consultancy firm in Monrovia. Speaking during a visit to Communication Matrix, an executive of Media Against Conflict said the recent fighting in the city must inspire media workers to strive for peace. The Secretary General of MAC, Joseph Bartuah, said the recent chaotic development in Monrovia should inspire journalists to work toward peace. He said Liberians went to the polls not just to elect a leadership but voted for peace and stability which continues to elude them. Earlier, the Manager of Communication Matrix, Medina Wesseh, called on the Liberians to respect the dignity of labor. She said if Liberians pursue the concept of working for a living they would build a decent society. Government has promised to investigate the looting of the offices.

\*\*\*\*\*

STAR radio, independent radio station transmitting since July 15, 1997 on FM 104 MHZ and SW 5.880 MHZ from Monrovia, Liberia, broadcasting in Bassa, Dan, English, French, Gbande, Gola, Grebo, Liberian English, Lorma, Kissi, Kpelle, Krah, Kru, Mandingo, Mano, Mende and Vai. STAR radio is staffed by Liberian journalists and managed by the Swiss NGO Fondation Hirondelle with financing from the U.S. Agency for International Development through the International Foundation for Election Systems. Additional funding is provided by the government of The Netherlands. STAR radio Sekou Toure Avenue Mamba Point Monrovia, Liberia Tel (+ 231) 226 820 Fax (+ 231) 227 360 E-mail: [star@liberia.net](mailto:star@liberia.net)

Fondation Hirondelle 3, rue Traversiere 1018 Lausanne, Suisse Tel (+ 41  
21) 647 2805 Fax (+ 41 21) 647 4469 E-mail: info@hirondelle.org Visit  
our World Wide Web site: www.hirondelle.org If you wish to be included  
or taken off the distribution of STAR radio Daily News, send us a  
message via fax or e-mail. Subscription is free of charge. Non  
commercial redistribution is allowed, providing that the source is

quoted and no editing other than reformatting is made.===== ATTACHMENT 1

=====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

Received: from conversion.pmdf.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-9 #29131)  
id <01J2HQ2NIJ5S00BXAE@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for kodl\_r@a1.eop.gov; Fri,  
2 Oct 1998 10:31:38 EDT

Received: from Storm.EOP.GOV by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-9 #29131)  
with ESMTP id <01J2HQ2IWNWG00CNYV@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for kodl\_r@a1.eop.gov; Fri,  
02 Oct 1998 10:31:34 -0400 (EDT)

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by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-12 #29131)  
with SMTP id <01J2HQ151T0U001TUH@STORM.EOP.GOV> for kodl\_r@A1.EOP.GOV; Fri,  
02 Oct 1998 10:30:58 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU by VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU (IBM VM SMTP V2R2)  
with BSMTP id 8685; Fri, 02 Oct 1998 10:25:21 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from VTVM1 (NJE origin GRAYJK@VTVM1)  
by VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 8917; Fri,  
02 Oct 1998 10:25:17 -0400

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: owner-drctalk ( owner-drctalk@drcnet.org@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:25-DEC-1998 06:18:00.00

SUBJECT: a thank you

TO: David B. Des Roches ( David B. Des Roches@EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I wanted to let you know that I appreciate your response, although I see that I need to keep my raging more brief. I tend to lose my arguing points in trying to qualify them.

I have attempted to write in and start discussions a few times, both on DRC and other cannabis talk groups, but the feeling I get is that either my ideas are based on concepts that most people don't understand (or lend no credit to), or they are flat out too radical to be taken seriously. I can't figure which.

I meant absolutely no disrespect to Lincoln, or history in general. I was struck by the idea of anyone, much less political figures telling anyone to disobey the directives of our government. Further still, a political figure from Puerto Rico, a territory, which is not even given leave to vote on anything in congress. Which brings me to the point I was trying to make, and lost in the paraphrasing of the history book I have and my utter lack of any further facts.

You see, the only real knowledge I have gained about this particular point in history has been taken in over the last two years, and at that most info pertains to the after effects of the conflict. Where you

understand that Lincoln was attempting to stop the spread of slavery, I understand that in 1860, congress called an emergency and put in to effect its War Powers. War Powers gives the government complete control over everything, supposedly to maintain the war effort. I also understand that these powers were never repealed officially, although our constitution only allows these powers for a period of two years.

I have also come to realize that in every state admitted into the union after 1861 have something rather peculiar in common: within the first sessions of each of the state congresses, a state of emergency was called, and "for reasons of definition" the terms 'state' and 'territory' are to mean the same thing. The state of Washington was admitted in 1889, but this clause is there. Didn't the war end in the late 1860's?

It doesn't mean much until you can connect it to another dot... like article 1 section 8 that I mentioned in the other letter. The way I understand it, the gov. can't tell the states to uphold federal law, but if they are considered a territory then they can do as they please, and they sure seem to do as they please. It sounds like telling states to disobey congress will start all kinds of trouble. I wonder if these politicians are thinking that far ahead?

There are many other idiosyncrasies that I have found in my searching, all of which would be 100% beneficial to all Americans. However most people are too scared, too trusting of the gov. or too busy to care. I once heard that if a law or bill or anything passed into enforcement,

that is unconstitutional in its nature and execution, is to be considered null and void before it even takes effect, yet in '75(?) the Alaska Supreme Court decided that the prohibition (or the way it is handled) is in violation of unreasonable search and seizure, and privacy rights? Didn't help a whole lot, did it?

Anyhow, I need not take more of your time. I do ramble...

What I hope to achieve is to foster in people the idea that this whole mess could be resolved in a much more fundamental way. Unfortunately, this involves a whole lot of education and if I cannot keep a reader due to lack of actual facts when qualifying my point, then I might as well stop. I can't help but think that if a national organization like NORML or a magazine like High Times or anything could start bringing some facts (if they are) to the people then something would start to happen. Actually High Times did once run an article on a man from California who preached these same principles, however the story was focused more on the freedoms he exercised than how he went about securing them. Probably because the guy was trying to sell a newsletter.

Anyway, I wasn't gonna mass send this one but maybe I will. Can't hurt if most people just delete it.

thanks,

Craig===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====  
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:  
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id <01J5QU674M4W00F7CQ@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for desroches\_d@a1.eop.gov; Fri,  
25 Dec 1998 06:31:42 EST

Received: from storm.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-9 #29131)  
with ESMTP id <01J5QU64R5CW00APRT@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for desroches\_d@a1.eop.gov;  
Fri, 25 Dec 1998 06:31:39 -0500 (EST)

Received: from www.drikka.net ([209.235.14.254])  
by EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.2-29 #34437) with ESMTP id <01J5QU5FZ75A000FK2@EOP.GOV>  
for desroches\_d@a1.eop.gov; Fri, 25 Dec 1998 06:31:05 -0500 (EST)

Received: (from server@localhost) by www.drikka.net (8.9.1/8.6.9)  
id GAA05723; Fri, 25 Dec 1998 06:30:09 -0500 (EST)

Received: (from drcnet@localhost) by www.drikka.net (8.9.1/8.6.9)  
id GAA04045 for server; Fri, 25 Dec 1998 06:19:43 -0500 (EST)

Received: from mail.gorge.net (mail.gorge.net [205.162.195.4])  
by www.drikka.net (8.9.1/8.6.9) with ESMTP id GAA04042 for  
<drctalk@drcnet.org>; Fri, 25 Dec 1998 06:19:42 -0500 (EST)

Received: from gorge.net ([205.162.198.58])  
by mail.gorge.net (Post.Office MTA v3.1.2 release (PO205-101c) ID#  
0-54909U8000L800S0V35) with ESMTP id AAA155; Fri, 25 Dec 1998 03:12:49 -0800

X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en] (Win95; I)

X-Accept-Language: en

X-Listprocessor-version: 8.2.08 -- ListProc(tm) by CREN

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Dacor ( Dacor@aol.com@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JAN-1999 18:28:00.00

SUBJECT: From Corn-LOYAL OPPOSITION-NY Press, 1/20/99

TO: David Halperin ( David Halperin@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Friends, Colleagues, Antagonists, Strangers,

Here is the latest installment of my column in the New York Press. (A pre-copy-edited version.) Feel free to pass this on and feel free to send e-mail

addresses of others who might enjoy receiving this weekly feature. If you want

to be removed from this list, send me a note and you'll be purged. To the scrolling-challenged, here's a little guidance. Item 1 looks at the impeachment trial; Item 2 reviews Flynt's attack on Barr; Item 3 shows you where to go for a real impeachment.

Cheers,

DC

LOYAL OPPOSITION -- New York Press -- January 20, 1999

By DAVID CORN

The Last Dogs

As the House Republican impeachment managers mounted their final

assault on

Bill Clinton--the political equivalent of the bomb-proof Ho Chi Minh Trail--one could almost feel sorry for them. The trial was just starting and

already they seemed anachronistic, angry men, wailing, Lear-like, at a tremendous moral injustice that, alas, doesn't work up the rest of the nation.

