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001. email	From: James Kurtz, To: Multiple Recipients, Re: MILINET: 19 July NMIA ZGram [partial] (1 page)	07/19/1999	b(7)(C), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
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FOLDER TITLE:

[07/18/1999 - 07/19/1999]

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RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Mark A. Kitchens (CN=Mark A. Kitchens/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUL-1999 19:17:25.00

SUBJECT: CBS Face The Nation, July 18, 1999

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TEXT:
CBS FACE THE NATION
Aired on July 18, 1999

SCHIEFFER: Today on FACE THE NATION, another Kennedy tragedy, as it has so many times over the last four decades, the Kennedy's have gathered at Hyannisport in the midst of a family crisis, and the world watches in horror.

The plane took off from a small New Jersey airfield on Friday night. By midnight, the family knew something wrong. On Saturday morning, the rest of us knew. The plane carrying John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife and her sister was missing.

This morning, we'll cover the story from Hyannisport to offshore, where the search has been centered. We'll get the latest from Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee of the Coast Guard, then we'll talk about the effect of this tragedy with Robert Schrum, long-time political adviser and a close family friend to the Kennedy's. Historian Richard Reeves, author of a biography of President Kennedy, and Harrison Rainie, who wrote a book about the Kennedy children. Gloria Borger will be here as always, as we cover the search for John Kennedy, Jr., on FACE THE NATION.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

SCHIEFFER: And we begin this morning from Boston. Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee, the commander of the U.S. Coast Guard's first district that's in charge of the search and rescue mission is there. Admiral, just bring us up to date, what's the latest?

LARRABEE: Good morning, Bob, we searched throughout the night last night using NOAA, a special vessel with sight scan sonar and an Air Force H-60 with night vision capability. We didn't turn up anything last night of interest. This morning at about 05:30, we got one of our Falcons under way and using another Air Force H-60, currently searching about a 1,200 square mile area, in conjunction with that, again using a vessel Rude doing bottom searches. Looking for any signs of debris or evidence.

SCHIEFFER: So at this point, you've come up with nothing. Admiral, do you still hold out any hope? Let's be candid here in the beginning, that there could be survivors here?

LARRABEE: Bob, we're still doing search and rescue. We still hold out hope. We are searching today. We are obviously looking for debris, but we are also hopeful and we're going to continue to remain that way throughout the day.

SCHIEFFER: Could anyone survive in the waters at this temperature at this point? Would the survivors have to be on land at this point?

LARRABEE: Bob, the water temperature is 68 degrees. I think we have exceeded our normal life expectancy with those temperatures, but that's only a statistic. It's only something that we use as a guide, so that's only one factor.

BORGER: Admiral, how long does a search like this continue if you don't come up with an airplane, if you don't come up with any more debris? When do you decide to cut it off and say that's it?

LARRABEE: Each case is different. Depends on the circumstances. If you

remember yesterday, we started with a huge search area with a lot of unknowns. By the end of the day yesterday, we narrowed it down to about a 550-square mile area, today we're going to attempt to even narrow it down further. It really depends on what we find today.

BORGER: What is at the bottom. Is it rocky, is it sandy?

LARRABEE: We're talking about water depths of 20 to about 100 feet. We're talking about currents of about a knot to a knot and a half, which is not significant, but we are talking about a rocky bottom which makes the search efforts on the part of the Rude a little more difficult. I'm told by their experts that rocks are round and what we're looking for is man made objects that typically have sharp angles, and so that helps them a little bit.

SCHIEFFER: Admiral, you were talking about the Rude, as I understand it, this is a ship that has some sort of sonar capability. Tell us a little bit about that.

LARRABEE: Bob, it's a side scan sonar that they use, a very capable vessel. Rude does research for NOAA and was offered to us yesterday and we certainly accepted that. I've also asked the Navy supervisor of salvage to provide a salvage vessel called the Grasp. It's a vessel that has not only side scan capabilities, but also has dive capability and recovery capability, and the Navy will be providing that. They're under way today and will be in the area hopefully by early Tuesday morning.

SCHIEFFER: You've talked about a field of debris that is out there. How much wreckage have you found and what parts of the plane have you recovered so far?

LARRABEE: Bob, I haven't been on scene, but the reports that I've gotten are that we found some luggage which we identified from the plane early yesterday, and we found some parts-- wheels, parts of a door, those types of things. Beyond that, I can't be more descriptive.

SCHIEFFER: Did you find more today?

LARRABEE: To my knowledge, I haven't gotten the results from this morning's search, but as of earlier this morning, we had not found anything.

BORGER: Are you confident that at some point you are going to find the bulk of this plane?

LARRABEE: That's our objective.

SCHIEFFER: Admiral, at this point, just from what you know about it, would you think that the plane broke up when it hit the water, if indeed that's what happened, or would it go down whole and just sink to the bottom? What usually happens in a case like this?

LARRABEE: Bob, I'd only be speculating. I think the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board, both of whom are involved, and both of whom we are relying on for their expertise, are better able to answer those kinds of questions. Chairman Hall and I have talked several times today and he is going to be up later on this afternoon, and we'll get together. And really at this point, even though we are continuing to search, we want to support his efforts in terms of that investigation.

SCHIEFFER: Well Admiral, we want to thank you very much for taking time to come and brief us, and let the nation know what's going on out there. Good luck to you.

LARRABEE: Thank you very much.

SCHIEFFER: Standing by now in Hyannisport is Elizabeth Kaledin of CBS NEWS. Behind her, of course, the Kennedy compound that we've all come to know over the many years as we have watched the Kennedy family gather in moments of grief. Elizabeth, what's happening?

ELIZABETH KALIEDIN, CBS NEWS: Well, Bob, this morning there is a rather eerie silence coming out of the Kennedy compound, particularly coming from a family who has become so sadly accustomed to sharing its most private losses with a huge following of media, and, of course, a huge public following. In fact, the last time there was a huge loss for the Kennedy

family and they gathered here, at the death of Michael Kennedy, killed in a skiing accident in 1997, the entire family came out of compound behind me and walked up the road to address cameras and discuss their personal feelings about Michael and their personal feelings about the loss.

There has been no such discussion, there have been few appearances of family members other than comings and goings. And, in fact, the last time we heard from the Kennedy family spokesperson was yesterday, suggesting that this family is now trying to come to terms with this private loss before making any kind of public statements. Bob?

SCHIEFFER: Thank you very much, Elizabeth. Let's go now out to the coast, where John Roberts is standing by. John, you've been watching some of the search going on. Is there any kind of a search going on the ground up there?

JOHN ROBERTS, CBS NEWS: Good morning to you, Bob. In fact, we're in the center of the search area on the southwest corner of Martha's Vineyard, an area known as Aquinnah, or more traditionally, Gay Head. The NOAA patrol boat, the Rude was out here all last night -- that's the ship that the admiral was talking about just a couple of moments ago -- going back and forth, and there are other craft in the water now, a military C-130 patrolling search ovals over the area just a few minutes ago.

On the ground is a contingent from the Aquinnah police, as well as the local rangers and the state police. They're going up and down an area of beach that's about three miles up that way to my left, three miles down this way to my right, ironically down to a piece of property Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis once owned and a place where John, Jr. was spending a lot of weekends here at the Vineyard. They're looking up and down the beach for any debris that might come ashore, Bob.

SCHIEFFER: I guess this has just stunned people there as it has all over the nation. Tell us a little about what's the atmosphere like down there?

ROBERTS: Well, it really has, Bob. And this is an island that has gotten used to celebrity in the last 25 years that it's really been discovered by America. John Belushi is buried on Martha's Vineyard, James Taylor's brother owns an inn just up at the top of Gay Head here, James Taylor frequents the area, as well as the CEOs of a number of companies have their summer places here. A number of people from CBS including Mike Wallace and Walter Cronkite are here. The Vineyard has a real atmosphere of old New England charm, and certainly has been a place where there is holiday celebration. Certainly, Bob, in the last couple of days a real pall has been cast over that.

SCHIEFFER: OK, John, to you and Elizabeth both, of course we'll come back to you the minute there is any new information on this case. Thank you very much, John, and thank you, Elizabeth. Let's go now to Bob Orr, who has done such a yeoman (ph) service over the weekend. He's been on duty practically all of yesterday and again today, checking with the FAA and all of the authorities here in Washington. Bob, anything new on your beat?

BOB ORR, CBS NEWS: Bob, I have to tell you it's somewhat depressing for federal investigators. After more than a day now, they have virtually nothing to go on. And I have to say there is the prospect that it's going to be some time, if ever, before we have any kind of concrete answers. There are big problems here. There were no eyewitnesses to the crash, if in fact there was a crash.

To this point, obviously, we have not found any survivors who could tell us what was going on in the airplane. No declaration of emergency was ever heard. And this plane, unlike large commercial jets, does not carry black boxes -- flight data recorder and cockpit voice tape. So there just aren't any clues. And until the investigators can find a significant part of the airplane, they're really at ground zero, Bob.

SCHIEFFER: You know, we heard Admiral Larrabee say just a second ago

that they had exceeded the length of time when I asked him could anyone survive in water, and water temperatures although at 68 degrees right now as I understand him-- understood him to say, and I think he was trying to be very careful in how he said it, has exceeded the time you would expect one to be able to survive. What did he mean by that, Bob?

ORR: I think it means exactly that, Bob. I think privately the investigators have been very cautious from the start. I mean, remember yesterday, they were reluctant for hours even to use the word crash. Well now, officially the federal investigators are calling this an investigation into an airplane missing and presumed to have crashed. I think privately, the investigators in their heart of hearts don't expect to find survivors, and that's difficult news to deal with. But that's the reality. After all of these hours, we haven't even found a significant part of the airplane. Anything barring a miracle -- and it would take exactly that -- a miracle, I don't think this is good news.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Thank you very much, Bob. We're going to take a break. When we come back, we're going to talk to some people who knew the Kennedys and knew about the Kennedys for many, years. In a minute.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

SCHIEFFER: And we're back now with presidential historian, Richard Reeves, who joins us from New York. Bob Schrum, a Kennedy family friend and adviser and Harrison Rainie, the author of the book "Growing Up Kennedy." He is also an editor at U.S. News & World Report.

Bob Schrum, you have known the Kennedys and have been associated. There have been a lot of people on television over the past two days, frankly, who claimed to be very close friends or know a lot about the Kennedys. You truly do. You have worked with them and you have been friends with all the family. How are they doing right now?

SCHRUM: Well, look, this family has been through so much, so many times, they have way too much practice at this. The amazing thing is they never give up, they never give in, they go straight ahead. I have no doubt that despite the tragedy, the pain, going through this again, they'll continue to make a contribution, continue to try to make the country better.

You know, every -- virtually every one -- and we can talk about this, every one of the children in the third generation has been involved in some way in public service, politics, public life from Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend in Maryland, who is now talked about as a potential vice president, through Timothy Shriver, Sergeant Eunice Shriver's son who runs the Special Olympics. Patrick Kennedy who runs the Democratic Presidential Campaign Committee.

SCHIEFFER: Someone said yesterday that John Kennedy was famous when he was three years old.

SCHRUM: Yes, Al Gore said that.

SCHIEFFER: He was famous before he knew he was famous. Talk a little about that and how he's handled that.

SCHRUM: I think, you know, some people talk about it as a burden. I think he thought about it as a reality, and in some ways a privilege. He had his father's sense of humor and wit about things. They asked him once what he would do if he went into public life and he was elected president, he said the first thing he would do is call Uncle Teddy and gloat. I wrote a piece for a fast deadline for George magazine and he sent me a note, saying, Bob, look how much I'm paying you per word. You should tell Uncle Teddy he should raise your rate.

SCHIEFFER: Because You had written speeches for him.

BORGER: You have written about the Kennedy children and about John, Jr. and Caroline. These are two children who could have grown up with a real sense of entitlement, famous at the age three. Did Kennedy have that sense of entitlement?

SCHRUM: I think that's the extraordinary about the way that Jacqueline

Kennedy in particular raised these children. He could have felt entitlement or he could have felt really bitter. You know life had dealt him a horrible hand. The fact is, he was exceedingly normal, he was very playful and he was very purposeful.

If you looked at the narrative of his life, he was a young man of consequence, he was on the move. I wouldn't be surprised to see, I hope he survives, and I wouldn't be surprised to see him play an even bigger public role in life. He was quite comfortable with who he was. He wanted to be normal and he lived a full life.

SCHIEFFER: Richard Reeves, it struck me as I watched all of this yesterday and I heard people talk over and over the question came up, was John Kennedy going to run for something? You kept hearing the answer maybe somewhere down the road, but that did not seem all that important to him. But it struck me as I was listening to this, had he chosen to do so, he would have been a force just from the get-go. My guess is that if John Kennedy had decided he wanted to run for the Senate in New York, Hillary Clinton wouldn't have explored and wouldn't be on this listening tour now, would you agree with that?

REEVES: I'll listen to that. He might have... There would have been tremendous throughout his life to run for office. He might have given in to that pressure. But I'm not sure. He was not, to a certain extent, a total Kennedy. He was raised by his mother, who had problems with the family, and in way too, he was living out his father's life, because if John Kennedy had served two terms, he would have been 51 years old, and he talked about buying a newspaper or starting a magazine. So that it seemed that he picked up a post-political life, having not been in politics himself, but having it been the family business.

SCHIEFFER: So you say his mother kept him apart from the Kennedys, what do you mean by that?

REEVES: Well, I mean Caroline wasn't at the wedding, and he wasn't going to make the rehearsal dinner. He was brought up in New York outside the spotlight, and his attitudes about some things were obviously different from some of his cousins, and he criticized them publicly about some of that.

BORGER: But Bob Schrum, don't you think in a way though, that politics was in this guy's blood and that there was a sense that he was going to go on and do something political? He never -- when we journalists asked him about it, he never said no.

SCHRUM: Listen, John was -- knew he was an icon, he preferred to be a person. I disagree with Dick, I think he was fiercely and proudly a Kennedy. I saw his relationship with his uncle, Senator Edward Kennedy over and over again. I think that at some point, and we'll never know and as Lee says, it's hard to use the past tense, you don't want to give up -- but I think at some point he would have run for office, and I think he would have been extraordinarily good at it.

SCHIEFFER: He -- there was also at one point yesterday people talked about at one point he sort of talked about getting into theater or into acting perhaps, and his mother did not like that -- think that was a very good idea. I thought at the time had he chosen to do that, he would certainly have been box office, wouldn't he? I mean, because as my daughters point out, he really was a hunk.

SCHRUM: He certainly was. That was part of the playful element he always had with his mother. His mother was very protective of him and wanted to make sure that her children grew up under as normal circumstances as possible. But he did get into acting, even though she said no. He did give a speech that was wonderful at the 1988 presidential convention, even though his mother was a bit worried that he was stepping out a little too dramatically into public life. So, he stepped out on his own, and he was very much proudly a Kennedy.

BORGER: Lee, I want to ask you about his relationship with his sister.

Are hearts all go out to the Bessette family, we need to think about them. We also need to think about Caroline, who is left alone now in that family. How close were they?

RAINIE: Well, of course Caroline still has a husband and children that are...

BORGER: Sure.

RAINIE: You know, she's a great mom and a great wife. They were an exceedingly tight family. If you think about the circumstances that they were thrown into with the assassination of John Kennedy in 1963, the world was besieging them. Their mother was very concerned about their safety and just about the way their life would develop.

RAINIE: So they developed tremendously tight bonds to each other. In many ways they were each other's best friends. They were acquaintances that they sought out most dramatically and most often, and so there's a very, very tight relationship there.

SCHIEFFER: Was there a certain, and I hesitate to use this word at a time like this, but Richard, was there a certain recklessness here because I look at this, and it mystifies me as to why this man was flying this airplane with his family, with as few hours he had. Yes, he had a pilot's license, but he didn't have the instrument. He wasn't checked out on instruments, he was flying at night, he was flying over water. Was there a certain recklessness there, do you think Richard?

REEVES: I think a little more than a certain recklessness. I think that was at the heart of being a man in the Kennedy family. I mean, the Kennedy... the legacy of John Kennedy, his father is not waiting your turn, and it's youth, and it's risk, and if you can get it, you've earned it when some of us remember when Ben Bradley made fun of Teddy Kennedy running for the Senate when he was 30 years old and really wasn't qualified for it, Jack Kennedy didn't talk to him for weeks after that, but what he said to him was, he won the convention, he won the primary, he won the election. Those are the qualifications.

RAINIE: I think he's probably turned out to be qualified since he's turned out to be probably the best senator of the 20th century. Dick, let me go. I think it's preposterous to be talking about recklessness today and building on an old story line. If you read the story in either the "Washington Post" or the "New York Times" this morning, he went to the best professional training school there was. If he was warned that there was any problem with the weather, he chartered a plane or went commercial. He took off from New Jersey in perfectly clear visual conditions, and as one of the people who was flying that night said on television yesterday, he ran into the same problem totally unexpectedly as he was flying into Martha's Vineyard.

BORGER: Let me raise this question, who going to carry the torch now for the Kennedy family? A lot of people thought that JFK, Jr. might have been the one to do that. Ted Kennedy has to come out now and talk about this, but where's the future of the Kennedy family?

SCHRUM: I don't know, I don't think there's one torch. I think that all of these people are going to be involved. I talked earlier about lieutenant governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Joe Kennedy's very involved. Patrick Kennedy, the Shrivvers, I think you're going to see all of them involved. I don't know which of them will become the absolute leader of the family, but they're all going to try to make a contribution.

RAINIE: They were always taught to be in the arena and that's where they will always stay.