Hyde's opening kvetch was tragic--tragic in the sense that this man has lost

his sense of proportion. "Members of the Senate," he intoned, "what you do over the next few weeks will forever affect the meaning of those two words 'I

do.' You are now stewards of the oath. It's significance in public service and

our cherished system of justice will never be the same after this.

Depending

on what you decide, it will either be strengthened in its power to achieve Justice [He capitalized the word in his written statement] or it will go the

way of so much of our moral infrastructure and become a mere convention, full

of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Nothing? Was Hyde serious? If the Senator-jurors, after hearing Hyde's

prosecution, agree with most of the public that Clinton's sleaze-ridden behavior does not warrant overturning national election results, then all is

lost? Justice is banished from our society. Our "moral infrastructure" will collapse? Such hyperbole can only further turn off the public and perhaps Senators. Hyde was not alone in his apocalyptic indignation.

Representative F.

James Sensenbrenner Jr. proclaimed that if the Senate believes Clinton lied and fails to remove him from office, then it will set a "terrible" standard for the "conduct of public officials in town halls and courtrooms everywhere

and the Oval Office for generations." Representative James Rogan warned that

if Clinton's perjury were countenanced it would help propel a descent into "chaos." Representative Ed Bryant droned on about the sacredness and importance of the oath to tell the truth. One could imagine a Senator saying,

"Enough already. I get it. I'm no dummy. Hell, I make laws."

Hyde and the Gang have taken an absolutist position: all perjury is created

equal....so, off with his head! In front of the mute Senators, they pushed for

the right to call witnesses. The crusade must go on! But after the first day

of their over-the-top moralizing, a number of Senators were probably thinking,

no way I'm going to vote to extend this spectacle. Hyde's last-stand-against-

barbarity act may have been too pompous for even the Senators.

As impeachment mania reaches the point where a final fizzle is

possible--after the presentations are made and the Q&A session is done, the Senators will vote whether or not to keep the trial going with witnesses--one

could also almost feel sympathy for those Clinton chasers on the right who still wonder how this hollow, opportunistic, shame-challenged pol has seemingly escaped a sex scandal that would have driven out of office any other

mortal. You know desperation has been reached when conservative pundits rush

to defend impeachment and its GOP advocates by conceding that, yes, trying to

oust Clinton may cost the Republicans, but, damnit, it's the right thing to do. Several times in the past weeks, I've heard Tucker Carlson of \*The Weekly

Standard\*, in person and in pixel, proffer this view, hailing those House managers who have fiercely pursued Clinton and those Senators who will vote to

convict as brave souls. Why not, he asks, see this band as courageous heroes

who put principle above politics?

Good question, Friar Tuck. But your principle is misplaced. One does not need

to have read the \*Federalist Papers\* to realize that the framers of yore considered impeachment a political matter. After all, if you're going to permit House members to decide whether to impeach and Senators to render a verdict--without establishing any rules of due process--you know impeachment

will be a political exercise. The Constitution sets no standards other than the vague and debated-until-doomsday "High crimes and Misdemeanors"; it permits the Senate to write its own rules on how to hold a trial--which may be fairly conducted or not. (During the last presidential impeachment trial, a majority of the Senate would not let Andrew Johnson call his chief witness.)

The writers of the Constitution basically set up impeachment and verdict as political judgment calls.

Consequently, it's entirely proper that political considerations shape--though not necessarily dominate--the process. As we all know from boring civics class, our republican form of government is predicated on a series of checks and balances. Impeachment, of course, is a check on the chief executive. But certainly the power to impeach and convict requires a check of its own. Enter politics. It is not unreasonable to expect a party in control of both bodies of Congress to meet a high threshold to boot out a president of an opposing party. That's why a two-thirds vote is required in the Senate to find the Commander-in-Chief guilty. But that's not the only check on a party's use of the impeachment club. If a party wants to deploy this weapon, it ought to be able to convince a significant bloc of the president's party and a

decent-sized slice of the public that this is a proper and necessary course of action.

There may be an argument that any lying--in or out of a courtroom--qualifies an officeholder for impeachment. (Wouldn't it be nice if all of Washington played by such a rule?) The articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon whacked him for unsworn lies. But principled Republicans did not shove politics aside and plea for impeachment when Ronald Reagan and George Bush were discovered prevaricating about arms sales and secret warfare. In practice and in history, impeachment has not followed the strict guidelines of principle that Carlson and his colleagues now wish to impose. Remember Aaron Burr? In 1804, when he was vice president he shot and killed his rival Alexander Hamilton in a duel sparked by a political dispute. Was Burr, an ally of the dissident Republican faction of the Democrat-Republicans, impeached for having killed a man? No. He served out his term.

Impeachment has always been a relativistic endeavor, reality-checked by politics. When the Democratic-controlled Congress began its investigation of the Iran-contra affair, mega-lawyer Arthur Liman, who had been hired as counsel for the Senate Iran-contra committee, decided that impeachment was off

the table. Bad for the country, not politically feasible, Liman reasoned.

Hyde, a prominent member of the House Iran-contra committee, did not complain.

These days Hyde and his posse reside in a world of their own. On the premiere of \*60 Minutes II\* last week, David Schippers, Hyde's investigative counsel, was informed that some people think he just doesn't get it. In response, he harrumphed, "I get it...and if I have my way, everybody else is going to get it before I leave town." He declared that he would not care if 95 percent of the American people opposed impeachment: "You want my opinion? The polls be damned." No, this is not principle, not bravery; this is arrogance. Mixed with artificial and hypocritical (see below) self-righteousness and adorned with sky-is-falling moralistic hype.

#### A Low Barr

It was too bad that Larry Flynt bumbled his strike against Representative Bob Barr, the leading Clintonphobe on the House prosecution team. Flynt, with the lure of big bucks, had obtained records of Barr's second divorce that quite clearly suggest this crusader had committed adultery in the mid-1980s. When Barr and Wife Number Three-to-be were deposed by Wife Number Two's attorney,

they both were asked questions crafted to determine if the couple had been having an affair while Barr was married to Number Two. Barr and Three-to-be repeatedly cited a Georgia state privilege under which a witness can be silent in order to avoid bringing public disgrace upon him- or herself. Only an idiot could read these depositions and not tell what had happened. Yet Flynt's maladroit handling of the material--he could barely explain it on \*Geraldo Live\*--lessened its impact. The hit drew less attention than Henry Hyde's tryst of thirty years ago.

Since I am a known defender of "truthing" the family-values hypocrites of the GOP, my phone did not stop ringing, with calls from disappointed friends and associates who wanted to know if this was the best Flynt could do. My reply--wait for the release of the tapes Flynt had been hinting about--was thin gruel for in-the-closet Flynt backers. But Barr helped save Flynt. By rushing on to CNN talk shows to cast himself as the latest victim of the \*politics of personal destruction\*, Barr kept a deflating story alive.

Since he refused to speak to the details or explain his divorce testimony, it was easy to accept the obvious interpretation. Not only did the documents expose him as an adulterer, Flynt's packet included a recent affidavit signed by Gail Barr, the second wife, in which she claimed Barr, who is renown as a rabid abortion opponent, helped her obtain an abortion in 1983.

The affidavit is a sad document, no doubt reflecting the bitterness of divorce, lost love, and broken vows. In it, Gail Barr reports that in 1984 she underwent an operation for breast cancer and then received chemotherapy. That year, she notes, "Bob was running for a state representative seat in Georgia against an incumbent. I asked him to stop campaigning after my cancer surgery and while [I was] going through chemotherapy, but he refused. He told me that the campaign would take my mind off my health problems."

What a guy. If that's true, it says as much about Barr as his adulterous behaviour and his alleged hypocrisy on abortion. This is a law-maker who has appeared before a white supremacist group, who has accused Clinton of being an agent of Beijing, who has licked whipped cream from the breasts of women at a 1992 fundraiser. Is it any wonder that most of Americans have not rallied behind the GOP's impeachment drive? When the get-Clinton brigade--burdened with the tough task of convincing the public that Clinton's lies merit political decapitation--is led by a fellow like Barr, the public can be forgiven for regarding it as a busload of clowns.