SCHIEFFER: All right, at that point we have to leave it. Thanks to all of you. I'll be back with a final word in just a minute.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

SCHIEFFER: Finally today, 36 years ago, as a young Texas newspaper reporter, I was sent out to cover my first big story: the assassination of President John Kennedy. I wondered then if I would ever again cover a

story like that, I hoped not, because I could never understand how that happened. Yet almost four decades later, there I was like many Americans yesterday, watching the Kennedy's gather in the midst of yet another family tragedy. It has become of a kind of national ritual, a catharsis. Styles change, the economy gets better or worse, but every so often almost as if on schedule, something happens to the Kennedy's and we gather around our television sets to watch them deal with yet another unspeakable grief. We ask how much can one family take? How much does one family deserve, and we are led to the question man has asked since the dawn of civilization, why are some struck down while others live to another day?

It humbles us to be reminded that we are no nearer an answer than the first humans who posed the question. Of all the creatures who inhabit the earth, only humans can even comprehend that life is finite, that it has an end. So we learn to celebrate life, but as we grow older, we come to realize we can never understand it's vagueries, and all we can ever know of death is that it comes to king and commoner alike.

Well that's our broadcast. CBS will have complete coverage of the continuing search for John F. Kennedy tonight on the CBS EVENING NEWS. We'll break in with late developments as they occur.

END

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CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUL-1999 19:18:25.00

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TEXT:
ABC THIS WEEK
Aired on JULY 18, 1999

SPEAKERS: SAM DONALDSON, HOST, ABC THIS WEEK
COKIE ROBERTS, HOST, ABC THIS WEEK
BILL KRISTOL, AMERICAN SPECTATOR
GEORGE WILL, WASHINGTON POST
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, ABC NEWS
REAR ADMIRAL RICHARD LARRABEE, U.S. COAST GUARD
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD J. MARKEY, (D-MA)
MICHAEL BESCHLOSS, PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN
JOHN NANCE, ABC NEWS AVIATION CONSULTANT
BARBARA WALTERS, ABC NEWS, 20/20

DONALDSON: Welcome to our program. The loss of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife and sister-in-law is our program today. We'll have the latest on the search, we'll have a report from Charlie Gibson outside the family compound at Hyannisport. We'll talk to people who knew Kennedy and his wife well. Cokie, you and I and our colleagues at the roundtable will recall how we remember this remarkable young man.

ROBERTS: It's true, Sam. It was another day when the nation just stood still waiting to hear the news, the fate of another member of the Kennedy family. And someone who was watching that and following the search all the time, Lisa Stark, from ABC news. Lisa, bring us up to date.

LISA STARK, ABC NEWS: Good morning. Well, they did search all night on the water, but they did not find any new debris from the plane. They're out again starting again in force this morning. There were all-terrain vehicles out on the beach this morning looking for any pieces of debris that may have washed ashore. There were some pieces that washed ashore yesterday. They may find some more yet today.

All throughout the night, they had hoped to have aircraft up throughout the night, but the haze just moved in. They had to pull back the aircraft, including a helicopter that had infrared technology. There were three Coast Guard cutters out all night as well as the NOAA ship, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, the Rude. It has side-scanning sonar, it can look and see if there's debris on the bottom. That was out all night working as well. But as we said, no new pieces of the plane found overnight. Yesterday, it was reported that they did find some luggage from the plane. Luggage belonging to JFK Jr.'s sister-in-law. And then the bag tag bearing her name. Also, they found a prescription bottle belonging to Carolyn Bessette Kennedy. And we can now also report that the other pieces that they found yesterday including a wheel, a head rest, some carpet, we believe all of that has now been positively identified as part of the aircraft.

ROBERTS: OK, thank you, Lisa. Thank you for being with us, we'll be watching you throughout the day. And now joining us is Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee of the United States Coast Guard. He is with us from Boston. Thank you very much for being with us.

LARRABEE: Good morning.

ROBERTS: Can you give us a sense of where we are now and where the search is going today?

LARRABEE: You just heard a good summary of what we did last night. We felt it was important that we continue the search throughout the night. We were able to use NOAA and Air Force assets to do that. This morning we've got one Coast Guard fixed-wing aircraft searching. Started at first light. We are also using an Air Force H-60 with a C-130 flying cover and several Coast Guard cutters on scene this morning as well as the Rude. We are back this morning. We are continuing to search. We are continuing to search for survivors and also for debris.

DONALDSON: Well, Admiral, the finding of the debris that has been found suggests that you can narrow the search to a smaller area. The area you were looking at at the outset. What is the area that you're searching and if it is a smaller area, can you now do it much faster?

LARRABEE: Sam, as you know yesterday, without a flight plan, we were searching an area from New Jersey to Martha's Vineyard. We narrowed it down to about 550 square miles just southwest of Martha's Vineyard yesterday centered around the best location we had, which was about 17 miles southwest of the island. With the debris we found yesterday, we feel confident that that's the right area. The area that we're searching this morning is about 1,200 square miles it's still pretty much centered around the southwestern portion of the island with some additional searches just west of the island.

DONALDSON: I know you can't pin it down exactly, but with that size area and the assets that you've got out there, can you criss-cross it well enough to establish that either something's there or nothing's there in a short period of time?

LARRABEE: That's what we're going to be doing today.

ROBERTS: And at this point, what are you looking for? is it --do you expect to find small pieces? From what you've seen, is this plane likely to be smashed up?

LARRABEE: I can't really speculate as to what the condition of the aircraft was when it went in. We have found some parts that suggest that the plane did sustain some damage. We found doors and some insulation, as well as the baggage that was mentioned earlier. But at this point we're still looking for the possibility of survivors, as well as any further information that would lead us to believe -- or give us better information as to what might have happened.

DONALDSON: Tell us about the doors.

LARRABEE: Sam, I can only tell you that I know that we found them. Not having been on scene or seen them, I really couldn't speculate on their condition.

ROBERTS: And the ship that has the sonar, is it able -- how able is it to pick up exactly where this would be? Will this facilitate the search speed?

LARRABEE: We are really running two searches here, one above the surface of the water, and the other below. The RUDY (ph) is a very, very capable vessel with a side-scanning capability they have. The complication they have is that it's a very rocky bottom, and so that complicates the process of trying to identify items that they might pick up.

DONALDSON: Are you confident, however, that if the plane is down there, as it appears that it is, that you will be able to find it?

LARRABEE: Yes, sir.

ROBERTS: OK. Thank you very much for being with us. Good luck today, Admiral.

LARRABEE: Thank you very much.

ROBERTS: When we return, we'll go to Hyannisport for the latest from the Kennedy compound with Charles Gibson, and talk with ABC News's Barbara Walters.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

DONALDSON: For the last two days, many members of the extended Kennedy family have been at the Kennedy compound in Hyannisport, Massachusetts. They were going to attend the wedding of Rory Kennedy. She, of course, is Robert Kennedy's daughter. That wedding has been postponed. Joining us now from outside the compound is Charles Gibson. Charlie, good morning. Tell us what you can about what's happening inside.

CHARLES GIBSON, ABC NEWS: Well, Sam, things broke up here about 10:30 last night. People who had come for the wedding stayed around to try to lend moral support to the family. It was a rather surreal atmosphere, we are told, inside. That although this terrible tragedy had likely happened, the mood was relatively light. People were talking about anything but.

It was almost as if there was a sense of denial inside, or at least a desire to talk about other things. You know, there was all this food. The wedding was planned. The reception was going to be here. And so for a while yesterday after the wedding was canceled, the plans were to have all 275 wedding guests for dinner here.

Now, Senator Ted Kennedy mostly stayed sequestered yesterday in the home that used to be Ambassador Joe Kennedy's home, then was Rose Kennedy's house. It is now the senator's home. And he stayed mostly inside that home. We are told he canceled the dinner for everyone in the late afternoon. And so there really were sort of two dinners. The Kennedy family and friends stayed here. There were about 100 here for dinner last night. And then many of the friends of the groom, Mark Bailey, who was to be the groom, they ate up at the Sheraton. As I said, those guests stayed around until 10:30, lending what support they could.

Now, is there hope? Well, it's hard to see how there would be any, but the conversation, apparently, when it did get around to what happened, people were saying, well, there's no stronger swimmer than John. If anybody could pull it out, he could.

When friends would call in and say, is there hope? The family would say, sure there's hope. But by the end of the evening when friends began to leave, we're told Ethel Kennedy was a bit teary. Rory Kennedy, who was to be the bride, apparently was a brick throughout the day and she really kept everyone's spirits up. She is apparently a very special young woman. She just kept people as up as you could be yesterday.

ROBERTS: That's remarkable, isn't it? To think what a very hard day it must have been for her in so many ways. But Charlie, I see the flag is still flying at full staff there behind you. Is there still the sense that -- that they really think he could be found?

GIBSON: Well, you know, it's -- there's one cognitive level that you know and there's another cognitive level that you hope. And obviously nobody's going to lower the flags. Couple of other -- until they know for sure.

Couple of other issues. Everyone has wondered around the whereabouts of Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s sister. She was, as you know, out west in Idaho on a rafting trip and had not planned to attend this wedding. She has apparently come back East, but has not come here to the compound. We're told that she has gone to a home that she owns with her husband in Bridge Hampton, which is out on Long Island, the resort part of Long Island, the eastern part there. She is close by but has actually not come here.

ROBERTS: And the Bessette family is also not there, right?

GIBSON: The Bessette family is not here, although staying in very close touch we're told. And there is going to be a Mass set here this morning. That is, I think, rather natural given the circumstances.

DONALDSON: Charlie, thanks very much. We appreciate your report. We'll be checking in with you later in the day, of course. Charles Gibson reporting from outside the Kennedy compound in Hyannisport, Massachusetts.

John Kennedy, Jr. was a remarkable young man. He accomplished a great thing -- many things. One of them was to start a new magazine. George. Now

when he started that in 1995, Barbara Walters interviewed him, a young publisher, the son of the president. Here's a portion of that interview.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

WALTERS: Did you discuss this magazine with your mother?

KENNEDY: Yes.

WALTERS: What did she say?

KENNEDY: I think we showed her a mock cover and she was a little skeptical. But I think that she had always encouraged both Caroline and I to make our own way, to not be -- subordinate our own lives to the expectations of what we should do with our lives. And so in that respect I think she got a kick out of it.

WALTERS: Do you mind all the stuff about you?

KENNEDY: What stuff?

WALTERS: The stuff about being sexy and attractive and every time you see another woman, there's all of this, is she the one? Is this the one?

KENNEDY: Listen. People can say a lot worse things about you, right? Than you are attractive and look good in a bathing suit.

WALTERS: I want to ask you some of the questions that you ask politicians in your magazine. OK, these are your magazine's questions, not mine, so they're deeply serious. You ready? What is your favorite vegetable?

KENNEDY: Spinach.

WALTERS: Oh, you are going to be awfully popular with mothers all over America. If you were president, what would you do?

KENNEDY: Well...

WALTERS: That will teach you to stop putting these questions in your magazine.

KENNEDY: Well, I think I would have to call my Uncle Teddy and gloat for a moment, and then I think I would probably offer a big tax cut before the next election and hopefully in between try to do some good.

WALTERS: Do you have any desire for politics or is that something in your own head you've ruled out?

KENNEDY: No, I don't rule out anything. Public service should be something that you bring wholly yourself to. And I have sort of a life to live before I want to think about that.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

DONALDSON: Spinach and a tax cut. What a combination. Barbara Walters joins us. Good morning, Barbara.

WALTERS: Good morning.

DONALDSON: I was struck in that portion of the interview we saw by the fact that here is a young man, the prince in this country. He didn't have to do anything and yet he started that magazine.

WALTERS: Well, I think he did have to do something. Let me just give you a time frame. His mother died in 1994. The magazine was started in 1995. And in 1996 -- you heard me saying how do you feel about all of the women and so forth, this was before his marriage. In 1996 he married Carolyn Bessette, who had never met Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

I have been talking to some magazine people, Sam and Cokie, and although George was doing OK, it really wasn't that strong a magazine at this point. One doesn't know if it really would have succeeded because magazines cost an awful lot of money. So, in many ways JFK, Jr. was on the threshold of a new chapter in his life. If the magazine did not make it, public service? Running for office? He didn't seem inclined that way. He had become much more articulate. He was a pretty good reporter. He might have gone into television. There were rumors of that. Three years into the marriage, perhaps it was time to start thinking about having a baby. There had been rumors that Carolyn Bessette Kennedy was pregnant. To our knowledge she was not. So, in a lot of ways this was a crossroad pushing 40. There would have been new decisions to have been made at this time in his life.

ROBERTS: That's an interesting point. You knew him a little bit, Barbara. What was your sense of that? Do you think he would have been interested in a public life?

WALTERS: Well, you know, it's easy and so hard to speculate. Here we have Hillary Clinton running. If JFK, Jr. had shown any sign of wanting to run for the Senate or Congress, you can imagine, Cokie, the kind of response that they would have been from Democratic fund raisers. He didn't seem inclined in that area.

More and more he had been writing articles, and he was a pretty good writer. He was articulate, he had begun to do interviews. Hadn't done any, really, until the magazine, and then was on program after program. It was at ease in front of the cameras. I could imagine that that would have been the next career because, as

I said, the magazine with it all was shaky and we've talked about how successful it was and how remarkable he was or is. But in a sense, he still had not found the life's career, I don't think.

DONALDSON: Tell us about Caroline. Most of us knew John John, those of us at a certain age. But Caroline was a mystery.

WALTERS: Well, she looked somewhat mysterious. She seemed austere, she was statuesque. This tall, slim blonde with her hair pulled back rather severely. She wasn't really beautiful, but she had great elegance and class. But in person, she was not the way she seemed to be. She was not this cool lady. She was spontaneous. She kind of had to reign that in when she got married. If she trusted you, she would tell you almost anything, and she was trusting. She was funny. She was protective of him.

I had said this last night and will say it again, because she had said this to me that there had been so much pressure on her to answer the press. They were constantly at her. They couldn't leave the house, walk the dog without papparozzi. Although that was less in recent years. People had become more used to them. And she had learned never to answer back, and we all know how tough that is. She didn't even say no comment. She just smiled and walked on.

And she said to me, I'm not going to complain about him because he's got so much -- he's had so much responsibility that I am not going to add to that. There were three daughters. The sister who was also presumed lost, was one of twins older than Carolyn, an investment banker. She was raised by her mother and her stepfather, who is a doctor. Her own father, her biological father, did not attend her wedding to JFK, Jr. One thinks that there might have been some kind of estrangement. She was not a glamour girl, she was not an actress. She was not a Daryl Hannah, who JFK had been with for many years having a relationship. She worked for Calvin Klein. She helped people choose the clothes that they would buy. She did some public relations work. She was sensitive and fun.

DONALDSON: Well, thanks very much, Barbara. We'll see you tonight on a special addition of 20/20 to continue a discussion of John F. Kennedy, Jr. and Carolyn and the tragedy that appears to have occurred.

When we return, we'll talk to a long-time Kennedy political friend, Congressman Ed Markey and historian Michael Beschloss.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

ROBERTS: Joining us now is presidential historian Michael Beschloss and Representative Edward Markey of Massachusetts. Thank you both very much for being here this morning.

BESCHLOSS: Delighted.

ROBERTS: Michael, yesterday I think the whole country stopped and a lot of people were crying. What is that? What is it that we are all feeling about this young man who none of us really know?

BESCHLOSS: Well, I think for a lot of us who can remember November of 1963, it took us back to that day John Kennedy's funeral, which was also John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s third birthday, of all things. That image we all remember of him saluting his father's coffin.

If this ends in tragedy, that's the moment in his life that we're all going to remember. And I think the other thing is that you have to think of this as someone who's had, in certain ways, very bruising experiences that most of us don't have in life. Dealt with them rather gracefully and to it have all end this way, I think that's why people were crying a lot yesterday.

ROBERTS: Congressman Markey, you're good friends with the family. What are -- what are people saying there now?

MARKEY: Well, you know, of course people are very, very sad. You know, the message, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country" was the defining political principle of a generation. And it inspired me and millions of other people to take a much greater interest in public service. And as recent as this week, Senator Kennedy, on the floor of the Senate, battling for access to health care for those in America who don't have it is just a continuation of that principle. And I think for millions of people across our country and across the world, John F. Kennedy, Jr. represents a continuation into the next generation of that message and of those principles.

DONALDSON: Exactly. Let me ask you to pick up on that. I think, as Barbara Walters has already told us, John F. Kennedy, Jr., so far, has shown no desire to go into politics. But there was always that feeling, always that hope in a sense, wasn't there, that he would?

BESCHLOSS: I think that for -- again, for millions of people, there was an expectation at some point that he would go into public service. But that no one was going to press him. It was going to be on his own timetable. But that he held out that promise as do his cousins, an extension of that flame, that torch that had fallen when his father was killed and I think that each and every one of us feels this loss today of his unfulfilled potential.

ROBERTS: What would have happened if he had run, Michael? Do you think that the Kennedy name would have still be such a magical name?

BESCHLOSS: Well, that's the thing, Cokie. You know, now we will always think of him presumably at the age of 38 with this bright future ahead of him. Jackie Kennedy once said about her husband, that he died never knowing disillusionment and so we'll always have that idea that he might have run for president and won. He never had to take a position on an issue. Never had to run for office in New York State, which does an awful lot to humble someone and bring him or her down, as we're finding out even at this moment.

So, in a way, for his life to end at this moment, you think of it all in terms of possibility and the great irony is that that is exactly the way we think of President Kennedy, dying at 46. Had he lived, would our nation have been different?

DONALDSON: One of the things that struck me -- I wonder what you feel about it -- is that the sons and daughters of famous people often go astray, but he didn't go astray. Whatever his youth was his youth was. Here was a young man who was making a mark on his own, wasn't he?