## The Real Thing

Let's have an impeachment wrestle over serious stuff. That's the call of Jesse Lemisch, a history professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice at CUNY, and Joane Landy, a longtime peace activist. At the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington earlier this month, the pair circulated a petition opposing Clinton's removal from office on the basis of the Hyde articles but urging his impeachment for bombing Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan. The petition asserts that by launching these politically convenient assaults Clinton violated the war powers clause of the Constitution, the War Powers Act, an executive order prohibiting assassination, and a treaty (the UN

charter). To sign or obtain a copy, email Lemisch at this ===== ATTACHMENT 1

=====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

### TEXT:

#### RFC-822-headers:

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id <01J6QJOFQHLS004Z8I@PMDf.EOP.GOV> for Halperin\_D@a1.eop.gov; Tue,  
19 Jan 1999 20:00:22 EST

Received: from storm.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-9 #29131)  
with ESMTP id <01J6QJOAIERK004JU0@PMDf.EOP.GOV> for Halperin\_D@a1.eop.gov;  
Tue, 19 Jan 1999 20:00:15 -0500 (EST)

Received: from imol7.mx.aol.com ([198.81.17.7])  
by EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.2-29 #34437) with ESMTP id <01J6QJNPCKMK0009TM@EOP.GOV>  
for Halperin\_D@a1.eop.gov; Tue, 19 Jan 1999 19:59:45 -0500 (EST)

Received: from Dacor@aol.com by imol7.mx.aol.com (IMOV18.1)  
id UELOa03211 for <Dacor@aol.com>; Tue, 19 Jan 1999 18:28:58 -0500 (EST)

X-Mailer: AOL 3.0.1 for Mac sub 79

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Joan Hunerwadel ( Joan Hunerwadel@EOP@LNGTWY@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-FEB-1999 20:09:00.00

SUBJECT: War Powers on Kenya, NSC Package 0921

TO: David E. Kalbaugh ( David E. Kalbaugh@EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: G. Timothy Saunders ( G. Timothy Saunders@EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sherman A. Williams ( Sherman A. Williams@EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: William W. McCathran ( William W. McCathran@EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Charles Allen ( Charles Allen@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Message Creation Date was at 19-FEB-1999 19:09:00

You all were gone by the time we sent this over. Hope this works, if not

give

me a call or Chuck will call you on Saturday. Doubt if it will go before

Monday, but thought you might want to see it.

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

The following attachments were included with this message:

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TYPE : FILE

NAME : 0921potus.doc

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TYPE : FILE

NAME : 0921ltrs.doc

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===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

===== ATTACHMENT 2 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

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The following is a HEX DUMP:

===== END ATTACHMENT 2 =====

===== ATTACHMENT 3 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

Unable to convert ARMS\_EXT:[ATTACH.D34]ARMSZZ000Y353.002 to ASCII,  
The following is a HEX DUMP:

===== END ATTACHMENT 3 =====

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE EXECUTIVE CLERK

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER  
LARRY STEINSUBJECT: Report to Congress, Consistent with the War Powers  
Resolution, on U.S. Armed Forces in Nairobi, KenyaPurpose

To report to Congress on the continued deployment of U.S. military personnel in Kenya.

Background

On August 10, 1998, you reported to Congress, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, about the deployment of U.S. military personnel to Dar es Salaam and Nairobi in the aftermath of the terrorist bombings at those sites. The team deployed to Tanzania has since redeployed, but the team deployed to Kenya, a contingent of 70 personnel with one crew-served weapon, remains. The attached report informs Congress that this team will remain in Nairobi to provide additional security until completion of renovations to provide a secure and permanent embassy facility.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tabs A and B.

Attachments

Tab A Letter for the Speaker of the House

Tab B Letter for the President pro tempore of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On August 10, 1998, I reported to the Congress that two teams of U.S. military personnel had been deployed to Kenya and Tanzania to assist in the provision of security for our embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in the aftermath of the terrorist bombings at those sites. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about the continuing deployment of U.S. military personnel in Kenya.

The military personnel that deployed to Tanzania have since redeployed. Since the initial deployment, U.S. military personnel have remained in Kenya to assist in provision of security for our embassy and American citizens in Nairobi. The need for this additional security support will continue until renovations are completed to provide a secure and permanent embassy facility in Nairobi.

I have continued this deployment of U.S. Armed Forces pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I appreciate the support of Congress in this action to assist in embassy security and the security of American citizens overseas.

Sincerely,

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

**Tape Restoration Project  
Hex-Dump Conversion**

Dear Mr. President:

On August 10, 1998, I reported to the Congress that two teams of U.S. military personnel had been deployed to Kenya and Tanzania to assist in the provision of security for our embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in the aftermath of the terrorist bombings at those sites. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about the continuing deployment of U.S. military personnel in Kenya.

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I have continued this deployment of U.S. Armed Forces pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I appreciate the support of Congress in this action to assist in embassy security and the security of American citizens overseas.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Strom Thurmond  
President pro tempore  
of the Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4001

**Tape Restoration Project  
Hex-Dump Conversion**

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Joan Hunerwadel ( Joan Hunerwadel@EOP@LNGTWY@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-FEB-1999 09:16:00.00

SUBJECT: Read Receipt: Re: War Powers on Kenya, NSC Package 0921

TO: David E. Kalbaugh ( David E. Kalbaugh@EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Message Creation Date was at 22-FEB-1999 08:16:00

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Dacor ( Dacor@aol.com@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:13-APR-1999 16:58:00.00

SUBJECT: From Corn-LOYAL OPPOSITION-NY Press, 4/14/99

TO: David Halperin ( David Halperin@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Friends, Colleagues, Antagonists, Strangers,

Here is the latest installment of my column in the New York Press. (A pre-copy-edited version.) Feel free to pass this on and feel free to send e-mail addresses of others who might enjoy receiving this weekly feature.

If

you want to be removed from this list, send me a note and you'll be purged.

To the scrolling-challenged, here's a little guidance: Item 1 reports on the

lack of opposition within Democratic ranks to Clinton's bombing; Item 2 covers the unconventional collateral damage of the war in Kosovo; Item 3 brings you the craziest analysis of the war and the US blunder regarding where to put the Kosovo refugees; and Item 4 shows how the State Department has rigged the official record pertaining to another misguided foreign policy.

Cheers,

DC

LOYAL OPPOSITION -- New York Press -- April 14, 1999

By DAVID CORN

## No Left Churn

Where have all the liberals gone? As the bombs fell on Yugoslavia, commentators and pundits listened for the sound of anti-war protest from the left and discerned mostly silence. In the middle of last week, CNN's William Schneider pronounced, "There are no anti-war protests on the left; liberals can rally behind a war for human rights." Schneider was not far wrong. All the rock-'em/sock-'em, in-the-media action had been on the right. In the Republican presidential crankfest, Senator John McCain (representing the go-get-'em position) squared off against Pat Buchanan (championing the nativistic, isolationist, who-cares-what-goes-on-over-there view). And within the opinion-spinning conservative crowd, pundit/editor William Kristol, a pro-NATO interventionist, dueled with pundit/columnist Bob Novak, a spend-more-do-less Pentagonist. After Kristol accused GOP critics of Clinton's Kosovo policy of being blinded by their hatred of the Miscalculator-in-Chief, Novak feistily took humbrage and declared Kristol a scoundrel running from an honest debate.

There's been precious little high-profile discourse of this sort within the Democratic Party. Could it be that all left-of-center pols and

commentators have fallen into line for Madeleine Albright's brilliant mistake? (Pre-bombing stats: 45,000 refugees and 2000 dead Kosovars. After two weeks of bombing: 500,000 refugees, presumably many dead Kosovars.)

For a fortnight, no Democrats were challenging the Clinton policy that assumed no-cost NATO bombing could bring peace and stability to this conflict-ridden area and provide protection for the Kosovars. When Clinton pushed the button,

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley issued an unforceful four-sentence statement noting he had "serious questions" and worried that "we run the risk of becoming bogged down in a quagmire." After the United States and NATO expanded the bombing campaign, Senator Paul Wellstone, the highest-ranking progressive in the federal government, expressed "alarm" that the target-pickers were selecting sites in downtown Belgrade. But he still supported the bomb-the-Serbs strategy. And Jesse Jackson, once the putative head of whatever might be called the left in the United States, issued a statement a week into the bombing endorsing U.S. intervention in Kosovo and implicitly okaying the bombing. He could not even bring himself to call for an Easter halt to the assault, noting only that "during this high holy season, it \_may\_ be the moment...[to] end the bombing." (Emphasis added).

May? That does not sound like the Jackson of old. Then a week later, Jackson

reversed course, calling the bombing a "monumental miscalculation" and proclaiming "we must work harder to seek a peace than we do to expand the war." It was not until last Thursday that an elected Democrat broke ranks.

Representative Dennis Kucinich, a fiery populist from Cleveland, sent Clinton a letter urging him to accept Slobodan Milosevic's Orthodox Easter cease-fire offer and to use it as an opportunity to reopen peace talks.

But

in the letter, Kucinich did not criticize the Clinton-Albright policy. The following day, Kucinich, whose family hails from Croatia, went a step further, promoting his polite disagreement with Clinton in a New York Time op-ed article. "What has this bombing accomplished?" he asked. "It has not stopped the ethnic cleansing or the grim procession of hundreds of thousands of refugees." And he added, "I must challenge NATO's justification for its military campaign against civilians....NATO's actions will destabilize the region for decades to come."