BESCHLOSS: He was. And he was nice and graceful and pretty well adjusted. And you look at children of people like Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt and other great world leaders and you see alcoholism and drug addiction and they do oftentimes these terrible things. It was a major accomplishment for him to live a life that was relatively modest.

DONALDSON: Ed Markey, you knew him. How was he able to go along the street, go places, go in restaurants with his very famous mantle over him? With this visage everybody just knew and still lead any sort of normal life?

MARKEY: Well, I think obviously he made a commitment to that. And I think that that is ultimately how he's going to be remembered. I think he decided to live that kind of a life, to create a career. When "George" Magazine hit each Congressional office every single month, I will tell

you that it was read. It was read especially by the younger congressional staffers. He was definitely having an impact upon the next generation of political leaders in the country, the way in which he structured his magazine without question, was having an influence.

ROBERTS: And in Massachusetts, Congressman Markey, the Kennedy name is still especially strong. What do you think is happening now in Massachusetts? What is the reaction there?

MARKEY: Well, for an Irish Catholic boy like me in 1960, John F. Kennedy represented for the first time, the inclusion of Irish and Catholics into the mainstream of American politics. And then through the Kennedy family, Italians and then just about every other ethnic group began to feel more included. And I think that John F. Kennedy, Jr. represented the next stage of the development of our country and the democratization of access to opportunity in our society. But defined in an information age. And I think that for many, many people in our state, but I think across the whole world, we know that he had a tremendous potential to really affect this world for the good.

DONALDSON: Michael Beschloss -- sorry, Cokie.

ROBERTS: That was an interesting point that Congressman Markey was making about the Irish Catholic feeling included. It's interesting, because we see this glamorous, young man and don't really think of him as an ethnic. But is that part of the legacy?

BESCHLOSS: That's a lot of what John Kennedy did, and he carried that out. But I think a lot of what we're going to see, Cokie, is sort of a decide. I was seven years old when John Kennedy died, I was watching on television when he saluted his father's coffin. So when this happened, it brought it all back to me and it was emotional. It was an emotional experience.

My guess is that for people who are younger and don't remember that, he is more sort of a 1990's celebrity. A little bit down sized, so I think what we're going to see probably in the next few days is a little bit of a division between those two generations.

DONALDSON: Talk for a moment, both of you, Michael beginning with you. It's a cliché to say this is a star-crossed family. The tragedies that they have had going way back. But they've had more than their share, haven't they?

BESCHLOSS: They sure have. If you had to do the odds, the number of tragedies happening to one family over 70 years. And also a family that's been at the center of American politics and American history for 70 years. One-third of the life of the republic, very few other families can say that.

DONALDSON: Ed Markey, I recall that when John F. Kennedy, the president, was killed, Pat Moynihan, who was then working in his administration, said you can't be Irish without knowing the world is going to break your heart some day. It has broken the Kennedys' hearts many times and the rest of us too.

MARKEY: President Kennedy used to say that to those who much is given, much is expected. And the Kennedy's were given much but they gave much as well, especially to those who were most in need. But they also paid a terrible price and it has been almost as a matter of fate extracted from them. But understanding it, explaining it, I think, is almost impossible.

DONALDSON: Well, they paid a terrible price as a family. But this is not just a family in obscurity. Every time one of these tragedies occurred, they knew the whole world was watching and also looking at it.

MARKEY: Well, they've become our family. I don't think that --when you're on the floor of Congress and you ask members of Congress why they got into politics, invariably on the Democratic side, they'll say John F. Kennedy or Robert F. Kennedy. And this is surprising number of Republicans that give the same number of answer. This family has had a powerful impact, not only upon our country, but upon just about every other country

in the world. They are the most important political family in the world for the last 50 years. And I think we all really feel this sense of loss this morning.

ROBERTS: That's a very good point. When you go abroad, you see pictures of John Kennedy or Robert Kennedy -- mainly John Kennedy -- in some of the smallest places. And that is something you just don't see about anybody else. Can you explain that?

BESCHLOSS: Well, you know, that's true. It's not because they like his views on the minimum wage or even what he did in the Cuban missile crisis. You have to look at it on the level of myth. John Kennedy, even today, connects to people in their hearts. And I think to an extent it's going to be true of the son.

Presumably, if there's a tragedy in the final act of his life at the age of 38. He is going to be forever young in our memories and we're all going to project all sorts of things on that blank screen that in some cases were not there, but oftentimes were.

ROBERTS: Congressman Markey, we're about out of time here, but do you want to add to that?

MARKEY: Well, I would just like to say that I think that all of us in the country just hope that the Bessette family and the Kennedy family can find some consolation in these next several days, because their family members are greatly loved by everyone in our country.

DONALDSON: Thank you very much, Congressman Ed Markey, Michael Beschloss. We'll be back with our roundtable with Bill Kristol and George Stephanopoulos right after this.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

DONALDSON: Joining us now, ABC News analyst Bill Kristol and George Stephanopoulos. Welcome.

KRISTOL: Good morning.

DONALDSON: How do we remember John F. Kennedy, Jr.? I mean, Michael Beschloss brought up generation is one way, from the standpoint of the differing memories. But there are other factors too, Bill. How about you?

KRISTOL: I think if you're my age and you remember president Kennedy's assassination, the main memory is John Kennedy, Jr. on his 3rd birthday, in that little blue suit, saluting his father's casket. And I say this even though I knew John Kennedy a little bit. He came to see me at the magazine. When we were starting the Weekly Standard, he was starting George magazine. We compared notes on the difficulty of starting a magazine.

DONALDSON: You weren't directly competitors with your material, were you?

KRISTOL: No.

ROBERTS: But you started up at the same time?

KRISTOL: We started at the same time and we exchanged comments on the difficulty of making money in the world of political magazines.

ROBERTS: And you got all the same coverage he did, when you started the magazine?

KRISTOL: I got more than John, actually. No, but -- he was a very nice man...

DONALDSON: Did you find him personable?

KRISTOL: Yes. Very nice and really -- given the incredibly odd circumstances of his -- under which he grew up, he seemed amazingly normal and a tribute to his mother, I think, that he turned out as such a fine -- really fine person and normal person and not crazy the way most kids who grow up as celebrities are.

But I do think for people my age and up, maybe a couple years younger, the image now is still that image of him as a 3-year-old, ironically, even though I knew him as an adult, saluting his father's casket.

DONALDSON: George, you and John Kennedy, Jr. were born in the same year.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yes, we are almost exactly the same age. I have a slightly different take. To me, he was the coolest guy in the class. The image I have of him starting the magazine, being in New York, running around the streets of New York on his bicycle, on roller blades, hat on his head. Just being obviously famous, someone everybody knew, someone everybody followed, but he wore it so well. I mean, he had almost this ironic sense of himself where he knew everyone was looking at him. He knew that you knew everyone was looking at him.

ROBERTS: Well, people were screaming.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And screaming on the street. But he was determined to be kind and very decent. A little thing that would show it. When he came up to my office a couple times and we were talking and everybody was hushed. He makes a real point of introducing himself. I'm John Kennedy, even though everyone knows who he is.

ROBERTS: Right.

DONALDSON: Well, Cokie, this great moment for me, when John Kennedy, Jr. interviewed you for George magazine.

ROBERTS: Well, it was a great moment for me as well, as you can well imagine. The fact is that I agree with Bill, though, that even though I had this experience with him, that -- you say John Kennedy and you think of the little boy saluting. I mean, it's seared in our brains. But I did have this wonderful day with him where he interviewed me. And it was -- he sent me a picture afterwards, which is a pretty scary looking picture, where he and I are -- you see it. We both look like we're just terrified of each other. But he also sent it with this note saying, ``Cokie, one of the outtakes. Don't put it on the wall. Don't show it to anyone. Put it directly in the shredder. -- JK.'' Which does show you that sense of humor about himself.

DONALDSON: I read that interview, Cokie, and I loved the line where he said, now when our two fathers came to the Congress...

ROBERTS: But you know that was very interesting, Sam, and this is something where I really was impressed with him. What he was saying about our fathers was, he had clearly done a great deal of thinking about the question of public service versus journalism. And what he was asking was, do you think if your father and my father were starting out today, would they choose politics or would they feel that they were more influential in this line of work, more able to make a difference in this line of work? And it was something he had really been chewing over and was very thoughtful about.

STEPHANOPOULOS: He was very thoughtful about it. It almost seemed like he was freed once he made the decision. He had grown up with this expectation all the time. One of obligation, but also this sense of, when is he going to run? Is he going to run? Is he going to follow-up? And once he made the decision to do the magazine and really examine politics instead of participating, it seemed like he was very happy and excited about it.

ROBERTS: I will say that in that same conversation, he did talk about the paparazzi around and talked about it in terms of his wife. And he said, you know, it really is overwhelming for her. And he was so sympathetic. He said, you know, I just didn't have a good sense of it because I have had it all my life. Ever since I was born I have had -- these people have been around.

DONALDSON: Ever since he was born.

ROBERTS: They've been around.

DONALDSON: Yes, well, when -- shortly after his father came to the White House, I started working as a reporter here in Washington. So, of course, I remember him as John-John under the desk. I remember Veteran's Day in 1963 covering his father at Arlington Cemetery to give the speech. His father brought John-John and the two of them walking along hand in hand standing right there looking at this fine young man.

So, for someone of my age, it's almost as if we're proud grandfathers.

ROBERTS: Right.

DONALDSON: In other words, as he was growing up, and you say he was the coolest guy in class. I didn't know anything about that, but I knew that he was out there and he was our John-John.

ROBERTS: Like an uncle or an aunt. I think the whole country felt that way about him. There is that sense that we've lost one of our own children, in a way.

DONALDSON: Do you know what I was thinking yesterday? On a Saturday, Princess Diana died. And for lot of the world, she represented -- we don't have a royalty and I think we're all glad we don't have a royalty.

KRISTOL: Pretty close.

DONALDSON: In a formal sense. That's what I was going to say. He was our prince. John F. Kennedy, Jr. was the prince here. And if he indeed is lost, it is going to be as if we have lost the same way that people saw Diana's loss.

ROBERTS: I have to say, I feel so awful for the Bessette family. They lost two children yesterday. And it is not -- they are being lost in a way in all of this. Of course that's because the Kennedys are the Kennedys. But it is very hard to be in the position that they are in.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Also Caroline Kennedy. Now she's lost her entire immediate family. She has her husband and kids...

ROBERTS: Mother and father...

STEPHANOPOULOS: ... but mother, father and brother.

DONALDSON: Well let's talk about -- you've touched on it some. And that is what John F. Kennedy, Jr. made of himself, what he represented. I mean, I may be a broken record but I just know too many kids who had famous parents who, for one reason or another, just didn't do much with their lives. And I don't think you can say that about him.

KRISTOL: Well, he started a magazine.

(LAUGHTER)

A terrificly good thing to do. No, look, he made something of himself. I come back to his basic decency, which I was struck by when he came to our office. People were agog to meet him, especially the young women I would say. I remember I came in early that day, I think we had a pretty early meeting and I noticed everyone was all dressed up. And I didn't really -- you know, at magazines people usually are kind of sloppy.

(LAUGHTER)

And I didn't really understand what was going on. And it was of course everyone knew that John Kennedy was coming by and he was at the time still one of the world's most eligible bachelor. No offense, George. And people really wanted to be at their best to meet him. But he was very gracious. He walked around and said hello to everyone and you come back the the basic decency.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And given what he's been through, just being a decent person is an unbelievable accomplishment, given all the pressures.

And, you know, you had this feeling that he was breaking the Kennedy mold. One of the reasons given what happened over the weekend is so sad, is that you always thought he was going to beat it. He was going to beat this curse that had followed the Kennedys around; that he was going to win.

DONALDSON: Stephen Brill, the magazine publisher, another publisher, Brill's Content, has a quote in the paper this morning which he said he was with John Kennedy, Jr., they had lunch and went out on the sidewalk and two young women just screamed.

(LAUGHTER)

And Brill said he turned to Kennedy and said, does that happen all the time? Kennedy said, well, usually it's not as loud.

(LAUGHTER)

ROBERTS: Well, I tell you what, when he called me here to make the

appointment for the interview...

DONALDSON: Did you scream?

ROBERTS: No, but all the young women in the office would come in and play the message that was on my voice mail. And they would put it on speaker phone and come in and play it over and over again just to hear the message.

DONALDSON: I had an assistant at the time they got married, I think. I don't think she'd ever met him, but I think he broke her heart because...

ROBERTS: But, you know, George, you talked about beating it. And of course that is in the end, the other thing we're all feeling. I mean, what else can happen to this family? It's just unbelievable.

DONALDSON: Who knows? This is a terrible story to tell, but I happen to know it's true. When Bobby Kennedy was shot and killed and Rose Kennedy was there. And of course, the father was still alive. He was an invalid because of a stroke. Someone said that they told the father, nobody wants to tell him. How would you feel about having to go and say another one of your sons has been assassinated? I mean, it's just impossible.

ROBERTS: Just think of Ethel Kennedy and Ted Kennedy there at Hyannisport doing this again.

STEPHANOPOULOS: How can they? There was a line in the Washington Post about how it would take a Shakespeare to tell this story. And it's true, because the heartache has been so outsized and the accomplishment has been outsized as well. They have been larger than life for now probably three generations in American life. And no one, I think, can fathom that.

ROBERTS: For so long I always felt about them that the Kennedys have been so blessed and so blighted. But I think the blights are beginning to outweigh the blessings.

KRISTOL: Yes, Caroline Kennedy is the one -- I mean, it's lucky. I hate to say anything's lucky. But they didn't have children and his parents were -- have obviously passed on. So there's no -- the horrible thing about an accident is like this is if you leave little children or if you predecease your parents, I always think, is the hardest thing obviously for anyone. But she is left alone. And I guess, at her mother's funeral, I remember, she read psalm 121 -- a very beautiful psalm. And we'll see another funeral, I suppose, later this week in which she will again have to do something like that.

DONALDSON: Someone once wrote that if you don't think life is worth living, look and see how sad old men are when a young man dies. Particularly this young man, I suppose, because, as I say, he was the prince for all of us.

Well, thanks, to all of you. And Cokie and I will be back with the latest news from ABC News Aviation Consultant John Nance in just a moment.
(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

ROBERTS: Well, to recap where we are now, the search continued overnight for the small plane carrying John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and her sister Lauren Bessette. And the search will continue today in hopes of finding survivors. More likely finding bodies. And the question now is, what happened and how could this have happened? What is the likelihood of the scenario of what happened to this plane and to help us try to figure that out is our own ABC aviation consultant John Nance, who is joining us from Tacoma, Washington. Thanks for being with us, John.

NANCE: You bet, Cokie. Good morning.

ROBERTS: What's your guess here? What do you think we're looking at here?

NANCE: Well, just to kind of backtrack, we know the airplane hit the water now. We didn't know that for sure yesterday, and we do now. We know that it most likely hit the water at a fairly substantial speed because we have pieces of the airplane and things from inside the airplane that have been floating around. That indicates a catastrophic arrival at the waters

surface.

How can that happen? Of course there's a possibility always of structural failure. Possibility of engine failure, but more than likely that's not the case. This was a fairly new airplane. More than likely what we have here is simply a visual illusion, a loss of control based on the inability of John Kennedy to be able to discern the horizon with increasing haze. He wasn't flying in an illegal situation, but he was pressing it, so to speak.

In other words, he kind of stacked the deck against him, and part of this has to do with confidence. The beating heart of a pilot is confidence, but that line between confidence and overconfidence is sometimes very difficult to find. That's true if you have 15,000 hours or only five hours. But it's especially dangerous when you're a young pilot with not much time.

DONALDSON: Well, that's a point John. I remember many years ago when I was in my 20s I flew light planes. I recall that about 70 to 80 hours into it, I thought I knew everything. I thought I was better than you. Landed on dirt roads. I did things that should have ended it there. At that point you do think that you're a master of the universe and you're not.

NANCE: You do, Sam. You get to the point of having that confidence that you know the airplane now, you're comfortable. Comfortable really is one of the operative words. And it happens between 200 and 400 hours as a private pilot. It also happens with any experienced pilot when you get to a certain degree of comfort with a particular airplane. That's the time to be cautious.

ROBERTS: But we're not talking here about hot-shooting or anything. You're just saying that...

NANCE: No, no.

ROBERTS: So what could have happened? He's approaching the land and then just loses his bearings?

NANCE: Well, you see, when you're flying visually, Cokie, you're basically operating the aircraft -- in other words, you're keeping it level. You're keeping it from banking too far to the left or too far to the right, or nose up or nose down by reference to that horizon out there. But if the horizon at night is indistinct, in other words, you don't have a carpet of lights from a lot of cities because you're flying towards the east, towards the ocean. You've only got a couple islands. And now the lights even on the islands become indistinct as far as where the horizon and the water meet. Now you've got a problem.

You may be on auto pilot, and he did have an auto pilot, but when he started making those turns -- for instance, he turned to the south at one point. We see that on the radar track. At that point in time, he was probably operating the aircraft manually, flying it with the yoke. The problem with a small aircraft is, and this is a stable aircraft, it wants to fly. But it's like a young puppy. It will go off in any direction really fast if you let go of it. A big jet liner, if you let go of it, she just continues right on.

DONALDSON: Well John, if that wing falls off and starts into a spin, and he kicks the rudder wrong. You need to kick it counter intuitively, because if you kick it the way your body tells you you should, you simply increase the spin.

NANCE: If he got into a spin, Sam, especially at a low altitude, his prospects of getting out without knowing precisely how are very, very minimal. And it's not difficult to get into what we call a graveyard spiral or a spin simply because you get disoriented. You don't see where the horizon is. You're not trained to go directly to the instruments and to read those in relation to the horizon -- the artificial horizon we used to call it, and you end up pushing or pulling the wrong way. There's not enough altitude.

DONALDSON: Thanks a lot, John Nance, for joining us this morning, our

ABC aviation consultant. Cokie and I will be back in just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

DONALDSON: ABC NEWS will interrupt regularly scheduled programming as breaking news occurs on this story. We'll have all the latest tonight on World News Sunday, with Carole Simpson. And again tonight, 20/20 Sunday with Barbara Walters and Charlie Gibson in Hyannisport.

ROBERTS: We leave you this Sunday morning with images from the life of John Kennedy.

(VIDEO CLIP)

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TEXT:
NBC MEET THE PRESS
Aired on JULY 18, 1999

SPEAKERS: TIM RUSSERT, HOST, NBC MEET THE PRESS
ADMIRAL RICHARD LARRABEE, U.S. COAST GUARD
DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN, PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN
MIKE BARNICLE, NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST
DOUGLAS BRINKLEY, HISTORIAN AND CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
TO GEORGE MAGAZINE
EHUD BARAK, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER
COL. EDWIN (BUZZ) ALDRIN, APOLLO 11 ASTRONAUT
WILLIAM SAFIRE, JOURNALIST

RUSSERT: This is a special edition of MEET THE PRESS. Thirty-six hours ago, the private plane piloted by John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Jr. disappeared from radar. Kennedy was flying with his wife and sister-in-law, to a family wedding, when his plane apparently went down near the shoreline at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

And joining us now is NBC NEWS' Robert Hager, who first broke the story yesterday morning. Bob Hager, what is the working theory or assumptions that investigators are working on at this moment?

ROBERT HAGER, NBC NEWS: Well, first, let me say that overnight there's no new significant wreckage found. But yesterday, you know, they did find the suitcase with Lauren Bessette's name on it and the prescription container with Carolyn Bessette's name on it, so that was not good news at all. It's really too early to develop a theory, but here's some things that people are talking about. The fact that you've got a relatively novice pilot, one whose flown only 15 months.

The forecast was good, but in reality, there was heavy haze that night, especially as you dropped down on the approach into Martha's Vineyard. It would have been easily to lose your orientation in that haze, especially for a fairly new pilot. Particularly the attitude of the wings, if you tip about 35 or 40 degrees, you can lose that plane very suddenly, and he was only about 2,000 feet at that point, so if you did lose the plane, there would be no chance for a recovery that close to the water.

RUSSERT: Bob Hager, one of the articles recovered was a seat from the plane. What does that tell us about the impact the plane struck the water?

HAGER: It tells you that what we're finding so far are a lot of these little pieces, and that tells you that that plane hit with a lot of force probably. And if you come down at an angle like this into the water, it's just like hitting concrete, like hitting a highway, so that again is not good news and that would shatter the plane in such a fashion.

RUSSERT: How deep is the water where the investigators are now focusing, Bob Hager?

HAGER: Not very deep by comparison with where they worked with TWA 800, for instance. It's only about 20 to 100 feet. The bottom is sandy with a few boulders, but not difficult to work with for finding wreckage at the bottom.

RUSSERT: And with that depth, it's very possible that ultimately the wreckage and perhaps even the bodies could be recovered?

HAGER: Yes, I think that will not be very difficult. They'll start with the sonar today, the underwater sound waves, and that locates metal, and that should not take long to find the wreckage, particularly if it's mostly in one place.

RUSSERT: Bob Hager, we thank you for your report. Now let's go to Coast Guard Admiral Richard Larrabee who is overseeing the search and rescue mission. He's here with us with the very latest. Admiral, did you recover anything last night of importance?

LARRABEE: No we didn't, Tim.

RUSSERT: What do you hope to do today?

LARRABEE: Tim, we're searching about a 1, 200-square mile area today. We're using Air Force and Coast Guard aircraft from the air and Coast Guard surface assets on the surface of the water. In addition to that, the Rude will continue to do sub-surface searching today.

RUSSERT: You have been optimistic in your conversations with the media. That certainly is the way of the Coast Guard. With each passing hour, is it fair for the American people to begin to conclude this, in fact, may not have a very happy ending?

LARRABEE: Tim, right now our focus is on doing this search today. We're going to be out there with the assets that I just talked about and that's our plan today. We remain optimistic and we will throughout the day.

RUSSERT: Bob Hager said that a seat from the plane was recovered, which indicates that the plane struck the water with a very strong impact. Is that a fair conclusion?

LARRABEE: Tim, I think I'd be just conjecturing at this point. I'm really not an expert in aviation construction. The NTSB is going to be on scene this afternoon, and I think those are the guys that you want to ask those kind of questions to.

RUSSERT: The water is anywhere from 20 to 100 feet deep in the area that you're focusing your investigation. Are you optimistic that with those kind of depths, you will eventually be able to find the aircraft and/or bodies?

LARRABEE: That's our plan, Tim. I'm asked -- I've asked the Navy supervisor of salvage to send one of their vessels, the Grasp (ph). They're probably going to arrive early on Tuesday morning. We'll get on later today and with the Rude and with that capability, we believe we can do a very thorough search.

RUSSERT: Have you received any indication in any way, shape or form that there may be survivors?

LARRABEE: Tim, not to this point.

RUSSERT: Admiral, we thank you very much for joining us today and we wish you the very best in your work.

LARRABEE: Thank you very much.

RUSSERT: Now to Hyannisport where John F. Kennedy, Jr., was headed to join the family at their compound. Joining us, NBC's David Gregory. David Gregory, have we heard anything more from the family this morning?

GREGORY: We haven't, Tim. It was nearly 24 hours ago that the last word came from Brian O'Connor who is a spokesman for the Kennedy family, who came out to the assembled reporters here, not quite the crush that is here this morning and said that the family was hoping for the best. Hope had to have dimmed as the day wore on.

GREGORY: What was scheduled yesterday, the joyous occasion of the wedding of Rory Kennedy became a silent vigil for the Kennedy family, which continues today.

RUSSERT: David, in my conversations with friends of the Kennedys' there at Hyannisport, the whole notion of Rory Kennedy, who was in her mom's womb when her father was assassinated and found her brother dead on the ski slopes not so long ago. And now, the day of her wedding, postponed

because of the death -- apparently the death of her cousin, John Kennedy, Jr.

GREGORY: You have to wonder how much she or any of the Kennedys can take at a time like this. There's a photograph in a lot of newspapers today of Rory Kennedy and her groom-to-be, Mark Bailey, walking on the beach on the other side of this compound here on Cape Cod, holding each other and seemingly in disbelief about the kind of day that transpired when they were to be celebrating something much different. There was a dinner that they attended last night for all of those guests who were to be celebrating their nuptials, who, in fact, were observing something quite different as they teeter on the brink of mourning.

RUSSET: Have you seen any family members today or are there any plans for them to gather?

GREGORY: No plans that we've been informed of. I have not seen any of the family members so far today. Congressman Joe Kennedy was in and out of the compound yesterday. He was the only family member visible going in and out of the compound. Everyone else has been holed up inside.

RUSSET: David Gregory. Thank you very much. We're joined by political observers and colleagues and friends of John F. Kennedy, Jr. Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of "The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys." Let me start with you. Your thoughts?

GOODWIN: You know, what you keep thinking of is this strange mingling of fate or destiny and whatever it is in the Kennedys that I think keeps them living as fully as they can despite the tragedies in the past. Thinking about four of John Kennedy's original family dying violently and prematurely. Starting with Joe, Jr. at 29. Being told that he had flown all the missions he needed to in World War II. Could come home. His father wrote him a letter and said, Joe, don't tempt the fates, just come home. But he tried for that extra mission. Kathleen in a plane crash at the age of 28. Told she shouldn't go up in the plane. So desperately wanting to see her father and her family that she did it. And of course, Jack and Robert by assassins bullets. But I don't think we can just say it's a curse or something like that. It is a family that decides that even with all this happening they're going to still live life, not look around the corner. I think that's the other triumphant side of this sad story.

RUSSET: In Hyannisport, is New York Daily News columnist, Mike Barnicle, who lives just a few doors away from the Kennedys. Mike, you've been observing the scene there, the family and friends. What can you offer us today?

BARNICLE: You know, Tim, as you come down the street this morning and see the phalanx of satellite trucks lined up and it's constantly on the news, the reports of what is going out on the Vineyard Sound and Nantucket Sound. It really is in a sense the story of this country's search for a lost child of our culture. John F. Kennedy, Jr., who can ever forget from the moment he was three years of age, the salute in front of his father's casket to this point. Everyone remembers that picture. Everyone knows him. Everyone knows the name. As happens too many times throughout this country, when children do get lost, there's an immense search in a real sense he is a lost child of our culture.

RUSSET: Overseeing the search, Mike Barnicle, you observed Senator Ted Kennedy last evening.

BARNICLE: Yesterday afternoon, Tim. Yes, you know, he has a tremendous amount of dignity. He has become one of the most powerful members of the United States Senate. That's how the public knows him. But 100 yards behind me down this road, he is the leader of this family. And he is the assembler of these children, these children are his cousins, are his nephews and nieces, and John F. Kennedy, Jr. was one of them.

This family home has been the place where the family has gathered around Ted Kennedy on holidays, Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving sails on a cold

Thanksgiving Day. This is the place where Ted Kennedy is the happiest. Now, sadly, he is monitoring recovery efforts, for his nephew. It's a burden I don't think any of us can appreciate. He's had -- borne so many of them, I don't know how they do it.

RUSSET: Paul Begala, you write for George magazine and know John Kennedy, Jr. well. He remarked to you one time that he did not want to be a prisoner of the Kennedy myth.

BEGALA: That whole notion, that -- while he's clearly embraces his family and honors his father's name. He's very, very determined to live his life on his terms. John is the most normal famous person I've ever known. The Indians had this saying, when someone takes your picture, they take a piece of your soul.

BEGALA: John has been resolutely determined to control his own soul, to be his own person, not just simply to walk away from the family, to reject all of the heroism and the service that they represent, but to serve and to lead in his own way.

RUSSET: When he covered politics with George magazine, he said, let's cover it the way Sports Illustrated covers sports, that politics is the greatest show on earth.

BEGALA: Yeah, he's had the best seat in the house all of his life. What he wants to do is make sure that folks can look behind the artifice and see what's really there, and unlike the cynics who often times look behind that artifice and see the frailties, John sees the frailties, but he also sees the dignity and the decency and the humor and the humanity in these folks, so irrespective of ideology, I think one of the things John's always tried to do, is to show us that the real people who are leading our country, are actually just that -- real people, not just artifice.

RUSSET: Professor Douglas Brinkley, you also are contributing editor to George magazine. You have talked regularly about his sense of humor, his prankishness if you will, and not afraid to be a little self-deprecating.

BRINKLEY: That's absolutely correct, Tim. John has a wonderful sense of humor, never took himself too seriously, would always like to be ribbed and rib people. And I think in many ways, he was a generational spokesperson among other things. I think he was trying to get young people involved in politics. He was interested in getting people to register to vote with their driver's license or maybe in the future, voting by computer at home.

So he was somebody always kind of looking at people in their 20's and 30's -- how can I get them more involved in things more and more, and I also might say, he as a historian, I talked to him many times about his love of transportation. He absolutely not just loved airplanes but trains and steamboats and hot air balloons and loved the history of transportation even to the degree of wanting to talk about like the trans-Siberian railroad or how the Erie Canal was built. And it was a side of him -- another side of him I think that's important, because George is a bipartisan magazine, John kept a straight face with that, but there was a great liberal, well spring in him. Some of his heroes were people like Caesar Chavez and Martin Luther King, Jr., and others. And I think we'll be hearing more about that personal side of him in the days to come.

RUSSET: And yet he hired former Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato, former Gingrich adviser, Tony Blankley to write for George magazine.

BRINKLEY: Well, that's right because he wanted to prove that it was a bipartisan magazine and that he could be above that kind of fray. His real goal was bringing independence into George magazine, that group of people that seemed sort of anti-Washington, that sentiment that's out there. He thought that as some of our people previously said, there is no cynicism to John.

He was about optimism and it's fitting that this recent book of George that John quarterbacked, was the 200 ways to make America better. That's

the kind of thing John Kennedy, Jr., was always looking at. How can we change the status quo and improve things? For example, he had a great interest in hydrogen fuel cells that might, in the future, replace the internal combustion engine. And the things like programs and ideas like that.

RUSSERT: Bill Safire, the cover of U.S. News & World Report, "The Kennedy Curse." Thirty years ago this very weekend, Senator Edward Kennedy involved in a tragedy, a young woman died in an automobile accident. Senator Kennedy addressed the people of this state and the country and used some striking words. Let's roll that tape.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

U.S. SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY (D-MA): Whether some awful curse did actually hang over all the Kennedys, whether there was some justifiable reason for me to doubt what had happened and delay my report...

(END VIDEO CLIP)

RUSSERT: Some awful curse hang over the Kennedy's.

SAFIRE: I don't see a curse. I see certainly a -- more than their share of tragedy. But I think in a moment like this, you have to look at the justification of risk. The oldest son, Joseph, risked his life in combat. Certainly that's justified and heroic. Jack Kennedy and Robert Kennedy took the chance that controversial men and women have to take in going out and campaigning in a society where there are nuts and people ready to kill you, and that's why you have that risk.

There are other risks too, but I think that when you look at this tragic accident, for somebody who has flown a plane for one year and hasn't soloed much, to attempt a night flight over an ocean is unacceptable risk and shows a lack of judgment.

SAFIRE: Now, I don't attribute that to a Kennedy curse. There's nothing hanging over that family that -- by word of God or something. But the affirmative thing is -- and particularly seeing the redemption of Ted Kennedy, where he has kept the family spirit and become the anchor for that family having gone through what he's gone through 30 years ago today -- that's admirable, and I think when we look at the Kennedys, we shouldn't think of the curse, but we should think of a unifying family spirit.

RUSSERT: The Spanish newspaper El Mundo today said they had it all. Beauty, intelligence, money, culture and charm. The only thing they lacked was the most important: the luck to enjoy it.

SAFIRE: That's a moving point.

RUSSERT: Jack Germond, John Kennedy, Jr. appeared on this program two years ago and he talked about what Professor Brinkley described as optimism and reaching the outsider, trying to bring in new and different people into politics and their appreciation of politics. Let's listen to his words and get your reaction.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RUSSERT: Do you think people -- your readers -- are too jaded or cynical about politics?

JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.: No, in fact, I think quite the opposite. I think they're interested. I think they're fundamentally optimistic. I think they feel very much an outsider, and this is a way for them to really begin to understand something in a more fundamental and substantive way than they might get just from the news.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

RUSSERT: Jack, you covered politics for a long time. His dad was the consummate insider in many ways, yet John, Jr. trying to appeal to a much broader political audience.

GERMOND: Well, that's a rationale for his magazine and a legitimate one. He was very sensitive, I am told, to the allegation that this was just People Magazine for politics. I think the thing for people of my generation, I saw John Kennedy, Jr. when he was John-John, when he was a

little boy. After the president was killed, you had this feeling, well, it was a terrible thing. He left behind not only his widow but these two golden children, Caroline and John-John, his marvelous kids.

And all along, through all these years, we've been saying, you know, 35 years have passed, and 36 years have passed. These kids are doing well and John particularly was -- not that Caroline wasn't doing well, but John was particularly into politics, into doing the right --sort of the right things for the family tradition. And I think for us it is a terrible shock to find even this has gone sour, that this is another unhappy ending, and it's very disturbing, I think, for those who sort of watch the whole cycle.

RUSSET: Doris Kearns Goodwin, when John Kennedy, Jr. launched his magazine, he began with some self-deprecating humor. Let's give a listen to that, and share it with our audience.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KENNEDY: I don't think that I've seen as many of you in one place since they announced the results of my first bar exam.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

RUSSET: John Kennedy took the bar exam successfully on the third try, Doris Kearns Goodwin. He has told people that he thought about being an actor, but his mom, Jacqueline Kennedy, urged him to go to law school or pursue a public service career, or at least quasi-public service. But it's quite striking that he always had an impishness about the fact that he was a Kennedy and the fact that even Kennedys sometimes couldn't pass bar exams.

GOODWIN: No, in fact, it's interesting. There's a wonderful story that Jackie told my husband, Richard Goodwin, which is that when John Kennedy was a little kid, he fell on the ski slope with his uncle Bobby Kennedy, and he was crying. And Bobby came over to him and said, ``Kennedys don't cry.'' And he looked up and he said, ``this Kennedy cries.''

You know, and I think what that meant was that Jackie was very proud of that statement, that she had created some independence. And yet, on the other hand, she wanted him to feel part of this great tradition and wanted him to be an American child. She kept him in this country even when she went off with Onassis. And I think there was a moment -- I remember being at the bridal ceremony the night before Caroline's wedding, and he gave this amazing toast in which he said how much he loved his sister.

GOODWIN: And all his life there had just been his mother and his sister and him, and now he welcomed his new brother-in-law into this family circle. And I said afterward to Jackie, you've done a great thing and there's nothing I would rather have for my three sons than if they feel close after we're long dead and gone.

She looked me straight in the face, she didn't always do that. She sometimes looked off at this 45 degree angle with this permanent smile looking beautiful. But she looked me in the eye and she said, ``It's the best thing I've ever done.''

So she wanted him to have that tradition but be his own person. And somehow I think those two things came together.