In lefty circles, there have been plenty of folks who think this illegal war--have you seen a congressional declaration of war, an invocation of the War Powers Act, or an UN resolution authorizing this use of force?--is a bad move. It's just they're mostly wonks and scribblers. Not the sorts to register much on CNN's radar. Days after Clinton said to Milosevic, "So tell me, punk, do you feel lucky?" (the answer: yes!), The Nation magazine, my homebase, ran a marvelous critique of the strikes by Benjamin Schwarz, the former executive editor of The World Policy Journal, and

Christopher Layne, a MacArthur Fellow in Peace and International Security Studies. Barbara Ehrenreich, one of the best essayists on the left, has produced eloquent opposition to the strikes. But CNN's Schneider was correct in a limited sense. Until Kucinich, no official Democrat had spoken against the latest in Clinton's mini-wars. That was not because all on the left are hot for "a war for human rights." But since little opposition arose from Democrats and Washington liberals, Clinton, in CNN-land, could be portrayed as getting a pass from the left. If only Milosevic had rolled over so easily.

#### Damage Done

When civilians are killed in military attacks, the Pentagon describes such horror with the euphemistic term "collateral damage." The collateral damage of NATO's attack extends beyond the bodies of civilians caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. As Vojin Dimitrijevic, a human rights activist in Belgrade, noted on the web site of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, "NATO's air offensive against Yugoslavia has not simply 'degraded' military installations. It has also taken its toll in human lives and is progressively destroying the economic infrastructure of our impoverished

country. In the long run, however, the biggest collateral damage is likely to be to the prospects for democracy in Serbia....I fear that the only durable result of the undeclared war will be a permanent state of emergency." Dimitrijevic argues that "a democratic Serbia is the only real cure for Kosovo and it would also help achieve stability in the Balkans." There has been a nascent movement in Serbia for human rights and democracy. But that movement has received little attention and support from the policymakers of Europe and Washington. "In one night," Dimitrijevic writes, "the NATO air strikes have wiped out ten years of hard work of groups of courageous people in the nongovernmental sector and democratic opposition."

The bombing stirred other repercussions. There was a blustering warning from Russian President Boris Yeltsin that Kosovo could lead to world war. But the Russian defense ministry, in a more concrete protest, said it would stop cooperating with the United States on the Y2K computer problem. This is, of course, a stupid move on the Russians' part. But labeling it as such does not provide much satisfaction. The millennium bug could cause problems within Russia's command and control of nuclear weapons, perhaps trigger false alarms on Russia's nuclear early warning system. The Russians, no doubt, will revive the cooperative program. But with computer

chips ticking, a week or two of lost time could have serious consequences.

Another victim of the bombing may be the START 2 treaty, which would decrease significantly the nuclear arms maintained by the United States and Russia. Last week, Aviation Week & SpaceTechnology, the Variety of the military-industrial complex, reported "the West's assault on Russia's historical Serb allies could be the death knell" for the treaty.

"Although Russia's military leadership has always supported parliament's ratification of the long-stalled pact," the magazine noted, "a lengthy NATO air campaign in the Balkans might unleash lasting and powerful anti-American sentiment in Russia that could poison not only an already-jaundiced, Communist-dominated parliament, but also forthcoming Russian elections." A frost in U.S.-Russia relations could prompt Russia's security apparatus to bolster secrecy and block access to nuclear facilities. "The ultimate proliferation threat--loose nukes--is apt to go up," Matthew Bunn, an arms control expert at Harvard, told the magazine.

## War Is Crazy

\* Leave it to Paul Weyrich to come up with the kookiest analysis of the Kosovo crisis. Last we heard from this religious right leader, he was

hoisting the white flag and declaring that social conservatives had lost the culture wars. (His evidence: Bill Clinton's unsurprising impeachment acquittal.) Last week, he outdid himself. "Suppose you were Bill Clinton," Weyrich wrote in a column. "Suppose after all these years you really did still loathe the military. Suppose you were now a lame duck President and you

were finally in a position to do something about it. What would you do?" Well, Weyrich has figured out Clinton's masterplan to wreck the US military.

"First, you would get the military involved in all sorts of non-military activities, which would then be hidden in the military budget....Second, you would overextend the now downsized military forces....Third, you would continue to spend money on strategic missile defense initiatives which go nowhere [as opposed to anti-missile systems that could be built]...Fourth, you would take an obsolete Cold War alliance, NATO...[and] seek to expand it....Fifth, you would look to involve the United States in a civil war somewhere." And, Weyrich adds, "you would do this knowing that some stupid Republicans would be outflanking you and telling the American people you hadn't done enough. That way, in destroying the military you would look moderate and responsible. " By now, the experienced column-consumer would be looking for the I'm-not-insane caveat, a line that would go something like:

"Of course, I'm not suggesting Clinton is bombing in Kosovo in order to fulfill a lifelong ambition to undermine the US military." Such a sentence

never appears. Weyrich does seem to be saying that Clinton is blasting Serbia as part of his scheme to tear apart the military. And Bill Kristol, John McCain and their ilk are in on it. Quick, tell Henry Hyde and Bob Barr.

There's still time for one more impeachment.

\* What a message the Clinton Administration sent when it announced that the

Kosovar refugees it had pledged to take in would be airlifted to either Guam

or the US military base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. In other words, no way, you're reaching the mainland. After deliberation, the Administration settled

on America's toehold in Cuba, daring a repeat of sad history. It was a mere

four years ago, that the United States corralled over 50,000 Cuban and Haitian refugees in Guantanamo. Fidel Castro, maintaining the Clinton Administration was not negotiating in good faith on an immigration dispute,

had exhorted Cubans who wanted to leave his island to paddle or sail toward

Florida. US Coast Guard vessels collected the fleeing Cubans and dumped them

in Guantanamo. The refugees sat at the base for months--as Havana and Washington dickered--and the scene there was pure misery. The base did not have the resources to handle the crowd. It was hot as hell. People were bored

to tears. Several refugees committed suicide. There were riots. Lt.

## General

John Sheehan, the head of the Atlantic Command flew up to Washington and reported the base could not handle this mission. He pleaded with the Administration to come to terms with Castro. Clinton and Castro eventually worked out an immigration deal, and the refugees came to the United States.

When a US military official last week was quoted as saying the base was not prepared for the Kosovars, it must have triggered bad flashbacks for those involved in the last refugee bash at Guantanamo.

## History Deleted

On the subject of Cuba, readers of last week's column should recall that I was in Havana recently. To get there, I hitched a ride with a charter flight carrying 80 schoolkids from Baltimore and Washington. They were on their way to play baseball with Cuban children, as part of the exchange that brought the Baltimore Orioles to the island to face a team of Cuban all-stars. The State Department, which had to license the children's trip (thanks to the draconian US ban on travel to Cuba), had courteously provided the kids and their adult escorts a briefing book on Cuba. One section covered the history of US-Cuban relations and contained a handy timeline. The chronology starts with 1958, which was convenient. By beginning then,

State

Department historians did not have to mention the years of US support in the

1950s for the thuggish government of Fulgencio Batista or the occasions earlier in the century when the United States occupied Cuba. More interesting

is the omission of any reference to the assassination attempts against Castro that the United States sponsored in the 1960s or the years of sabotage

raids conducted against Cuba by US-backed exiles. The State Department hand-out does refer to the CIA-engineered Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.

But

it neglects to mention these other CIA actions against Cuba, which are no longer state secrets. The assassination schemes--in one plot, the CIA used the Mafia to try to poison Castro--were acknowledged in the 1970s during congressional investigations. The CIA's small war against Castro has been expunged from official history by the State Department. Expect the truth about the Clinton Administration's conduct during the Kosovo conflict to

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U.S. Front Page Stories

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\*\*\* Colo. shooters planned explosion

\*\*\* Clinton backs NATO on ground troops

\*\*\* NATO jets destroy Milosevic's home, Serb TV station

\*\*\* 7 die in Army helicopter crash

\*\*\* High security, protests greet NATO

\*\*\* War Powers Act might be invoked

## The U.S. Political Scene

---

- \*\*\* Congressman gives Serbs' version
- \*\*\* Update: Feds want gun controls boosted
- \*\*\* Senate links Italy restitution
- \*\*\* House panel OKs juvenile crime bill
- \*\*\* Israel critic employed in State Dept. post
- \*\*\* N.H. ends ban on gay adoption

## U.S. Business and Financial News

---

- \*\*\* Dow soars to record on wings of high-flying IBM
- \*\*\* AT&T makes \$58 bln bid for MediaOne
- \*\*\* NASD nixes Philly Exchange merger

## World Front Page Stories

---

- \*\*\* Milosevic may accept UN 'presence'
- \*\*\* Report: Nuke test detector developed

## The World Political Scene

---

\*\*\* Bosnian NATO force called successful

\*\*\* NATO expansion taking back seat

\*\*\* Jordan, Syria have historic meeting

## Sports

-----

\*\*\* Rangers' All-Star catcher hurt in home-plate collision

\*\*\* Penguins' Kovalev misses playoff opener with wrist injury

\*\*\* Frustrated Cooke withdraws bid for Redskins

\*\*\* 2 groups put down \$12 mln deposits to buy A's

## Entertainment

-----

\*\*\* Boston changes live TV policy

\*\*\* Cannes to feature known directors

\*\*\* Update: Houston TV analyst scoops Milosevic

\*\*\* Should Springer guests be arrested?