RUSSET: Mike Barnicle, in Hyannisport, John F. Kennedy, Jr., obviously a vital part of the Kennedy family. And yet he really did try to maintain his independence and distance, even, many times.

BARNICLE: Yes, he did, Tim. But on another point, you know we all know what we have become in the media in this late stage of the 1990s. And I have tremendous respect for Bill Safire, but I think stating that what happened yesterday was poor judgment is way out of bounds.

Just as there's an element of faith behind me in these homes that sustains this family, there was an element of fate out there over the ocean that took this plane down. He could just as well have been killed in a subway accident in New York city as out on Vineyard Sound.

Now, the problem with him is that this was an aggressively normal young

guy, a good young guy who led a really noble life. He could have done a lot of other things. He could have disappeared in those ski slopes that Doris was talking about he could have become a movie actor. He could have used his fame for a hundred different things. But he chose to use them for good things.

He grew up, raised by a single parent in a constant gridiron on a griddle, about 450 degrees Fahrenheit. Everyday of his life. Having his picture taken when he was buying an apple or stepping on an airplane or shuttle to Washington or Boston.

So you know, I think it's time that we realized what has happened here. We've lost, you know, another Kennedy. No matter what you think of their politics or ideology, they have been a constant in our lives and American life for nearly 50 years now, and, you know, it's time for regret and remorse, not assessing judgment of why he flew that plane that night.

RUSSET: We have to take a quick break. We'll be back with more of our discussion of John F. Kennedy, Jr. Right after this.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

RUSSET: Jack Germond, you wanted to respond to Mike Barnicle.

GERMOND: I'm in the unaccustomed position of defending Bill Safire against my old friend Barnicle. I don't think it takes anything away from the marvelous qualities of John Kennedy, Jr. and the life he lived to suggest that there may have been a question of judgment in his decision to fly that night.

Other people are doing it. This is the big purple elephant in the corner of the room. People who know about flying are doing it. It's something you have to mention. And it doesn't take anything away from him or whether he -- or the life he lived or the contribution he made or his family to say that.

RUSSET: Let me show you all a tape from 11 years ago today. This was John F. Kennedy, Jr. at the 1988 Democratic convention.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KENNEDY: Over a quarter of a century ago, my father stood before you to accept the nomination for the presidency of the United States.

(APPLAUSE)

So many of you came into public service because of him. In a very real sense because of you, he is with us still.

(APPLAUSE)

And for that I am grateful to all of you.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

RUSSET: Bill Safire, Democrats have approached John Kennedy, Jr. about running for mayor of New York city, senator from New York, governor of New York. Looking at him objectively, as a potential politician, what do you see?

SAFIRE: He certainly had it. He had that charisma, that Kennedy charisma that all the Nixon people deeply resented and envied. He could have been quite a candidate. And he chose an honorable profession, journalism. So you don't have to be a politician. And I hope that his publication doesn't go down with him.

RUSSET: Paul Begala, a lot of speculation about the future of George magazine of the last few weeks. If in fact John F. Kennedy, Jr. is no longer with us, can that magazine possibly survive?

BEGALA: Well, I certainly hope so. I mean, I talked to him a few days ago about the controversy that had been in the papers, that maybe his parent publication was going to pull the plug. He said no, that wasn't the case. He said he had the full support. You know, he's got an animating faith that drives this magazine. And it is, as others have said, to try to bring more people into the system, to use his celebrity, to use that mythology and to use the celebrity of others in show business and other places to try to revivify public life in the eyes of so many people who are walking away from it, people who are not following the news. I think that

definitely that spirit continues. There's definitely a hunger for it out there.

RUSSET: Do you believe he would have pursued a political career?

BEGALA: Yes, I do, Tim. He -- people came to him when Bill Bradley retired and suggested maybe he should run in New Jersey. He was talked to about the Moynihan race, he said, a governor's race and a mayor's race. I think that one day, that's something that was in him. He just wanted to make sure -- always had the sense he lived life on his own terms. The day he launched the magazine we were playing pepper before the press conference, throwing out questions at him. What if they ask you this? What if they ask you that?

Someone asked him, what about your father's death? You run a magazine now, are you going to hire an investigative journalist to look that? And his answer was really illuminating. He said, I could -- and I could devote my whole life to that cause and probably not assemble any more facts than we have now. But there's one central fact that matters to me and that is my father is not here. I have to accept that, and I have to move on with my life on my terms and not try to relive his.

RUSSET: Douglas Brinkley, you suggested that John Kennedy wanted to be a reformer, be part of trying to change our society. Do you believe he would have embarked on elective politics?

BRINKLEY: Yes, I think he would have after he figured out what to do with George. By that I mean, I think the dream would have been to have George to be a strong magazine that he could have left his editor-in-chief and the magazine would keep going. Or if not, somewhere down the line merge George with another magazine. I think it was important that he had a success with George. And remember, it is politics when you are an editor in chief of a political magazine. He was deeply into politics. But I think a new phase in his life was going to be heading into electoral politics, the US Senate.

There was nobody that was more fun to talk to about whether Hillary Clinton is going to be running for the Senate in New York or whether -- who's running for governor in New Mexico or what's -- take a pulse reading of what's happening in Louisiana. He liked to stay abreast of everything. He had politics in his blood, and I think George was his first manifestation of that, and I think his second one would have been running for electoral office.

RUSSET: Mike Barnicle, his cousin is the lieutenant governor of Maryland; a cousin a Congressman, an uncle a Senator. Do you believe that John F. Kennedy Jr. would have run for office eventually?

BARNICLE: I have no idea, Tim. I really don't. And I choose to think of him -- and think of him still -- when he would show up here about every third week of these summer months and occasionally pull together a touch football game. What he'd do is gather the young neighborhood children who wanted to play -- participate in the touch football game and he'd make them run wind sprints for him before the game began so he could select the fastest. He was that competitive, and the kids laughed at him and they laughed with him. That's how I would choose to remember him, rather than as a candidate for some public office.

RUSSET: Doris Kearns Goodwin, in 1960 an Irish Catholic was elected president of the United States. You're talking to someone who was then 10 years old, who thought the world had changed because finally one of us had made it. How do you explain the impact that John Kennedy and John Kennedy, Jr. have had on this country? And why do we seem to be fascinated, even mesmerized by their presence?

GOODWIN: I think it's not simply that John Kennedy became the first Irish Catholic president. I've often thought about this. Had he been an only child, and there were no brothers, no sisters, no children following him, the story still would have been a vivid story. There still would have been Camelot, we still would have been transfixed by the assassination.

But what's created a never-ending story is this huge family that keeps it going. I mean, after all, it was Bobby who delivered a eulogy for his brother John, and then it's Teddy who delivers the eulogy for his brother Bobby, and this new generation keeping its tie on politics.

You know, there was one time when I talked to Rose Kennedy, and she said to me an extraordinary thing that gave her solace as she thought about all these young deaths of her children. She said she was absolutely convinced that if they could come back, they would still choose the lives they had been given to lead, even though they had been given shortness of years, because they had adventure, they had public service, they had celebrity, they had glory. And that was more important than the number of years they were given to lead. So I think we as Americans have been part of this story for 60 years. The pictures make them continually seem young to us. They don't die in these pictures. And somehow the story keeps going on.

RUSSET: Jack, you've covered every politician over the last half century, different parties, variations.

GERMOND: Half century -- give me a break, would you?

RUSSET: 40 years.

GERMOND: OK.

RUSSET: Was it different covering a Kennedy?

GERMOND: I covered the '60 campaign, some of. I covered Bob Kennedy a lot. Robert Kennedy's campaign in 1968 was different from any I've ever seen or -- before or since. He caused a -- perhaps because of the circumstance of his brother's death. But whatever the reason, he caused a voter reaction in the electorate that I have never seen since at all. It was absolutely extraordinary. Ended of course with him being assassinated in that kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

I was there that night, you know, June of 1968, but it was really different, no question about that. There are a lot of people, particularly the disadvantaged, who revere the Kennedys in the way they don't revere other politicians. The only thing you'll see comparable to it is sometimes you'll see some of -- extreme, conservative Republicans who feel that way about Ronald Reagan. But even that isn't comparable to.

RUSSET: Paul Begala, we heard Mike Barnicle talk about what his memory will be of John F. Kennedy, Jr. What's yours?

BEGALA: He came down -- when I was living in Austin, I was teaching at the University of Texas. He came down there to be a guest lecturer in my class. And I didn't tell anyone at the university and I didn't tell anyone at the firm I was working with that he was coming. So he came to my office first. We had to do some work for the magazine first. He had to fax something back to New York. So I directed him to the fax room down the hall. He couldn't figure out how to work it and turned to a young woman who was there and said, ``How do I work this thing?''

She looked up and saw John F. Kennedy, Jr. in her office in the file room trying to work the fax machine. And she hyperventilated. You could hear it down the hall. So I went down there and I said, you know, Kennedy, I've come to your office any number of times and no one hyperventilates. What's that like? And he kind of got serious for a minute, and he said, ``You know, this is the only life I've ever known. I don't have an alternate reference point. I know it seems odd to you. This is the only life I've got.''

And that resolute commitment to living his life on his terms.

RUSSET: Doris Kearns Goodwin, your final thoughts?

GOODWIN: Well, the last time I spoke to John, Jr., he was up at Harvard at the institute of politics and he was so excited at the thought of still being able to inject into this generation, which is a more passive generation, that love of politics and public service that his father had given the 1960s. And I think whatever he would have done in the future, it was that burden and that desire that he wanted to carry forward.

RUSSERT: Douglas Brinkley?

BRINKLEY: Well, I talked to him this spring. He -- Washington College, a little school in Maryland, had offered John an honorary doctorate. And he refused to take the doctorate but said that he would go and make a speech at the commencement, but didn't feel he was worthy of a doctorate. And I later asked him, I said geez, come on, people take honorary doctorates. What are you doing all this work with George and working with Paul Newman's company and doing a number -- any number of charities and things. And he just said, no, that belongs to somebody else. I'm not ready for that, yet. I didn't deserve that. And I think it's that kind of humility from somebody so famous, that they could be so self-deprecating and so humble is something I'll always remember and hopefully learn from in years to come.

RUSSERT: Bill Safire, this weekend is so filled with history. 30 years ago, the headline of your paper, The New York Times, ``Men Walk on Moon.''

But what has surfaced is a memo from one Bill Safire to H.R. ``Bob'' Haldeman who was President Nixon's chief of staff. We can put it on the screen. It was called ``In the Event of Moon Disaster.''. And it was a draft speech that you wrote that began ``Fate has ordained that men who went to the moon to explore in peace will stay on the moon to rest in peace. These brave men, Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin know that there's no hope for their recovery but they also know there is hope for mankind in their sacrifice.''

Tell us about this.

SAFIRE: Well, we have a tendency now to just assume that the moon shot, Apollo 11 was an enormous technical feat that exhibited great hope for mankind. I remember when Frank Borman, who was the astronaut who acted as liaison with the White House called me up and said, you're working on this moon shot. You want to consider an alternative posture for the president in the event of mishaps. And that was, as far as I was concerned, gobbledygook, and I didn't get it until he added, and I can hear him now, like what to do for the widows.

Because at that time the most important, the most dangerous part of the moon mission was to get that lunar module back up into orbit around the moon and to join the command ship. But if they couldn't, and it was a good risk that they couldn't, then they would have to be abandoned on the moon, left to die there. And mission control would then have to, to use their euphemism, close down communication. And the men would have to either starve to death or commit suicide. And so we prepared for that with a speech that I wrote. And the president was ready to give that. And of course, the module made it. And for 17 years after that, we operated on the assumption that there could be nothing wrong in the space program. And then, of course, until the Challenger exploded on television in front of everybody. We realized what enormous risks that were being run by these astronauts. They laid their lives on the line every time.

SAFIRE: And as we look back 30 years ago, some will remember Chappaquiddick that weekend. But the headline of ``men walk on moon,' that will be looked at 100 or 1,000 years from now.

RUSSERT: I should also note that on the moon is a plaque, ``here men from the planet Earth first set foot on the moon, July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind.''. This was written by Bill Safire, the A.D. should have been before July '69. Author, wordsmith Safire made a big mistake.

SAFIRE: Can you imagine the first piece of writing into space contains a grammatical error, and I made it.

RUSSERT: Bill Safire, Paul Begala, Jack Germond, Mike Barnicle, Douglas Brinkley, Doris Kearns Goodwin, thank you all very much for your discussion and conversation. We'll be right back with the first U.S. television interview of the new prime minister of Israel, Ehud Barak.

Then, John F. Kennedy Jr., in his own words about his hopes for the

future when he appeared right here on MEET THE PRESS.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

RUSSERT: Late last night I spoke with Prime Minister Barak, and he offered these words to the Kennedy and Bessette families.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BARAK: I'd say that after so many tragedies that the Kennedy family suffered, we in Israel and I myself, would like to convey to them our thoughts and our prayers in these difficult hours and at the same time, to the Bessette family that lost two of its daughters.

RUSSERT: Let me turn to the peace process. Do you believe that the United States should function as a ally or an honest broker in the peace negotiations?

BARAK: The U.S. had been and will be in the future an ally of Israel, maybe the best ally we have. At the same time, without being an honest broker sensitive to the needs of the Arab, it cannot facilitate the kind of services for the peace process. I feel that both of the roles are in place.

RUSSERT: The president recently said, and I'll read it to you, ``I would like it if the Palestinian people felt free and were free to live wherever they liked. Wherever they want to live.'' Is that helpful?

BARAK: I don't think that this quotation was interpreted the right way, anyway, our position is clear. I don't think that the refugees, will be able, under any circumstances, come back into Israel, but better a solution for them should be found in the countries where they are living now.

RUSSERT: Do you believe there will one day be a true Palestinian state?

BARAK: I'm not a profit. I'm the leader of Israel, I'm focused on the security of our state and I'm confident that the time is right to leave no stone unturned in the road to strengthen Israel through peace with all its neighbors. When the time comes, the Palestinians will have to negotiate with us what kind of entity is shaped for them in a context -- a wider context of all the other issues that are on the table.

RUSSERT: Do you believe that one day the Palestinian flag will fly over Jerusalem?

BARAK: I don't think so. A united sovereign Jerusalem is our capital and will remain so forever.

RUSSERT: Could you extend the boundaries of Jerusalem out and allow the Palestinians to have a piece of that Jerusalem?

BARAK: Well, Tim, I don't think that that will be appropriate for us to run the very delicate negotiation that we have to run with the Palestinians here on camera, on NBC.

BARAK: It is appropriate to be done with the Palestinians, in a closed room, bona fide in order to reach an agreement.

RUSSERT: As you know, the first lady is running for the Senate in New York state. She encountered some difficulties when last year she said, I think the territory the Palestinians currently inhabit and whatever additional territory they will obtain through the peace negotiations should be considered and evolve into a functioning, modern state. Is that helpful to the peace process?

BARAK: I do not expect any expression from the first lady, whom I highly appreciate, to be part of the peace process in the middle east. We, the middle easterners, myself, Chairman Arafat, President Mubarak, King Abdullah, we are the people to decide what will happen in the Middle East and we have to negotiate with each other in order to find a solution with, the American may say, kind of political umbrella and certainly security and financial safety net.

RUSSERT: Syria. Would Israel be willing to give back land in the Golan Heights to Syria in order to secure peace?

BARAK: We will abide by the 242 and 338, the two relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We fully realize that in the way, on the way to

peace, we will have to make compromises, but it is too early to define what kind of compromises. We will define it once we realize what Asad -- President Asad is ready to give in regard to Lebanon, terror, the water question, the opening of embassies and borders, the security arrangement, the arrangement, and even certain level of economic cooperation.

RUSSERT: Prime Minister Rabin said that if there was peace with Syria, he would welcome the presence of United States troops in the Golan Heights. Would you welcome U.S. troops there?

BARAK: I don't think that U.S. troops will be needed on the Golan Heights. Maybe there will be a need for a few dozens of foreign observers or controllers or members of inspection teams. Roles like these could be provided by either American or other UN leading members very easily.

RUSSERT: Are you still interested in having the CIA help monitor any agreement with the Palestinians vis-a-vis the West Bank?

BARAK: I don't think that the CIA volunteered to do it. It was dragged into the picture by the slowing down of the whole process. And I think that once we resume trust with our neighbors, I don't think that there will be a real need for CIA agents to look after the last Palestinian policemen.

RUSSERT: If there is peace with the PLO, with Syria, will the United States have to increase economic aid to the region?

BARAK: I believe if you look in the future, I have just spent a night a few days ago in Camp David with President Clinton. We have seen the arena of President Carter and Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat where they decided the peace accord with Egypt 21 years ago.

When you look at the amount of financial resources that have been invested in this peace, you realize that peace has its price -- its price, but its however, much less expensive than going into war, paying with the lives of human beings, and paying then the price of recuperation after a major war. I prefer it this way and I believe that we'll find partners for it.

RUSSERT: Are there positive economic consequences for Israel if you have a permanent peace?

BARAK: Of course, there will be a major flow of foreign investment into the area and a major wave of tourism if it happens during the year 2000. And I can exploit the opportunities and ask all of the viewers to come and visit Israel in the year 2000 to revisit the place where we began to count 2000 years ago.

RUSSERT: You have said we are at a moment of truth. How long before you will know whether or not you can truly achieve a permanent peace?

BARAK: I believe that within 15 months from now, we will know whether we have major breakthroughs on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks or not. I, let me tell you, Tim, I was not afraid to fight wars. I am not afraid to make peace. I am confident that this is exactly the mandate that I've been given by the Israeli people in the landslide victory in the election two or three months ago. This is a moment of truth, we should live up to the challenge and put an end to the conflict of 100 years while strengthening rather than weakening the state of Israel.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

RUSSERT: And we'll be right back with John F. Kennedy, Jr. talking about his magazine George and a possible career in politics. He was right here on MEET THE PRESS. John Kennedy, Jr. in his own words.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

RUSSERT: Just a little over two years ago, John Kennedy, Jr. sat at this table and talked about his life.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RUSSERT: Final question, is this your life, magazine editor, or is politics somewhere down the road?

KENNEDY: This is a great enterprise and magazines take a little while, as you know, to reach full momentum, so it's a wonderfully stimulating way

to spend my time. And I think it's an important one. I think it's important, again, to bring this group of people into politics and make them feel optimistic about it, so I'm here for a good long time.

RUSSET: And then?

KENNEDY: And then we'll see. Then you'll ask me tough questions if I run for office.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

RUSSET: ``I'm here for a good long time.'' Apparently not. And we'll never know whether John F. Kennedy, Jr. would have followed in his father's footsteps with a political career. But for all his 38 years, John F. Kennedy, Jr. enthralled and captivated a nation, and we remember him on this Sunday morning.

We'll have continuing coverage on the search for John Kennedy, Jr., his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and her sister Lauren Bessette. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

END

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Aired on JULY 18, 1999

SPEAKERS: WOLF BLITZER, HOST, CNN LATE EDITION
STEVE ROBERTS, CNN COMMENTATOR
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REAR ADMIRAL RICHARD LARRABEE, U.S. COAST GUARD
HARRISON ``LEE'' RAINIE, AUTHOR OF ``GROWING UP KENNEDY''
ROWLAND EVANS, CNN HOST AND KENNEDY FRIEND
EHUD BARAK, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

BLITZER: It's noon in Washington and Hyannisport, Massachusetts; 9:00 a.m. in Los Angeles; and 7:00 p.m. in Jerusalem. Wherever you're watching from around the world, thanks for joining us for this special two-hour LATE EDITION. We'll get to our guests shortly but first, let's check in with CNN reporters covering our top story.

We begin in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, where the search continues for John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and her sister, Lauren Bessette. The three have been missing since Kennedy's small plane apparently crashed along the coast of Martha's Vineyard Friday night. Joining us with the very latest is CNN's Mike Boettcher. Mike.

MIKE BOETTCHER, CNN NEWS: Well, Wolf let me set the scene here, we are on the southwest tip of Martha's Vineyard, at place called Gay Head there is a lighthouse here, this has been a dangerous point for many years, for sailors, and that lighthouse is supposed to warn them, and it was dangerous point, it looks like, for John Kennedy, Jr., his wife and his sister-in-law.

Just about a mile up the hill, is the former estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and from that, you would have a vantage point ironically, of this search. The air search, has picked up steam, in the last couple of hours, we have seen the C-130 making its grid patterns up the beach here and out into ocean about 15 miles then coming back.

Also a C-130 tanker is in the air, refueling helicopters so they do not have to go back to base, they can spend all of their time searching the water, but so far they have seen nothing we have been told.

On land, also a search, all-terrain vehicles, basically dune buggies six of them going up and down this beach Philbin Beach looking for any debris. Philbin Beach of course is the beach that debris washed up yesterday, these are all volunteers and there are also some people on foot.

And in the sea, three coast guard cutters and assorted other smaller vessels, including a submersible craft called Rude. Rude, tows a side reaching sonar system, that can map the bottom of the ocean, and look for debris, a crash, something like that. The difficulty is there are about 20 shipwrecks in this area, and Rude has to determine what is a shipwreck and

what could be the wreckage of that Piper Saratoga.

Now, the harbor master here, at Gay Head, has been helping the Massachusetts state police, he has been helping them with tidal patterns and current patterns that's why they have been able to reduce the size of the search area the primary search area from about 1,200 square miles, to about 550 square miles, and according to those tidal and current patterns, if there is any debris out there that will wash up, it will happen later this afternoon. Wolf.

BLITZER: OK, Mike Boettcher thanks for joining us

We now turn to Hyannisport, Massachusetts, where the Kennedy family has gathered. CNN's Chris Black is at the Kennedy family compound. Chris.

CHRIS BLACK, CNN NEWS: Wolf, the Kennedy family is maintaining a very somber vigil here at the Kennedy family compound. This very public, famous political family is trying to stay very private at this painful time.

Family friends tell me that they are seeking comfort in one another, and in their deep religious faith.

BLACK: Family sources say that the family celebrated Mass this morning at 10:30, the second time in two days, beneath white wedding tent erected late last week for the wedding of Rory Elizabeth Kennedy, John Kennedy's cousin and he was in fact heading here to attend the wedding of his cousin. She's the daughter of the late Robert F. Kennedy, the youngest child -- the baby who was born after Senator Kennedy was assassinated.

Family members are praying for a miracle they say, they've sailed these waters for generations. Indeed, I was misinformed earlier today that Senator Kennedy had gone out on his schooner, the Mia (ph) last night. In fact, I guess his boat went out, but the senator was not on board. He stayed right here at the compound, he has not left. Staying with other family members getting word on the rescue and search operation.

The family is hoping that, as I said, that there will be a miracle. But there's a real streak of Irish fatalism in this family. They've dealt with a lot of tragedy over the years. They understand what the reports suggest, but they are hoping for the best for their cousin. Wolf.

BLITZER: OK, Chris Black, and you will be back in this program later. Stay there, and we will be back to you later in this program. We now turn to the home town of Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and Lauren Bessette. CNN's Gary Tuchman joins us from Saint Michael's Catholic Church in Greenwich, Connecticut. Gary.

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN NEWS: That's right Wolf, Carolyn Bessette grew up with her two sisters in a New York City bedroom community of Greenwich, Connecticut, and this is where she went to high school, it's now called the Greenwich Catholic School, but back in 1983 when Carolyn Bessette graduated, it was called the Saint Mary's School. Next door to Saint Mary's, is the Saint Michael's Church, and that's where a mass was held today, where prayers were offered for Carolyn Bessette, her husband JFK, Jr. and her sister Lauren. The priest explained to children gathered near him what had happened.

(UNKNOWN): Pray for them and in a special way for the family, it's a very difficult time when the what has happened ... other people here this morning that were friends of the Kennedy family and friends of Carolyn Bessette. Some people's children, your parents went to school with her so that is why we're offering special prayers here this morning.

TUCHMAN: Although the Bessette family does not attend this church, many of their friends do and the priest tried to comfort them.

We apologized for not having tape, but let me tell you exactly what the priest said. He said quote, ``We are praying for different things, some for a miracle and some for strength, for the families involved,' ' end quote.

The Bessettes right now are in seclusion at their home in Greenwich not too far away from here. Wolf, back to you.

BLITZER: OK, Gary Tuchman, thank you. President Clinton has been

keeping close contact with the Kennedy and Bessette families. CNN's David Ensor joins us now from the White House. David.

DAVID ENSOR, CNN NEWS: Well Wolf, the president went to church services as so many Americans do on Sunday mornings. He did it at the Camp David compound, he's been spending the weekend in seclusion. He's been kept up to date. Again this morning, on the progress of the search effort for the missing aircraft, and he's ordered that no effort be spared to try and find it.

He was briefed -- he has spoken to a number of members of the Kennedy family since this tragedy started to unfold, apparent tragedy. He also has spoken to the Freeman family, the family of Carolyn Kennedy Bessette's mother and her stepfather on the telephone. And, he -- he of course admired the parents of John Kennedy, Jr. very, very much, both the Clinton's did. And he had a chance to talk about that in 1993, when he attended the rededication of the Kennedy presidential library.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: John Kennedy's fleeting time among us remains a singular story in the history of our great nation. He was our president for only a thousand days, but has been said so eloquently by members of his family, he changed the way we think about our country, our world, and our own obligations to the future.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ENSOR: Now for the moment, the president is not commenting personally on this situation. He is due back from Camp David, Wolf, mid afternoon, aides say it's conceivable he might have a comment, thereafter.

BLITZER: Thank you David Ensor, reporting from the White House. Now we get an update on the Coast Guard search off the shores of Martha's Vineyard. Joining us from Boston is Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee, who is overseeing the search effort.

Admiral Larrabee, welcome to LATE EDITION. Let me -- let me begin, Admiral Larrabee by simply asking you a very obvious question, what is the very latest on this search operation?

LARRABEE: Wolf, the latest is that we continue to search through the night last night and this morning. Increased our search using Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft, Coast Guard helicopters, as well as Air Force helicopters, in conjunction with a surface search using our own cutters and small boats.

In addition to that, we still have the NOAA vessel, Rude, a research vessel, which in parallel with our surface search, is doing a subsurface search around the area that we think is the most likely area to be looking in.

LARRABEE: In addition to that we still have the NOAA vessel, Rude, a research vessel which in parallel with our surface search is doing a subsurface search around the area that we think is the most likely area to be looking in. We are really covering a fairly large area again this morning about 1,200 square miles, and our purpose is to make sure that we haven't lost something over the night and it's drifted away us from.

BLITZER: Admiral, we're looking at some live pictures of the search operation, it looks very hazy out there, today. Is it? And if it is, is it hampering the search operation?

LARRABEE: It is hazy it has been hazy last couple of days. But my information from on scene is that it is not hampering our search operations

BLITZER: How much of a problem, though, theoretically could that be if would it be easier if it were very clear, right?

LARRABEE: Yes, it sure would. We are actually, searching with very narrow track spacing which means that people are looking at small pieces of the ocean at any one time, so my sense is that we still have conditions that are conducive to what we are doing today.

BLITZER: Now, the morning search I take it has ended, and you are about

to begin the next round. What have you learned if anything, new as of this morning?

LARRABEE: Wolf, I'm not ready to say what we have learned. I have got my people analyzing this morning's results, and, the next hour or so, I'll have a better answer for you.

BLITZER: I know that you have another briefing scheduled, at the top of the next hour, at 1:00 Eastern. Do you think you will have some new information to release to the news media at that point?

LARRABEE: Well, I'm going to tell you what I know at 1:00, that is the best I can offer you at this point.

BLITZER: Well, all right. Let's get to this area of the search. There are indications, as you say, that it has been narrowed, that you have a more confined area. How much of a problem, though, is it? It still seems like it is a huge area to those of us who hear the numbers that you are talking about.

LARRABEE: Well, when you consider where we were at this time yesterday we were searching an area from New Jersey to Martha's Vineyard, including Long Island Sound. By late last night we had narrowed that down to area of about 550 square miles that we thought was the most probable area. And with some of the debris that we found yesterday, with a lot of help from our oceanographic people, we have been able to use a computer model to really focus in on an area that we think is most likely area which is area about 17 miles southwest of the airport on Martha's Vineyard. And that's the area that rude is searching in. Our efforts, outside that area are simply to make sure that we haven't missed anything.

BLITZER: Tell us about this new equipment that you have brought to the search operation.

LARRABEE: The equipment belongs to NOAA. It is aboard the vessel Rude. It is a research vessel with side scanning sonar on it. It allows them to look at bottom profiles, and objects on the bottom. The way it was explained to me is that because the bottom is rocky we see rocks as round objects. They naturally occur. Man-made objects tend to have sharper images and sharper edges, and they are able to pick those things up a lot easier than perhaps we might think.

BLITZER: How many people are involved in this search operation?

LARRABEE: Wolf, I don't have a number for you, I can tell you the crew of Rude for instance 11 people who have been out there, since noon yesterday. I have got ships and airplanes with people onboard, who have been out there, for quite a while. Our effort is to rotate those people out, wherever we can, and we need to sustain this operation, as long as we have to.

BLITZER: Admiral, you have been engaged in these kinds of search operations in the past. Normally how long do you allow this process to go on, before you give up?

LARRABEE: Well, I don't like to use the word ``give up'' -- we --I'd first say that every case is different. There are a lot of factors involved. And we are trying to weigh all of those. Our plan today is to continue to search throughout the day. This is still a search-and-rescue effort on our part. And that is the way I'm conducting myself that is the way our crews are conducting themselves.

There is always hope. There are miraculous stories of people being found when all statistics say that they wouldn't be. And so that is the way we are conducting today's operation.

BLITZER: Are you doing it the way you would do it for any plane that is missing? Or given the Kennedy name are there special considerations underway?

LARRABEE: Well, we give every case our best. We handle 67,000 calls for assistance a year, each one of them is different but each one of them is a case that we work like it was a member of our own family. That is the nature of the Coast Guard.

In this case we are doing what we think we have to do, and, I think what the American public expects us to do and that is everything we possibly can to find these three people.

BLITZER: You've spoken about the water temperature, the condition of the seas, out there, right now. What would the be the expected life expectancy in this kind of a tragic situation if in fact there was this plane crash into the waters?

LARRABEE: Well, I'll be honest and say that the hypothermia tables tell us that the average expectancy is around 12 hours in 68 degree water, but again I would caution that that's only a statistic. We know that that is an average, and that it's a factor in how we determine what our searches are going to be and how long we'll search, but it's only a factor.

BLITZER: And the debris that you found so far, what does that give you, what kind of information does that give you, in terms of helping the search operation?

LARRABEE: Well, we now have a better location, that's the first thing. Yesterday's recovery of luggage and then some other debris which we later identified as being part of the airplane, allowed us to then focus our search in much smaller area, so that's the first thing. Beyond that, I wouldn't speculate. The depth of water is such that some of that material may have sunk and is on bottom. Some of it obviously has floated free and has been recovered, but there may still be material which is neutrally buoyant and is going to come up someplace. So right now, we're still looking for that kind of debris and collecting everything that we possibly can. The National Transportation Safety Board is involved, and will become more involved in this. Chairman Hall and I have talked to each other a couple times today and later on today, we'll meet. We are going to assist them in their efforts to investigate this case, and they're the experts at this and we'll provide a support role when it comes to that part of the search.

BLITZER: All right, Admiral Richard Larrabee of the U.S. Coast Guard. It was kind of you to spend some time with us. Thank you so much, good luck in your mission, good luck to all of your men and women who are engaged in this operation.

And just ahead, he was one of the last people to see John F. Kennedy, Jr. before his plane disappeared. We'll talk with pilot Kyle Bailey who saw the plane take off, when this special two-hour LATE EDITION continues. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: Welcome back to LATE EDITION. John Kennedy, Jr.'s plane took off from the Essex County Airport in Fairfield, New Jersey, at 8:38 Friday night. One of the last people to see him was Kyle Bailey, a pilot who flies his plane out of the same airport. Mr. Bailey now joins us from New York.

Mr. Bailey, tell us what happened Friday night, in the minutes leading up to the take-off of John Kennedy, Jr.'s plane.

BAILEY: I actually arrived at Essex County Airport around 8:00 p.m., I in fact, was going make that same trip around the same time period for the weekend, and actually decided against it. Mr. Kennedy arrived at the airport approximately at 8:00 p.m., he arrived in a white convertible, a white convertible Hyundai (ph).

Shortly, about 10 minutes after, his wife Carolyn arrived via car service, a Lincoln Town Car, and they proceeded to near the airplane where they had some discussion, and they there were chatting for about 10 or 15 minutes. The next thing I knew, they were performing what's called a engine run-up, which is they're testing out various components of the airplane, as far as the engine and the propeller to making sure it's functioning properly. After the preflight of the airplane, taxied by and it took off from the runway. It was heading in a southbound direction. It made the normal turns, and headed northeast direction towards the Cape Cod

area.

BLITZER: You were going to fly to Martha's Vineyard as well, but you didn't you say. Why didn't you fly?

BAILEY: Actually the visibility at Caldwell Airport, Essex County was very marginal. It was approximately four miles visibility. I believe that the tower was saying about five miles, but to me we have some ridge lines that we know are about five miles away and they were -- they were obscured by the haze, and the reduced visibility.

BLITZER: You are a relatively inexperienced pilot as well, right?

BAILEY: I am a private licensed about 290 hours in single engine airplanes.

BLITZER: Well, and John Kennedy, Jr.'s experience, was just a little bit less.

BAILEY: From what I understand, I believe he had somewhere in the vicinity of 100 hours and I believe he had his license for about 13 months.

BLITZER: Did you say anything to him as you saw him checking out the plane?

BAILEY: I was actually near my car about 100 yards away, and I just was observing him. He tends to keep to himself, we respect his privacy at the airport. We try to let him go about doing his normal business and I think he likes that it way.

BLITZER: You've done that flight between New Jersey and Martha's Vineyard, though. Tell us about the flight path and what potentially some of the problems could be.

BAILEY: Well, there is there is two routes of flight to get to Martha's Vineyard, you could either -- you head over towards Westchester, New York. From there could take the Connecticut shoreline up towards Providence and then from there cut over the water towards the Vineyard. That puts you over water for approximately 7 miles. And the more direct route is right over Long Island, right past Montauk, past Block Island, and then directly to Martha's Vineyard. That would probably put you over water for about, I would estimate, about 25 miles, or maybe about 15 minutes flying time.

The problems you can encounter with reduced visibility is, it's hard to differentiate where the sky ends and where the ocean begins. Now, for a pilot who's trained just for VFR, which is visual flight regulations, you have to reference the outside sky. And when you lose sight of horizon that can cause a problem, because you don't know the altitude of airplane, whether you're in

a climb or whether you're in fact in a turn.

BLITZER: He was flying at night. Does that add complication?

BAILEY: Yes, sure does. The visibility is even reduced even more, and out there there are a lot of very small islands that are unlit, if I -- I actually don't know the exact route he did take, if he took the Long Island route or up the coast. But I mean, you could you lose sight of land, and you're over the ocean, all you see is black all around you. I mean, with four miles visibility, that is pretty marginal.