## Science and Medicine

-----

\*\*\* New study questions 'gay gene'

\*\*\* Human ancestor possibly discovered

\*\*\* Organ implanted after being trashed

## Technology

-----

\*\*\* Shopping software may be flawed

\*\*\* Illegal films infiltrate Internet

\*\*\* Witness in Microsoft case surprised

\*\*\* Gateway sees earnings rise 31%

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## U.S. Front Page Stories

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### \*\*\* Colo. shooters planned explosion

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) - The two gunmen in the Columbine High massacre were planning to blow up their school and probably had help from others, investigators said Thursday after discovering a powerful bomb in the kitchen that had been built from a propane tank. "These subjects were not only on a killing rampage, but they were going to destroy the school," Sheriff John Stone said. "They were going to burn the school up." The discovery of the 20-pound propane tank heightened suspicions the two killers had help from other people, either with building the 32 bombs discovered so far in the school, its environs and the killers' homes, or getting them into the high school. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559275210-8f1>

\*\*\* Also: Dangling student inspired SWAT team, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559274276-f9b>

\*\*\* Also: Weapons used in shooting, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559274154-e22>

\*\*\* Also: Reconstructing the Columbine horror, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559273098-624>

\*\*\* Also: Thumbnails of Columbine High victims, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272134-02f>

\*\*\* Also: Colo. police defend response, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272075-7c8>

\*\*\* Also: Explaining Gothic sub-culture? See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271364-a25>

\*\*\* And: Colo. high school students edgy, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271896-996>

\*\*\* Clinton backs NATO on ground troops

WASHINGTON (AP) - On Day 30 of the NATO bombing campaign, Clinton

called "wise and prudent" NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana's

decision to order a fresh estimate of how many troops it would take

to begin a ground offensive in Yugoslavia. But he insisted this was

not a step toward a land campaign. A NATO estimate developed last

year said as many as 200,000 allied troops would be needed for a

ground campaign. In an apparent effort to discourage the idea that a

new NATO assessment of its ground options is a sign that the air

campaign is stalemated, Pentagon officials presented perhaps the most

comprehensive, detailed and optimistic briefings of damage inflicted

so far by U.S. and allied warplanes. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271388-2ed>

\*\*\* Also: Ground troops worry Russia official, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272713-75a>

\*\*\* Also: Pentagon says NATO campaign working, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559276465-d36>

\*\*\* NATO jets destroy Milosevic's home, Serb TV station

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - President Slobodan Milosevic has accepted the idea of a U.N.-controlled "international presence" in Kosovo, a Russian envoy said Thursday. Hours later, NATO struck the headquarters of Serbia's most important TV network, knocking its channels off the air. Apparently making good on earlier threats, the alliance sent a missile into the side of Serbian state TV's downtown headquarters that collapsed its top two floors, according to reporters on the scene. Local media said there were no injuries inside the studio. A NATO missile struck directly against the Yugoslav leader for the first time, destroying his luxurious mansion early Thursday. The attack delivered a graphic message to Belgrade that it remains resolved to crush his forces if he doesn't pull them out of Kosovo. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559273792-404>

\*\*\* Also: Latest developments in Kosovo crisis, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559275003-cea>

\*\*\* And: NATO to go after leadership targets, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559270634-90f>

\*\*\* 7 die in Army helicopter crash

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) - An Army Black Hawk helicopter crashed early Thursday at Fort Campbell, killing seven people and injuring the other four aboard. An Army photo of the crash scene showed the

helicopter scattered in several large pieces in a wooded area beside a road. The UH-60L helicopter went down in a rural training area about 7 a.m., the Army said. The Black Hawk is the primary helicopter for air assault, air cavalry and medical evacuation units. One victim died at the Nashville, Tenn., hospital, and two others were in critical condition, according to hospital officials. The others injured in the crash were being treated at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital on Fort Campbell. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559274537-387>

\*\*\* High security, protests greet NATO

WASHINGTON (AP) - Demonstrators with strongly divergent views over the NATO bombing campaign in Yugoslavia are planning protests outside the White House as the alliance's 50th anniversary celebration takes over the nation's capital this weekend. The National

Albanian-American Council received a permit for a rally at Lafayette Park Friday in support of widening the NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia. "We thank NATO for getting involved but we are asking them to do much much more," said Ilir Zherka. "While NATO is patting itself on the back this week, people are dying in Kosovo and they can't stop it." Taking the opposite view, a local Serbian church is organizing a protest for Saturday calling for an end to the bombing campaign. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559276436-926>

\*\*\* Also: NATO leaders tone down celebration, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559276513-8b4>

\*\*\* And: NATO summit will address Kosovo, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271784-7a6>

\*\*\* War Powers Act might be invoked

WASHINGTON (AP) - A challenge to the NATO campaign under an oft-ignored post-Vietnam law could confront the House with a stark choice next week: voting either to declare war on Yugoslavia or to order all U.S. forces withdrawn. House leaders of both parties were scrambling Thursday to find ways to avoid the votes, or at the least offer House members a less stringent alternative. But Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Calif., a one-time Supreme Court clerk and Stanford University law professor, said he would press ahead with his challenge to the military campaign under the 1973 War Powers Act. Campbell's move has put both Republicans and Democrats in an awkward position. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559270667-b85>

\*\*\* Also: U.S. troops prepare for strikes, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271667-e81>

\*\*\* And: Republicans can't agree on Kosovo, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559276450-49d>

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## The U.S. Political Scene

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\*\*\* Congressman gives Serbs' version

WASHINGTON (AP) - A congressman who visited Belgrade this week says Serb officials justify their military actions in Kosovo as a crackdown on terrorism. Rep. James Saxton, R-N.J., spent three days in the Yugoslav capital even as U.S. forces were bombing military targets as part of the NATO offensive. He said he heard sirens but no explosions during his two nights in Belgrade. Saxton said he did not take any peace proposals to Yugoslavia and did not bring any back. He described his trip as a fact-finding mission to learn more about the conflict. Saxton said his invitation to visit Yugoslavia came through contacts he has made as chairman of the House Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271482-6a3>

\*\*\* Update: Feds want gun controls boosted

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Clinton administration prepared Thursday to release \$1.5 million to compensate victims of the Colorado school shooting and voiced hope the tragedy would spur passage of "reasonable restrictions on the possession of guns." Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder said at the department's weekly news conference Thursday that the administration would send Congress suggested gun-control legislation, which would include banning gun possession for people who committed violent crimes as juveniles. The current ban applies only to adult convictions. President Clinton will announce the immediate availability Friday of as much as \$1.5 million from the Crime Victims' Fund to help families in Littleton, Colo., pay for

funerals, uninsured medical expenses, lost wages and mental-health counseling, a White House official said. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272695-1d8>

### \*\*\* Senate links Italy restitution

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate linked restitution to the families of 20 skiers killed in Italy when a U.S. military jet clipped a gondola cable to Germany compensating relatives of nine Americans killed in a 1997 crash off the coast of Africa. Seven of the victims in the Feb. 1998 gondola crash were German. Sponsored by Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., and passed by voice vote Thursday, the resolution was requested by the widow of one of those killed when a German transport plane flying at the wrong altitude slammed into an Air Force C-141 off the coast of Africa. Monica Cindrich, 28, of North Charleston, S.C., asked the Senate to make the \$40 million payment to the gondola victims' families conditional on Germany compensating her and the families of other airmen with her husband Greg in the C-141 crash. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559275471-096>

### \*\*\* House panel OKs juvenile crime bill

WASHINGTON (AP) - States would get \$1.5 billion in federal funds over three years to fight juvenile crime in legislation approved Thursday by a House subcommittee. The measure, reviving juvenile justice legislation that failed to make it through the last Congress, would provide funds to build juvenile detention centers, establish drug and

gun courts for young people and train law enforcement personnel in preventing and controlling juvenile crime. The bill, introduced by the House Judiciary crime subcommittee chairman, Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., and backed by the ranking Democrat on the panel, Rep. Bobby Scott of Virginia, was approved by a voice vote. The full committee is expected to act on it next week. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271013-c7f>

\*\*\* Israel critic employed in State Dept. post

WASHINGTON (AP) - A young Arab-American lawyer who has criticized Israel as a torturer of Palestinians and occupier of their land has worked as a special assistant for the State Department's Near East bureau chief since last summer. Responding to a complaint by the Zionist Organization of America, the bureau chief, Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk, told The Associated Press he was aware of Joseph Zogby's sympathies for the Palestinians. "I believed he could make an important contribution to the work of the State Department, and that has proven to be the case," Indyk said. "There are very few Arab-Americans working in the State Department in any area. The Clinton administration is committed to a diverse work place, and ... we do feel it is important to have Arab-Americans in the State Department." See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272365-bce>

\*\*\* N.H. ends ban on gay adoption

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) - The New Hampshire Legislature gave final approval Thursday to the repeal of a law prohibiting gays to adopt children or serve as foster parents. The Senate voted 18-6 to repeal the 1987 law, which also requires heterosexual couples wishing to adopt or be foster parents to sign a form attesting that no adult in the household is gay. The bill passed the House last month, and Gov. Jeanne Shaheen has said she will sign it. The repeal leaves Florida as the only state where adoption by gays is prohibited by state law. At least two other states - Arkansas and Utah - use state agency rules to prevent gays from adopting. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559270862-efd>

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#### U.S. Business and Financial News

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\*\*\* Dow soars to record on wings of high-flying IBM

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow soared Thursday to its tenth record high close this month in the wake of blockbuster earnings from IBM, the world's largest computer maker. The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended unofficially up 145.76 points, or 1.38%, at 10,727.18, with most of its gain coming from a 23 point surge in Big Blue's shares. The Nasdaq Composite Index, heavy with technology stocks, rocketed 72.6 points, or 2.92%, to 2561.68. The S&P 500 Index, a broader market gauge, ended up 22.71 points at 1358.83, squeezing out a record high close by a fraction. It's previous record high close of

1358.63 was set April 12. Amid the big gains in the stock market, U.S. Treasuries fell. The long-bond was off 1-3/32 to yield 5.61%. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271200-492>

### \*\*\* AT&T makes \$58 bln bid for MediaOne

NEW YORK (AP) - AT&T Corp. offered \$58 billion Thursday for MediaOne, the nation's fourth-largest cable-TV company, hoping to thwart a merger agreement that Comcast Corp. and MediaOne reached two months ago. AT&T said its rival bid, a combination of cash and stock, exceeded the value of the Comcast deal by 17%. The offer is 26% above MediaOne's current market value, AT&T said. An AT&T deal would make the nation's largest telecommunications company also its No. 1 cable TV company. AT&T, which completed its acquisition of cable company Tele-Communications Inc. last month, now has 12.5 million cable subscribers. MediaOne has 5 million. Time Warner, currently the largest, has 12.6 million subscribers. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559273118-231>

### \*\*\* NASD nixes Philly Exchange merger

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The Philadelphia Stock Exchange is prepared to continue operating as one of the last few regional exchanges after the parent company of the Nasdaq Stock Market and the American Stock Exchange called off a proposed merger. After months of negotiations failed to settle disputes, the National Association of Securities Dealers, which runs the Nasdaq and the Amex, said Thursday a merger

would not be feasible. The NASD suggested the two continue discussing possible alternatives such as an agreement to share technology.

Philadelphia exchange Chairman Meyer "Sandy" Frucher has been marketing the exchange to brokerage firms as a viable trading alternative on its own. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559275664-bd6>

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### World Front Page Stories

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\*\*\* Milosevic may accept UN 'presence'

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - Yugoslavia's top leader will accept a U.N.-led force in Kosovo, but only if the bombing stops and NATO withdraws troops from his borders, a Russian envoy said Thursday. It was unclear whether such an international presence would be armed and under what guidelines it would operate. NATO has insisted it must lead an armed presence in Kosovo to enforce any peace agreement. President Slobodan Milosevic has so far rejected NATO demands to withdraw his troops from Kosovo and grant autonomy to the ethnic Albanian majority there. Following a daylong meeting with Milosevic, former Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin told reporters the two "considered conditions for the return of the refugees" and allowing international aid agencies into the province. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559273171-b45>

\*\*\* Also: Greeks to be shields in Yugoslavia, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559274467-1e1>

\*\*\* Also: Pristina described as a 'dead city,' see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559270873-1f7>

\*\*\* Report: Nuke test detector developed

MOSCOW (AP) - Russian scientists have developed a new, highly-accurate system to detect nuclear tests, a news report said Thursday. The equipment can identify the magnitude of a nuclear test more accurately than any system now used, the director of the Siberian Institute of Metrology, Vladimir Matveichuk, said. Matveichuk said the equipment, developed under state order, monitors fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field from space, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency. The report gave no other details about the equipment, except to say that it must still undergo testing. ###

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### The World Political Scene

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\*\*\* Bosnian NATO force called successful

WASHINGTON (AP) - The foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina said Thursday the NATO-led peacekeeping force in his country has kept at bay the kind of ethnic conflict now afflicting neighboring Yugoslavia. But he stopped short of recommending a similar solution for the troubled province of Kosovo. The "NATO operation in

Bosnia-Herzegovina is proof of the ability of the international community to make and keep peace," Jadranko Prlic said in Washington where he was in town to attend the commemoration of NATO's 50th anniversary. The NATO-led peacekeeping operation has helped maintain the 1995 Dayton peace accords, which ended years of fighting there between Bosnian Serbs - backed by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic - and Bosnian Muslims and Croats. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559273697-0cf>

\*\*\* NATO expansion taking back seat

WASHINGTON (AP) - NATO leaders had planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the alliance by welcoming three new members and considering the addition of several others. The focus was supposed to be about playing peacemaker, not policeman. Kosovo changed that agenda. The idea of expanding NATO now sits on the sidelines as world leaders debate how to end the bloodshed in Yugoslavia. The newest members of the alliance understand that. "NATO is not only a defensive alliance but also a community, a community of common value," said Bronislaw Geremek, foreign minister of Poland. "And human rights are becoming more and more part of international law." See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559276432-a7a>

\*\*\* Jordan, Syria have historic meeting

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) - Jordan's King Abdullah said Thursday his visit to Syria ushered a "new era" in ties with a neighbor that ostracized

the kingdom for its 1994 peace treaty with Israel. "Our visit was very successful and it ushers a new era in relations," Abdullah declared upon his return from a two-day visit to Damascus. "We see eye-to-eye on all issues," including the Middle East peace process, said Abdullah in a veiled criticism of Israel, which Syria blames for a two-year stalemate in peace negotiations. He did not elaborate, but the official Petra news agency said the king reiterated "the necessity of achieving peace on all Arab tracks through resuming the negotiations from the point where they broke off." See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559275011-37b>

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## Sports

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### \*\*\* Rangers' All-Star catcher hurt in home-plate collision

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Texas Rangers catcher Ivan Rodriguez sustained a concussion and bruised left cheekbone Thursday night during a collision at home plate with Minnesota's Matt Lawton. X-rays were negative and the Rangers said Rodriguez is day-to-day. Trying to score from second base on Marty Cordova's infield hit in the first inning, Lawton lowered his right shoulder and plowed into Rodriguez. Lawton's shoulder slammed into the left side of Rodriguez's face, and Rodriguez hit the other side of his head on umpire Durwood Merrill's leg as he fell to the ground. Rodriguez held onto the ball, and Lawton was out to end the inning. Rodriguez lay virtually motionless

in the dirt for several minutes before walking slowly to the dugout.

Lawton returned to right field for one inning but was replaced in the third because of an injury to his right shoulder. ###

### \*\*\* Penguins' Kovalev misses playoff opener with wrist injury

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) - Forward Alexei Kovalev missed the opening game of the Pittsburgh Penguins' first-round playoff series with the New Jersey Devils Thursday night because of a sprained right wrist. Kovalev, whose 23 goals were third on the team, was hurt in Sunday's regular-season finale against the New York Rangers in a freakish play. His stick got stuck in the boards at Madison Square Garden late in the third period and his wrist was bent when he was pushed from behind. Kovalev expects to play Saturday in Game 2 of the best-of-7 series. Acquired from the Rangers Nov. 25, Kovalev had 20 goals and 26 assists in 63 games with Pittsburgh. Without him, the Penguins lost to the Devils, 3-1. In other NHL playoff action Thursday, Philadelphia beat Toronto, 3-0; Boston beat Carolina, 2-0; and St. Louis beat Phoenix, 3-1. ###

### \*\*\* Frustrated Cooke withdraws bid for Redskins

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) - Team president John Kent Cooke unexpectedly withdrew his bid for the Washington Redskins Thursday and The Associated Press has learned the team's trustees are close to a making a deal to sell the team to communications executive Daniel Snyder for \$800 million. Cooke, apparently ending his dream of owning

the team his father owned, pulled out with a statement indicative of his frustration with the trustees overseeing his father's estate.