BLITZER: You've said -- you have been quoted as saying you did see strange things -- a strange thing happen before his plane took off. What do you mean by that?

BAILEY: It really wasn't strange. It caught my attention. It's what's called the engine run-up. I talked about it earlier -- as far as running the engine up to certain rpm. Your checking the magnetos (ph) in the engine to see if they're functioning properly, you're checking the propeller to see if it's cycling properly, and he performed that at his actual parking location.

Usually that's done by the runway, and there's a specific area that's supposed to be done, and it just caught my attention that he was doing it on his parking location. The reasons why he chose to do it there, I don't know. But I guess it was his decision to do that. It -- it just caught my

attention because it's very noisy.

BLITZER: And finally, you 've also been quoted as saying, when you got home you told your wife something. What did you tell her?

BAILEY: Well, I told my family, I said, you know, it's a very high performance airplane, and you really have to be on top of the airplane. I felt the conditions were kind of marginal for a VFR pilot. In fact, I didn't know if he had an instructor on board the airplane or if he was going up there solo. And I just -- you know -- I said I wouldn't have made that flight and I really -- you know, I had my doubts that his ability -- but I assumed there was instructor on the airplane with him. I was not aware of him going up there by himself.

BLITZER: He was up there by himself. Kyle Bailey, thanks so much for joining us, spending some time with us today on LATE EDITION.

BAILEY: Thank you, Wolf.

BLITZER: And when we return, two people who have been very close to the Kennedy family over the years, including before John F. Kennedy, Jr. was even born. We'll talk with Time Magazine contributor Hugh Sidey and syndicated columnist and CNN host Rowland Evans. LATE EDITION will be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

AL GORE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: At the age of three, he was the most famous person in the world because with his innocent and brave young heart he helped our nation and the world, endure some of the hardest hours of our history.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Vice President Al Gore remembering John Kennedy, Jr., yesterday.

Welcome back to this special two-hour LATE EDITION. This programming note: at the top of the hour, we'll take live the briefing by Admiral Richard Larrabee of the U.S. Coast Guard the latest information on the search for the missing plane.

Joining us now are two men who have known John Kennedy, Jr. his whole life. Hugh Sidey is contributor to Time magazine, who has covered nine U.S. presidents. And Rowland Evans, a syndicated columnist and co-host of CNN's Evans, Novak, Hunt & Shields. He's a long time friend of the Kennedy family. The both of you welcome to LATE EDITION.

Rolie, you were at Hyannisport. You were at the Kennedy family compound Friday, getting ready for the wedding of Rory Kennedy, the youngest child of Robert Kennedy. Tell us what was going on at that time.

EVANS: Well, Friday evening when we got up there, flying from --flying into Logan from Boston, very heavy haze, very heavy haze.

BLITZER: Small plane as well?

EVANS: No, no, no. We were in US Air plane, but we got in perfectly fine. And got up to party 7:30 and it was family bridal dinner, and it was just what you would expect it should be. It was festive, fun, lots of gags, lots of jokes. Wonderful toasts, very funny toasts, poetry, pictures were presented, and it was a wonderful family gathering. Just the wedding party and a few friends, and of course, nobody at that point had any -- any premonition of disaster coming.

We left at 11:00; the party broke about 11:00. And as far as I knew at that point, nobody in the Kennedy family had heard about the overdue JFK, Jr., plane I don't know that. But if they did I didn't know it.

BLITZER: Tell us about what happened Saturday morning, you wake up Saturday morning, and you hear the news.

EVANS: Well, it was like going from a little piece of heaven into the shadowy depths. You know the Kennedys, like most of us, are very emotional people. Just like all of us. They are not steely-eyed they are not cold. They are very emotional. They don't cry, however. They contain their emotions, but you could tell everybody felt the heavy weight, the burden

of real sorrow.

Because it looked even -- I got over to the compound I guess about 10:30, and they were having a -- service, in the tent that had been erected for the wedding right off Ethel Kennedy's porch. And it was lugubrious, sad, tragic. Everybody was rallying. Nobody had I think, great hopes even then.

BLITZER: Even Saturday morning. Hugh Sidey, how do the Kennedys' deal with these tragedies? There have been so many of them over the years.

SIDEY: Well, they have a huge family. There are now, Wolf, 87 I guess one less, perhaps, 87 children, grandchildren, great grandchildren that is quite an army. And there is mutual support. And over the years, they have had their faith, and then I think, old Joe Kennedy put some steel in that family way back there, he put them out on the public stage, and he charged them to go out, and be public servants but also warned them about tragedies, and I think, when these things happen, they are not expected, and yet they are not unexpected difficulty in life. And so they come together, and they march on.

BLITZER: Rolie, can they ever deal with the enormity of this kind of tragedy though? You were there.

EVANS: Not only could they deal with it, they are dealing with it. And will deal with it. And it is not going to -- it is going to have a terribly sad denouement, when the news -- when the story finely ends, but they know how to handle these things. They will never forget the past; they have never forgotten the president. They have never forgotten Ethel has lost two children. She will never forget them. But they go on, as Hugh suggests, they go on with their life. And it is an extraordinary capacity that they have to face danger, and tragedy, and emerge from it intact.

BLITZER: And Hugh, they are a very religious Catholic family, which must be a source of enormous support and strength for them during these moments.

SIDEY: Well, yes, all through their life. It surprised me, because, when I first joined and I'm really as a close personal friend. I'm a professional friend, I began to write about them I remember, John Kennedy was somewhat irreverent didn't like to talk about religion. And yet there were moments when suddenly you discovered, he was quite deeply emotional about it. I remember the day of inauguration we got up early he slipped up to a little church. And sat there in prayer. As it turned out, his mother was in the back. He didn't even know it. Things like this. And of course, when sadness -- when tragedy comes, they have that. They are believers.

BLITZER: All right we'll take a quick commercial break but we have a lot more to talk about. Also at the top of the hour, Admiral Richard Larrabee's briefing on the latest in the search for the missing plane. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: You're looking at a live picture of the eternal flame at the Kennedy family grave site at Arlington National Cemetery.

Welcome back to LATE EDITION. We're continuing our conversation with Time magazine contributor Hugh Sidey and syndicated columnist and CNN host Rowland Evans.

Rolie, you were going to be attending the wedding that's been indefinitely postponed of Rory Kennedy, the youngest child of Robert Kennedy, and Mark Bailey. And that wedding obviously has been postponed. But how are they dealing with this?

EVANS: Well, they're dealing with it the way their parents are. They are all intrepid. There is no other choice than to postpone the wedding. They took it, by my observation up there, as well as anybody could. They accepted the fact that it was going to be postponed. They mourned their cousin JFK, Jr., and they took a page out of Ethel's book.

Ethel is the rock up there in the Kennedy family. And Teddy, also, but Ethel is the one who brought everybody together under the tent for the

service. Ethel helped at the service, Ethel never shed a tear. But I could see that they were lurking in her eyes. And I think those kids are going to get married soon -- I hope very soon --nobody knows when.

BLITZER: Hugh, the similarities the differences between president Kennedy, and John F. Kennedy, Jr.. You have known both. .

SIDEY: I think one of the most -- one of the things that is similar is they both have fun. I must say, I see this world is filled with billionaires and rich people, and powerful people, and they are probably rather grim. John Kennedy, Jr. has enjoyed his life, and so did president Kennedy. He was what he was. He had a good time in politics. He was a rich man's son. And he went out and made something of it. And there is a profile there. John Kennedy, Jr., difficult childhood, John Kennedy Senior, difficult childhood. Sick lot of the time and then finally found themselves. Neither one had all that much of a promising youth, really, and found themselves, and in the case of President Kennedy moved into politics. And my hunch was that John F. Kennedy, Jr. might have gone that way. It looked very likely.

BLITZER: And he didn't. He instead became a magazine publisher.

EVANS: Another similarity I wanted to add to what you said, which is exactly accurate. They both had -- Jack Kennedy, Senior had a very strong father, and JFK, Jr. had a very strong mother. And when his father was taken from him, Jackie Kennedy -- Mrs. JFK, was a --absolutely determined to bring him up in a way that he could be independent, and somehow shake loose of the tragedy that had befallen his father -- be himself, be his own person. And you've got to say those two parents did a pretty fantastic job.

SIDEY: I would also point out, Wolf, that John Kennedy, had he not gone into politics, wanted go into publishing. He talked about that some. One of his early ambitions was to have been a writer.

EVANS: And he was reporter.

SIDNEY: He wound up being a staff member for Fortune magazine and he said to have a newspaper or something like this, and see, I think John Junior was in transition here into public life.

BLITZER: I'm sorry. We have to leave it there. I know it's difficult for both you to talk about this. We are grateful to both of you coming in today on LATE EDITION and joining us, sharing thoughts with our viewers around the world. Thank you so much.

We'll continue our discussion about John F. Kennedy, Jr. in just a few moments. But up next, another important story this weekend --prospects for peace in the middle east. Israel's new leader is making his first trip to the United States as prime minister. We'll interview Prime Minister Ehud Barak when this special two-hour LATE EDITION continues. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: What at first seems unlikely, even impossible, can actually become reality when the will for peace is strong. America will help as you move forward.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Welcom back to LATE EDITION. We're also standing by at the top of the hour for a news briefing with Admiral Richard Larrabee of the U.S. Coast Guard with the latest information of the search for John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s plane.

Meanwhile, there are developments in the search for peace in the Middle East. Israel's new Prime Minister Ehud Barak is in the middle of a six day trip to the United States, his first since taking office earlier this month.

Mr. Barak has made it clear he plans to try to get Middle East peace talks moving once again. Last night I spoke with the prime minister.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

BLITZER: Mr. Prime Minister, thank you so much for joining us on your visit to the United States, and being on LATE EDITION. It's a great honor to interview you here during your visit -- your first visit as prime minister.

BARAK: Thank you, Wolf.

BLITZER: We -- it just so happens that you come at a very sad moment in the United States, with the disappearance of John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s plane, his wife, her sister.

What goes through your mind, as the leader of a country that has itself gone through many tragedies over these years?

BARAK: We always feel empathy when we see tragedies occur and few families on Earth have lived through so many tragedies, like the Kennedy family. I extend on behalf of myself and the people of Israel our thoughts and prayers to the Kennedy and Bessette families.

BLITZER: Thank you. Let's move on now to the reason why you've come to the United States. You've been prime minister for a couple of weeks. You're trying to advance the peace process. There's talk now that you've sort of set an informal deadline of about 15 months to see if you can achieve peace with the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese. Do you think you can?

BARAK: We will wait and see. But I feel that it is kind of imperative upon us to make whatever we can, to leave no stone unturned on the road to peace. And I'm determined to do it. This is the essence of the mandate I got from the Israeli people to strengthen Israel, to strengthen our security, and to make a real effort to put an end to this one hundred year conflict.

BLITZER: There seems to be some confusion, at least here in the United States, as to what role you want the United States, the Clinton administration to play on the Palestinian front and on the Syrian front. Do you want the United States to be involved in both tracks, or be more of a bystander?

BARAK: I believe that the major responsibility to achieve a solution lies on the shoulders of regional leaders and we have to solve it between ourselves. The United States could facilitate the whole possibility of the process, and it can help us by providing both the political umbrella and somehow the security and financial safety net.

BLITZER: Do you believe that the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is ready to make peace with Israel?

BARAK: I hope and I pray that the answer is positive, but only the -- God knows. I cannot predict it in a foolproof way. It is -- it is my judgment that the time is right, there is an urgent need, it is a strategic need for Israel and Syria as well. We are ready. If they will be a partner, we will move forward towards peace.

BLITZER: Have you received some encouraging reports that President al-Asad is ready to negotiate -- to revive negotiations with Israel?

BARAK: Well, we've got a few such signals, we assess President Asad as a highly capable leader. He was a big (ph) and tough rival in the battlefield, he won't be an easy partner for negotiations, but it is an imperative, as I've said, upon us to do whatever we can. Those of us who have seen wars know, maybe better than others, the value -- what it means to be ultimately at peace in our region.

BLITZER: What are the prospects that he will agree to meet with you?

BARAK: I don't know, it's -- we will see during the next few months.

BLITZER: But do you think those prospects are realistic?

BARAK: Looking into the past, I've just spent a night at Camp David, we walked together with President Clinton to see the place where President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin and President Carter made the decisive breakthrough in the Camp David agreement with the Egyptians 21 years ago. And I believe that the same way that Sadat at a certain point reached the

conclusion that there is no other way but to move forward towards peace, something like this, I hope, will happen at a certain point to President Asad.

BLITZER: The price that Israel paid for the peace with Egypt is a complete withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula back to the pre-1967 lines. Are you prepared to pay the same price on the Golan Heights to make peace with Syria, to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines from the Golan Heights?

BARAK: Wolf, if you will check very carefully, you will find out that Sadat did not go back to the fall of June '67 border. It did not go back to Gaza Strip, but just to the mandatory border between Egypt and mandatory Palestine.

And even then, there was certain kind of international company that took five years to establish the ultimate border. But I'm focused on the security of Israel, I'm not ready to risk it. I fought for it all my life. I was not afraid to fight, Wolf, I'm not afraid to make peace, but we have to solve all the problems from the table --Lebanon, terror, water, open borders, embassies, security arrangements, early warnings, even certain kind of economic cooperation.

When all these are clear, we will have to consider the depth of territorial compromise, and I believe the time is right and this is the time to make peace.

BLITZER: And you've been quoted as saying you're ready for a painful compromise over the Golan Heights. What does that mean?

BARAK: I am realistic. I know that you cannot achieve an agreement based on equilibrium between the needs of demands of both sides without making compromises and since we love very much our people and the landscapes of the Golan Heights, and we risked our lives there, I fought there as a young captain in '67. And for us it is very painful to give any part of the Golan Heights and any part of Judean-Somolia (ph). But we are living in the real world, we have to make such decisions, the moment of truth has come. I'm going to strengthen the security of our country through finding the way to ultimately put an end to this conflict.

BLITZER: Can Israel live in security along side a Palestinian state?

BARAK: We are not living in western Europe or North America. This is quite troubled and much tougher neighborhood. The whole thing of -- the whole question of what kind of political entity will be created by the permanent status agreements will be clarified through the permanent status negotiations. We have our, for instance, we have our demands. If you put them into the problems of refugees, problems of borders, problem of settlement, we solve the problem of how to keep Jerusalem united and sovereign under our control. We will be ready to think about the nature of Palestinian entity.

BLITZER: And so you're not completely ruling out that that entity could emerge as a state?

BARAK: I'm not in the point right now to deal with it. It's not the appropriate place to have the negotiations, one on CNN on camera. The right place is in the negotiating room with the Palestinians.

BLITZER: You've said that you want Israeli forces to withdrawal from South Lebanon within a year. Will you go ahead with that withdrawal even if there's no movement on the peace process with the Lebanese or with the Syrians?

BARAK: I'm not dealing with speculation. I would like to accomplish it through an agreement. So that there would be a direct that will take responsibility on the other side of the border, to avoid terrorist attacks against our northern citizen villages. I believe that this is achievable and I'm determined to put an end to this tragedy that already stretched over 17 years. It's time to put an end to it through the firm tending of our civilians in the north and through the devotion of our soldiers along the border. We will be able to solve it and take care, also, of those Lebanese civilians and people in uniform who helped us all along these

years.

BLITZER: Tell us about your talks, your meetings, at Camp David with President Clinton. Mrs. Clinton was there, your wife was there. Take us behind the scenes and tell us how you were impressed by President Clinton's commitment to do what he can to help you achieve peace.

BARAK: I found the president highly informed about it in details. He gathered a lot of experience in regard to Middle East affairs in the seven years of personal, hands-on involvement in these issues. I felt that he's highly committed to the goal -- common goal for all of us in the Middle East, to find a way to change the realities of this region that has suffered so much in the last few generations.

BLITZER: And you know, Mrs. Clinton had caused some controversy, first last year by her statement supporting a Palestinian state, more recently, by her statement urging the U.S. to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. You had a chance to talk to her as well. What were your impressions about her attitude toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

BARAK: I found her an impressive personality. I believe that she wants, as all of us, to see the problems being solved in a direct negotiation between the real parties, Israelis, Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese. The whole thing is going to happen, not here along the Hudson or the Potomac. It happens over there, the other side of the globe in the Middle East. And we bear the responsibility to put an end to it, to solve it, and we highly appreciate the role and contribution of this administration and the previous ones to help us push this process forward.

BLITZER: Mr. Prime Minister, you know there are very high expectations now. You have created -- you've raised these expectations. Are you concerned that these expectations are too high right now that there are going to be some important breakthroughs in the peace process?

BARAK: When there's a depression, I'm trying to raise the spirits of our people, when there's an over expectation, I try to reduce it a little bit, but basically I'm determined to really to do it; to put an end to it. It's too important to our children, our future generations, and the time has come to put an end to this conflict and I'm determined to do whatever I can to do this.

BLITZER: We only have a few seconds left. Your predecessor, when he used to come here, including during the Wye River agreements, always raised the question of Jonathan J. Pollard, the convicted American spy who spied for Israel. Are you taking his approach in dealing with this question?

BARAK: I want to see Jonathan Pollard released and back in Israel, but I don't think that public dealing with this issue is the appropriate way to deal with it.

BLITZER: So, You're not going to speak publicly about it?

BARAK: Yes.

BLITZER: One final question. I'm curious, how do you like being prime minister? You've been prime minister for two weeks. You were a military officer most of your adult life. How do you like being prime minister of Israel?

BARAK: I like it. But more than just liking it, I feel the heavy responsibility that stems out of the expectations and the stoic responsibility and opportunity that we are facing now in the Middle East.