"This week I presented a greatly increased offer ... for the Washington Redskins and Jack Kent Cooke Stadium," Cooke said. "The executors failed to act on my offer and today I have withdrawn it. ..." Sources told the AP a deal with Snyder could be completed within 10 days and presented to the owners at the May 25-26 league meetings in Atlanta. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559270697-e7f>

\*\*\* 2 groups put down \$12 mln deposits to buy A's

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - With two groups putting down \$12 million deposits to buy the Oakland Athletics, public officials have until May 11 to select one and forward that bid to Major League Baseball for approval. Under an agreement worked out months ago with team owners Steve Schott and Ken Hofmann, the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Authority had until Wednesday to receive bids from investors willing to buy the team for \$120 million. One of the groups includes former A's executive Andy Dolich, Hall of Fame second baseman Joe Morgan and Bob Piccinini, chairman of Modesto-based Save Mart Foods, who provided the deposit for the group. The other group includes former pitcher Steve Stone, now a broadcaster for the Chicago Cubs, and former A's coach and New York Yankees general manager Bob Watson. That group's deposit was provided by Arizona banker Lyle Campbell. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271366-e41>

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## Entertainment

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### \*\*\* Boston changes live TV policy

BOSTON (AP) - Boston TV stations have pledged in principle to run no live local pictures of SWAT teams, no live footage of escaping victims and no cell phone interviews of the sort seen and heard during the murderous attack at Colorado's Columbine High School. The voluntary regulations, which were developed months ago before Tuesday's massacre in Littleton, Colo., set coverage guidelines during local hostage situations. Seven TV stations and several local radio broadcasters agreed to the pact, which pertains to events in Massachusetts, does not prohibit live coverage and carries no penalty if broken. Nor does it govern whether local stations air video feed coming in from outside the state, such as the Colorado shootings. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272607-dd1>

### \*\*\* Cannes to feature known directors

PARIS (AP) - David Lynch, whose "Wild at Heart" won the 1990 Golden Palm, will be among the many well-known directors seeking glory at the 52nd annual Cannes Film Festival. His "The Straight Story," one of four American films in the lineup announced Thursday, faces competition from films by Atom Egoyan, Jim Jarmusch, Pedro Almodovar, Chen Kaige and Tim Robbins, among others. The festival runs from May

12-23. Egoyan, the Canadian whose mournful film "The Sweet Hereafter" won the runner-up prize in 1997, is entered with "Felicia's Journey." The celebrated Spanish director Almodovar will be showing "Todo Sobre Mi Madre," or "All About My Mother," his first time in Cannes competition. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272794-846>

\*\*\* Also: Films at 52nd Cannes festival, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559270014-d1d>

\*\*\* Update: Houston TV analyst scoops Milosevic

NEW YORK (AP) - The first American interview given by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic since the NATO bombing began went to a local TV analyst from Houston whose trip was paid for by a businessman of Serbian and Croatian descent. The scoop by Houston's KHOU-TV came despite efforts to speak to Milosevic by major network correspondents, including CBS's Dan Rather. But it left the station defending the propriety of having interviewer Ron Hatchett's trip paid for by someone with a clear point of view on the conflict. The trip's sponsor, Bob Koprivica of Butte, Mont., has called reports of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo "a lie." KHOU news director Mike Devlin said the Yugoslavs placed no restrictions on what Hatchett could ask. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271542-da6>

\*\*\* Should Springer guests be arrested?

CHICAGO (AP) - When fists fly and hair is yanked on the set of "The

Jerry Springer Show," guests shouldn't just be separated - they should be arrested, a City Council member says. Alderman Edward Burke, a former policeman, said the off-duty Chicago officers who provide security for the show should enforce the law. He wants to call those officers before the council's Police and Fire Committee. "If they are committing batteries, assaults and other offenses, then why isn't the police department taking appropriate action?" Burke asked Wednesday. A spokeswoman for the show had no comment. Some critics contend the fights are staged. Springer has denied it. ###

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#### Science and Medicine

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\*\*\* New study questions 'gay gene'

WASHINGTON (AP) - Canadian scientists are questioning whether a gene inherited from mothers influences men's sexual orientation in a study that attacks U.S. researchers' hunt for a "gay gene." Scientists still can't explain what determines a person's sexual orientation, although many studies have suggested that it is biology and not choice. The first such evidence came in 1991, when researchers discovered that identical twins of gay men were much more likely to also be gay than were fraternal twins. Then National Cancer Institute geneticist Dean Hamer made headlines in 1993 by suggesting that one such gene resides in a region of the X chromosome, one of the microscopic structures that carry genes. Men inherit that chromosome

from their mothers. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559270229-d4b>

### \*\*\* Human ancestor possibly discovered

WASHINGTON (AP) - More than 2.5 million years ago, human-like creatures were using stone tools to file meat beside an African lake - a discovery researchers say provides a new human ancestor and also the earliest known use of tools to cut food. The researchers named the new hominid species "garhi," which means surprise in the language near Bouri, in Ethiopia's Afar desert. The new species is descended from the one that produced the famous Lucy skeleton in east Africa. It is a candidate for earliest human ancestor, the researchers say in an article in Friday's issue of the journal Science. The new species could turn out to be the link between the genus Homo, which includes modern humans - Homo sapiens - and its predecessor, Australopithecus. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559270228-062>

### \*\*\* Organ implanted after being trashed

VALHALLA, N.Y. (AP) - The transplant team was just about to put the patient under when the operation had to be postponed. The healthy new kidney, it seemed, was missing. Someone, it turns out, had thrown it in a recycling bin. The organ was found there within 90 minutes, and the operation went forward. On Thursday, two days after the initial surgery, the organ was removed because it was "not working properly," Westchester Medical Center. But Kristine Smith, spokeswoman for the

state Health Department, said the malfunction had nothing to do with the mixup. "The outcome for the patient depends on a number of factors that have nothing to do with this," Smith said. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272725-3c8>

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## Technology

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### \*\*\* Shopping software may be flawed

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Internet surfers can tap online shoppers' personal data, including credit card numbers, when common "shopping cart" software used by small retailers is improperly installed, an expert says. A technician's warning on the Internet Thursday represents one of the most wide-ranging security breaches to hit online commerce. Exposure of confidential information has always tempered Web shopping enthusiasm. Despite reservations, the government has cited private industry figures showing consumers spent \$9 billion online last year. The security breach was discovered by Joe Harris, a computer technician at Blarg! Online, a Seattle-area Internet service provider. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272284-9a6>

### \*\*\* Illegal films infiltrate Internet

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) - The same technology that allows for the

spread of bootlegged music over the Internet is now threatening the movie industry. Film filchers have begun distributing illegal copies of hot flicks like "The Matrix" using a data format similar to the so-called MP3 files that are being used to spread free music across cyberspace. While the data files containing full-length movies are too big for the average home computer user to conveniently download, college students with high-speed hookups in their dorm rooms are doing it and the movie industry is shuddering. The movies can be found on public Web forums, including those run by America Online, and on Internet message boards. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559271354-26b>

### \*\*\* Witness in Microsoft case surprised

WASHINGTON (AP) - When the government chose a relatively unknown software engineer from Boeing Co. to testify against Microsoft in its landmark antitrust trial, the decision puzzled many experts in the case. But perhaps no one was more surprised to learn of his pivotal role in one of the most important business trials in a century than the engineer himself, according to new testimony released Thursday. In transcripts from his interviews with lawyers, Boeing's Scott Vesey confessed he initially heard he was a witness only after seeing his name on the front page of his newspaper. Microsoft's lawyer, Tom Burt, was so surprised he did a double-take during his interview of Vesey. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272760-4ba>

### \*\*\* Gateway sees earnings rise 31%

NORTH SIOUX CITY, S.D. (AP) - Gateway said strong sales domestically and in its Asia-Pacific markets helped the computer maker earn \$99.6 million in the first quarter, up 31% from the same period a year ago. The earnings reported Thursday worked out to 62 cents per share, topping the 60 cents predicted by analysts surveyed by First Call Corp. Gateway earned \$75.9 million in the same quarter last year, or 48 cents a share. Revenues increased 22% to \$2.1 billion, compared with \$1.7 billion a year ago. The company shipped 1.08 million computers in the first quarter, up 42% from a year earlier. Revenue increased 23% in the U.S. and 65% in Asia-Pacific, the company said.

See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2559272336-bfe>

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Friends, Colleagues, Antagonists, Strangers,

Here is the latest installment of my column in the New York Press. (A pre-copy-edited version.) Feel free to pass this on and feel free to send e-mail addresses of others who might enjoy receiving this weekly feature.

If

you want to be removed from this list, send me a note and you'll be purged.

To the scrolling-challenged, here's a little guidance: Item 1 slaps

Clinton

for taking a vacation as bombs fall; Item 2 notes how Al Gore, when he is not

baosting about his faith, is trying to keep South Africa from making anti-AIDS drugs more accesible to the millions of South Africans who are HIV-positive; Item 3 shows just how loose columnist/pundit Ann Coulter is with her facts.

Cheers,

DC

LOYAL OPPOSITION -- New York Press -- June 2, 1999

By DAVID CORN

Gone Fishin'

Hospitals, television studios, power plants, water systems, computer networks. Boom. Boom. Boom. Didn't President Clinton state at the start of this little war against Serbia that his beef was with Slobodan Milosevic and not the Serbian people? If so, why target the civilian infrastructure? Apparently, because NATO can. In recent weeks, the Administration and NATO's PR-sensitivity to civilian damage and death has diminished. When the first errant bombs took out non-military targets--remember the convoy of ethnic Albanians blasted by NATO's smart bombs?--there was much handwringing by the NATO reps. These days, one of their bombs blow up people with whom Clinton has no quarrel, and NATO's spin machine pops out a quick utterance of regret: \_Yeah, yeah, yeah, now let's get on with it.\_ How quickly everyone becomes desensitized. It's not merely computer video games and shoot-'em-up flicks that can coarsen and blunt one's reaction to violence. After two months of daily bombing, the air strikes, even the civilian-killing strikes, are no big deal. They fade from the television news headlines. And when the air campaign intensified last week, what was Clinton doing? He was vacationing in

Yulee,

Florida. What commander-in-chief takes time off in the middle of an intensifying war? Why didn't the Republicans squawk about the draft-dodger lazing in the sun while our fighting men and women are waging war? Perhaps the GOPers were otherwise occupied demagogically accusing Clinton of passing nuclear secrets to Beijing in return for soft money campaign contributions.

The war in Kosovo is an ugly mess. NATO maintains a bombing crusade that was initially supposed to last only days. The White House claims its only goal is to return the Kosovars to Kosovo in safety. But how can that be done without ground troops? National security adviser Sandy Berger, in off-the-record briefings with reporters, has been saying that victory can be achieved without forcing Milosevic from power. Yet Secretary of State Madeleine Albright declares NATO cannot deal with Milosevic. So will there be a resolution without negotiations? And what Kosovar is going to repatriate if Milosevic is still around? As a further complication, the Kosovo Liberation Army vows it will fight on until it achieves independence--a goal not supported by the United States. So the ending that the Clintonites claim is within reach--a peaceful Kosovo brimming with returned Kosovars and remaining

part of Serbia--is an illusion.

Logic? Who needs logic when you have a monopoly on air power?

Supporters of Clinton's war--which is a violation of the United Nations charter--cheered the indictment of Milosevic as a war criminal by a UN tribunal. And by continuing the bombing last week, Clinton violated the 1973

War Powers Resolution, which forces the President to terminate military action after 60 days if he has not received explicit authorization from Congress for the use of force. (In Congress, there were few complaints, though Representative Tom Campbell, a California Republican, has been pursuing a lawsuit on these grounds against Clinton.) In the latest installment of the will-he-or-won't-he shuffle, news reports last week indicated that Clinton, who once promised no ground troops, was considering sending tens of thousands of US military personnel into Kosovo.

The disingenuousness of Clinton and NATO will not do much to bring peace and democracy to Yugoslavia. A Serbian democracy advocate, whose name was withheld, made this point in a dispatch distributed recently by the Institute on War and Peace reporting: "To ordinary Serbs, who have now been under daily attack by an alliance of 19 Western powers for more than two months, the word 'democracy' now conjures up images of cruise missiles, death and destruction. The association of democracy with aggression in the minds of most Serbs has also put the republic's liberals in a difficult position.

How,  
they wonder, can they continue to champion a concept which their  
countrymen  
identify with brute force?" Many Serbs may be blind to the atrocities  
committed in Kosovo. But they know this is war against them, and they take  
it  
more seriously than does Air Marshall Clinton. You would too, if the bombs  
were falling on your power grid.

Clinton's original sin in Kosovo--other than neglecting it for  
five  
years--was believing he could win a war on the cheap, that he could be a  
great humanitarian interventionist without bearing the cost of such  
action. A  
few planes fly in and out. A few missiles are launched. Won't require a  
commitment. It's like sex with Monica Lewinsky. But now, two months later,  
he's bombing illegally. The refugee experts are worried the Kosovars won't  
be  
able to head home before winter. The Serbian opposition to Milosevic has  
vanished. Civilian casualties and damage mount. The pressure for grounds  
troops is increasing. And Clinton is on vacation.

Gore to South Africans:

Drop Dead

Last week in Atlanta, Vice President Al Gore dropped one of his  
big-think speeches, this one praising the work of faith-based social  
service  
outfits and calling for Washington to fund religious-oriented charities

that

assist the needy. This was, in part, a response to the values-first pitch of

Bill Bradley, the former Democratic Senator from New Jersey who is discomfitting Gore in the contest for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The speech was also an occasion for Gore--a stick-figure politician to many

voters--to trumpet his spiritual side. "Without values of conscience, our political life degenerates," he said. The Vice President hailed the

"hunger

for goodness" among Americans, and declared, "A politics of community can be

strengthened when we are not afraid to make connections between spirituality

and politics." Let's hope Gore's speech was not broadcast in South Africa.

There, millions of poor people infected with the HIV virus would have had good reason to choke if they heard Gore express these noble sentiments, for

the spirit-filled Veep has helped pharmaceutical companies deny South Africans easier access to anti-AIDS drugs.

Last year, in South Africa--where one-quarter of pregnant mothers in

some areas are HIV-positive--President Nelson Mandela signed into a law a measure that would allow South African firms to manufacture low-cost generic

versions of the high-price AIDS-busting drugs produced and sold by major

Western drug companies. Under international trade rules, a country can engage in such "compulsory licensing" to combat a national emergency. With 22.5 million people living with AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, the emergency seems real enough. The law also would permit the country to buy drugs when they are found to be cheaper in other nations and import them to South Africa--a practice called parallel importing. (Drug manufacturers often sell their products at different prices in different nations, with the cost varying as much as by a factor of ten.)

Not surprisingly, the transnational drug companies were not keen on this legislation. They fear their profits will be undermined by a gray market of low-cost AIDS drugs, which can run \$10,000 a year. (Average annual income in South Africa: \$2600.) The drugmakers scurried to try to block the law in South African courts. In the United States, they turned to the Clinton-Gore Administration for help. The White House obliged, threatening South Africa with sanctions if it does not yield. The drug industry found a friend in Gore, who, as chairman of the United States/South Africa Binational Commission, has leaned on the South Africans to repeal the medicines law. The Administration has been quite forceful in this campaign. On April 30, the

US

Trade Representative placed South Africa on its "watch list" for unfair trade

practices, citing Pretoria for its attempt to abrogate patent rights. One of

the charges in the USTR's report was that South African "representatives have

led a faction of nations in the World Health Organization (WHO) in calling for a reduction in the level of protection provided for pharmaceuticals."

Since when, in the face of a global public health crisis, is speaking out at

international organizations for affordable drugs an unfair trade practice?

It's telling that the Administration has not sought to pursue its complaint

before the World Trade Organization, where a trade gripe of this sort ought

to be registered. Presumably, this is because the Administration's case is not strong enough to win a favorable WTO ruling. Instead, the Clinton-Gore gang has chosen to exert political pressure. It's possible that the drug manufacturers have a legal argument, and not just greed, on their side.

But

if that were the case, Gore should let the appropriate international tribunals resolve the matter rather than act as an enforcer for the industry.

On April 8, consumer advocate Ralph Nader and James Love, who runs the Nader-founded Consumer Project on Technology, wrote to Gore, accusing him

of having "engaged in an astonishing array of bullying tactics to prevent South Africa from implementing policies, legal under the rules of the WTO, that are designed to expand access to HIV/AIDS drugs." The two noted that several European nations maintain extensive trade in parallel imports of pharmaceutical drugs and that the United States itself has issued compulsory licenses on pharmaceutical products. "It is gross hypocrisy," they said, "to act as if South Africa is an outlaw in the world community because it is considering the use of compulsory licensing for essential medicines....Africa is confronted with a public health crisis of historical proportions. Of course South Africa should use compulsory licensing to expand access to essential medicines....Why should President Nelson Mandela, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Dr. Nkosazana Zuma [the Health Minister] permit their population to be defenseless simply because Glaxo Wellcome and Bristol-Myers Squibb want the power to set prices for US taxpayer funded and government developed HIV/AIDS drugs in Africa?" The United States, they added, "is literally asking South Africa to abandon the lives of millions of infected citizens in order to receive reductions in US barriers to trade or economic aid." They called for the Administration to consult with public health groups regarding this controversy.

Gore, as of last week, had not written back. He may have been too

busy hungering for goodness.

You'll Never Eat Dinner

In This Town Again

In the most recent issue of George--the one with the obligatory Star Wars tie-in cover-shot of Liam Neeson--Ann Coulter contributed a column as thin as her frame that daringly takes on that pressing issue of dating in Washington. The rightwinger who wrote a book arguing for Bill Clinton's impeachment reaches the stunning conclusion that men in Washington are not as adept at asking out women as their fellow XYers in New York. The piece was a meager swing at that hackneyed column topic: Washington-versus-New York. It's not worth engaging Coulter on her basic premise, but it's clear she knows nothing about the nation's capital when she observes--for no apparent reason--that Washington restaurants "close at 8 P.M. A few really, late-night places stay open until nine or 10, but even these sometimes close unexpectedly at eight....[E]veryone is home watching TV all the time." That's about as wrong an observation as a sentient person can make. Trust me, Washington does not shut down by the time Crossfire ends. Its restaurants remain open far into the night--some serving beyond Larry King Live and up until Nightline.

Has Coulter never visited the neighborhoods of Adams Morgan or Dupont

Circles

once the sun has slipped from the sky? Certainly, John Kennedy and other staffmembers of the magazine have dined in Washington. So why didn't they catch this flagrant error?

The closing time for DC restaurants is not an important matter (except for gourmands who reside in Washington), but Coulter's cavalier dissemination of this misinformation does provoke wonder about how she handles other facts in her book and columns. In any event, Coul