BLITZER: Mr. Prime Minister, it was a great honor to be with you and to interview you. And congratulations on the recent election and welcome to the United States.

BARAK: Thank you, Wolf, and thank all the viewers at home.

BLITZER: Thank you.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

BLITZER: My conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Coming up, the second hour of our special LATE EDITION, including a live briefing from the U.S. Coast Guard with the latest information of the search for

John Kennedy's plane.

We'll also hear more about John Kennedy, Jr. and other developments, plus our LATE EDITION roundtable and Bruce Morton's last word. It's all ahead when this special two-hour LATE EDITION continues.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: This is the second hour of LATE EDITION. The search for John F. Kennedy, Jr.

The search continues for John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife and her sister. To give us the latest, we'll talk with Captain Robert Byrd of the Massachusetts State Police.

Then, for an inside look into the Kennedy family, we'll be joined by historian Douglas Brinkley, U.S. News & World Report's Lee Rainie, author of the book, Growing up Kennedy. CNN's Jeff Greenfield, who served as a speech writer for the late Robert Kennedy, and CNN's Chris Black, reporting from Hyannisport.

Plus our LATE EDITION roundtable -- Roberts, Page and Carlson, and Bruce Morton has the last word on the Kennedy phenomenon, and why so much of the world is sad today.

We're standing by for a live briefing with Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee of the U.S. Coast Guard on the latest developments in the search for John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s plane. We now turn back to Martha's Vineyard, where Captain Robert Bird of the Massachusetts State Police joins us.

Captain Bird, thank you very much for joining us on LATE EDITION. You're involved in searching for wreckage, for debris that's coming ashore. Tell us what you found lately if anything.

BIRD: Actually, all of the debris that we have recovered both from the aircraft and personal effects that were on-board the aircraft were found yesterday afternoon. These were found off the southeastern -- pardon me, the southwestern coast of the island.

BLITZER: The fact that you haven't found anything today, what if anything, are you told that that means?

BIRD: Excuse me Captain Bird, we're going to go to Admiral Larrabee's briefing -- we will come back to you later.

(BEGIN LIVE BRIEFING COVERAGE)

LARRABEE: Good afternoon, everybody. What I would like to do this afternoon is bring all up to speed with what I know has happened, this morning, what we have found, what we plan on doing the rest of the day. Talk a little bit about some of the ancillary issues and then I'd be happy to answer a few questions.

This morning, we started searching again, by increasing our assets with Coast Guard and Air Force H-60s. We assigned five search areas this morning, we completed four of those search areas. We did not find a lot of significant information. I will share with you, though, that we did find a part of a head rest. It was found by a Coast Guard cutter at Point Wells (ph), about three miles south of Martha's Vineyard. But that's the only significant clue that we were able to come up with this morning.

At noon, we are beginning to complete the last one of the first five areas that we asked to be searched. Coast Guard cutter Willow will be on scene momentarily and we'll start that. In addition to that, we have got an Air Force and a Coast Guard H-60 who will be doing two more legs this afternoon, and then at 1600 this afternoon, 4:00, will be completing three more legs before we finish our searches today.

We are going to make a small organizational shift this afternoon, in that we are going to be activating a unified command out on Cape Cod at the Coast Guard air station at Otis Air Force Base. The reason for that is that we are going to be cooperating with the National Transportation Safety Board. Chairman Jim Hall and I have been in touch with each other over the course of the morning. He is going to be up here this afternoon. He and I will meet this afternoon in terms of what his needs are, and how we can support his responsibility as far as the investigation in which has

kind of started, but we'll get going in earnest this afternoon.

His people have been up here since yesterday, we are providing them with support and as we have done before, we feel that this is going to be very cooperative effort. The NTSB is the experts when it comes to these incidents. We are going to defer to them on a lot of the questions that you have asked about aircraft construction, and some of the questions about the debris that we found, so I would like to try and defer some of those questions to that opportunity this afternoon.

The unified command that I talked about is going to include, not only Coast Guard and the NTSB, but also NOAA, state agencies, the FAA, the Navy will be sending a representative up here in anticipation of the Grasp coming up here early in the week.

The state police and any agency which has a role or responsibility, the reason we do that, is that it gives all of those agencies an opportunity to carry out their responsibilities but we need to do it in a coordinated fashion. We'll also be establishing a joint information center, and again it will give all of us an opportunity to get information in one place that's correct and up to date.

We will retain here in the district a role as the incident commander and I'm still going to be overall responsible for the Coast Guard's efforts, but we need to be mindful of the other agencies, and that's the reason why we're make the shift.

I would like to share with you just a couple of thoughts as the last two days have unfolded. We have gotten tremendous amount of cooperation from a lot of other people, the state of Massachusetts, certainly, and I talked to Governor Cellucci this morning.

LARRABEE: The state police, who have been very anxious to help -- and we're going to be using one of their dive teams aboard our Coast Guard buoy tender to support the operations of the NOAA vessel as they identify, or hope to identify, items on the bottom over next day or so and can check those out.

We've gotten an awful lot of help from individuals, people in private boats and people along the beach who have been most cooperative, and we certainly ask people to continue to do that. There has been a tremendous outpouring of sympathy, and I will tell you that last night in the command center we got a call from President Clinton, who was very concerned about what was going on, but wanted to share with us his thanks for all the hard work that all of these agencies and people have been doing.

So we are still searching for survivors, we are still looking for clues where this plane might have gone in. Today is going to be a continuation of those kind of efforts, and at the end of the day we will again assess where we are, and we will keep you all informed. Let me now take a couple of questions, if I might.

Yes, sir?

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) this morning about the Coast Guard possibly finding a fuel spill. Can you clarify that?

LARRABEE: We got the same report. It's in an area well outside of our search area. My NOAA scientific support coordinator, who I use primarily for oil spills, tells me that it is highly unlikely that that spill has anything to do with this incident. Because of the nature of the spill, its location, we don't believe that that is a clue that we need to include.

QUESTION: The shift away to unified command and the move out there -- does that indicate a shift away from the search-and-rescue, and more of a focus on recovery? And if not, how much longer can you practically go ahead with searching?

LARRABEE: Well, I will tell you that we are going to continue to search for the rest of the day. I can tell you that at least in my mind, it does not indicate a change in our posture. We are simply trying to do things in parallel, not necessarily in series. So I wouldn't take it that because we have now begun to respond to Chairman Hall and his needs that that in any

way detracts from our efforts to continue to search. And we are going to continue along those lines, just like we are with our surface search and parallel with our bottom search.

QUESTION: Anything beyond today?

LARRABEE: We are committed to doing whatever we can in this case to resolve it. We are still hopeful today, and we are going to continue to be here.

QUESTION: What can you tell us about the dive teams? How many dive teams are in place and for what duration will they be down there? Are they under your jurisdiction?

LARRABEE: The dive team that we would ask to get involved today is a dive team from the state police. And we have worked with them cooperatively before. The Navy's vessel, the Grasp (ph), which will be here on Tuesday, has not only a search capability and a salvage capability, but extensive dive capability. And we have used that capability in the past and would anticipate using it again.

QUESTION: How many divers would that involve?

LARRABEE: I can't give you a number.

QUESTION: You guys have been doing a visual search for roughly 30 hours or so. You found just a little bit of debris, but not much else. It appears whatever else is going to be found is going to be found at the bottom of the ocean. Is that a fair assessment?

LARRABEE: I'm not ready to make that decision yet. We have got a plan for today, I have described it to you in some detail. That's what we are going to do today. At the end of that, we are will reassess where we are and make decisions for later.

QUESTION: Is there any reason to believe divers may actually go in the water today?

LARRABEE: If we find an object that looks like it should be investigated, we will ask the divers if the conditions are right to go ahead down and take a look it.

Let me just describe the bottom. It's a rocky bottom. And it does complicate the search. I've got Commander Sam De Bow who is with us and would be happy to answer some questions if you've got them on the RUDY or the NOAA. Sam, let me ask you to see if you can address that.

SAM DE BOW: Yes, I'm Commander Sam De Bow with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. And the NOAA ship Rude works 12 months out of the year looking for objects on the sea floor. So she's out there systematically searching an area just to the south of Gay Head at the present time, which we have determined is a probable area to locate things on sea floor.

And we haven't got anything to report at the present time, but as soon as we do, we will dispatch divers to investigate what could it be.

QUESTION: This is going to be looking for irregularities on the ocean floor. Is that how his works?

DE BOW: Yes. We'd probably be looking for man-made objects, isolating on manmade objects. There's a lot of natural objects, boulders, etc.

QUESTION: This ship has been searching since 7:00 last night and so far nothing?

DE BOW: No, nothing.

QUESTION: How much ground have you have covered, sir.

DE BOW: About five square miles so far. We are working an area of about 24 square miles at present time.

QUESTION: Rude searches at depths of 100 feet, is that correct?

DE BOW: The nominal depths we're looking is from 130 feet into about 80 feet of water.

QUESTION: What equipment do you have in place if an object is below 100 feet?

DE BOW: The sonar system can track it a lot deeper than 100 feet.

QUESTION: Do you have any interesting sonar targets yet that look...

DE BOW: Not at the present time. We are still systematically trying to analyze the data. We go in and systematically do a pass. Then we have go back in with a separate team, and analyze what's been found on side scan sonar.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) sidescan primarily?

DE BOW: Primarily sidescan. We do have a shallow water multibeam system onboard to get further investigation after we find a target on the sidescan.

QUESTION: How easy is it to actually distinguish between man-made and boulders? Boulders...

DE BOW: In general -- that is a very good question -- man-made objects, normally have a very defined sharp edges, and in nature it is very rare you find geological formations or rocks and things on the sea floor that have exact square straight edges. And that gives us an indication it would be a manmade object.

QUESTION: Commander, earlier in the day the Coast Guard was saying they are looking at roughly 300 square miles of water. Given the fact that the visuals have turned up not a whole lot, anything that may be found may be found under water. Is your ship the only sonar boat that is going to be searching under water?

DE BOW: No, sir. As of 1:00 today the NOAA ship Whiting is en route from working off Delaware Bay. And we can triple production as soon as she gets here. She will be here about tomorrow morning sometime.

QUESTION: Can you distinguish, mass as well under...? Or just looking at shape?

DE BOW: No it would be very difficult with these sonars. It is remote sensing and the frequency that they're at, you can just distinguish that an object is down there. You would need some other type of remote sensing capability or visual contact via divers in order to identify what you found.

QUESTION: You're basically looking for shape?

DE BOW: Yes. Well, we're looking for things that look outside of the norm in the regular sea floor area. We've surveyed here before, we kind of know what's down there.

QUESTION: Given the fact your ship is searching under water it seems fairly clear that the focus is now shifted from search-and-rescue to recovery.

DE BOW: I think the admiral can talk to that point.

LARRABEE: That is not the case. Let me emphasize that we are still searching and although you have heard a good description of what the Rude is doing. And Sam just indicated we had were going to bring the Whiting up, which is a decision we just recently made. We want to increase our ability to do that; we want to do that much quicker than we are doing it. And so the Whiting will be here tomorrow. The Grasp will be here on Tuesday. And we think that will give the kind of capability that we need to finish the bottom search that we want to do.

QUESTION: The water temperature is roughly 68 degrees. This crash presumably happened about 40 hours ago. How long can the average person survive in temperatures such as those?

LARRABEE: The tables tell us, about 12 hours. But they are simply statistics and they are averages. And, so it is a factor for us but certainly not determining factor. Obviously, it is not because we are still out there.

Yes, sir?

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

LARRABEE: You know we haven't looked and right now I think we've got right equipment, all of my experts tell me this is the stuff we should be using, and, that is what we are going to use. If it looks like we need something else, the nice thing about being in my position, is that all I have to do is ask, and right now I think we've got what we need.

QUESTION: Have you discovered an emergency beacon?

LARRABEE: No we have not.

QUESTION: Is Chairman Hall here, sir?

LARRABEE: He will be here this afternoon. He will be at the airstation in Cape Cod. We will be doing another press conference at about 4:00 this afternoon.

QUESTION: There or here.

LARRABEE: There.

QUESTION: Is there any point in search area which hasn't been thoroughly surveilled by overhead aircraft?

LARRABEE: We have pretty thoroughly searched the area that we think is our most probable location, but, as I said, all morning long, we really need to make sure that we are not letting something get away from us. So we are still searching larger areas in conjunction with a more concentrated search.

QUESTION: And how big is that search area?

LARRABEE: It is an area, primarily south and west of Martha's Vineyard. Starting at shoreline going out some 20 miles from the shoreline.

LARRABEE: All of the tidal and current predictions show a movement along the beach. When the Coast Guard searches, we typically put a data marker in the water, and we've put one in the morning -- this morning, it's moved a couple miles again along that track, in a probably a southeasterly -- I'm sorry, in a northeasterly direction towards the beach.

QUESTION: Admiral, is there anything about this search that makes it any more difficult or more cumbersome than previous searches Coast Guard has undertaken?

LARRABEE: Well, I think the statistics are that we respond to about 50,000 calls for assistance a year. Each case is different. This one is certainly different than others. We are doing this with an awful lot of assistance from other people. And very frankly, a lot of people watching us.

QUESTION: Is there anything making it more difficult than other searches.

LARRABEE: No, I don't think so. I've had questions about weather conditions, I don't think the weather has been a problem. We have had haze in the area for the last three days, and that is a factor, but it does not seem to be hampering our operations. It did last night, the H-60, the Air Force H-60 with the night vision equipment really became ineffective later on last night and was not able to complete its total search last night. But other than that, I'm not aware of any other problems that we've had due to weather.

QUESTION: How quickly are you coordinating efforts with the NTSB and the Navy? What's the Navy's involvement at this point?

LARRABEE: Well, the Navy will be here and they will be part of the -- this investigation that we're doing. I described the capability of Grasp, it has a search capability, it has a salvage capability to help us recover items that we need to pick up. And finally, it has a dive capability and that's one of the resources that we need.

QUESTION: What's the dive capability?

LARRABEE: It's simply Navy divers that are capable of going down and investigating items, then helping recover those items in a way where they can be recovered safely.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) state police dive teams -- how would that be more effective or efficient?

LARRABEE: It's not necessarily more effective, although they have probably have done more of this kind of work than the state police. Again, the Navy is probably two days away and if we find something with Rudy today or tomorrow, we want to be able to go out investigate it if we can. The state dive team has very graciously provided their services to us, and where we can do it safely, we are going to use them.

(UNKNOWN): Ladies and gentlemen, we have time for two more questions.

QUESTION: Are there any ship wrecks on the bottom there that may be hampering the effort in terms of finding what's on the bottom?

DE BOW: Yes, there is a shipwreck in about 45 feet of water which is out there which we know is out there, and actually would help us because we can calibrate our instruments. We know where it's at. We run our instruments (OFF-MIKE) that shows us exactly where it's at. That means all our positioning and our sonar equipment and systematic systems are working correctly. We use it, it's called a confidence check. We will use that as confidence check and it won't hinder our operation at all.

QUESTION: Given the fact there's been no emergency beacon, have the tidal waves or have the waves and then the tides hampered you guys a little bit?

LARRABEE: I've got nothing, no feedback that suggests that we've got any problems as far as weather, currents, or wave action.

(UNKNOWN): Ladies and gentlemen, thank you we have to get Admiral Larrabee on the road.

QUESTION: I wanted to ask about the last ship that's coming up.

LARRABEE: Actually, Commander De Bow probably can give you a better description of that than I can.

DE BOW: The -- which vessel?

QUESTION: The Whiting?

DE BOW: The Whiting? She's a 163 foot hydrographic survey vessel. It has the capability of telling side scan sonar from the ship at about 10 knots, and it has two launches that are 30 feet long, and we can deploy them in the near shore area to investigate closer to shore if we have to.

Thank you. Thank you.

(END LIVE BRIEFING COVERAGE)

BLITZER: Commander Sam De Bow of the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration and Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee of the U.S. Coast Guard briefing on the latest developments in the search for the missing plane of John F. Kennedy, Jr.

We also want to bring in right now, Captain Robert Bird of the Massachusetts state police. Captain Bird, you heard Admiral Larrabee say that divers from the Massachusetts State Police are now being used. Tell us about the capabilities of your Massachusetts state police divers.

BIRD: Well, the underwater recovery for the Massachusetts State Police are trained forensic divers. That means that they've trained extensively in recovering of bodies, as well as objects that may be used as evidence in court cases. It wouldn't be unusual for them go into murky waters to retrieve weapons, and things such as that. Therefore, under the right conditions, they would be the ideal divers for a situation such as we're looking at.

BLITZER: If your divers are now involved in the search operation.

BIRD: Are they now involved?

BLITZER: How much divers are now involved?

BIRD: We have a team of six divers here on stand-by. As soon as an area has been pinpointed that seems promising for a dive, they will be deployed with the assistance of the Coast Guard.

BLITZER: OK. Captain Robert Bird, I want to thank you so much for waiting patiently. Thanks for updating us on the latest involvement of the Massachusetts State Police. And now to tell us a little bit more about the aircraft that John Kennedy was piloting is Drew Steketee of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

Mr. Steketee, how dangerous, based on the conditions that you are familiar with, was this flight that John Kennedy was on?

STEKETEE: Normally a trip to Martha's Vineyard in a single engine airplane is not dangerous and that is why it is a pilots favorite, with the right choice of routes you can stay well within gliding distance. The issue is, if you turn to the south you are facing open ocean. On a moon

lit night any pilot can suffer spatial disorientation. I'm sure that's what federal investigators will be looking at in addition to other issues.

BLITZER: Based on the experience that John Kennedy had as a pilot, was this wise or as some are saying, reckless of him to engage in a night flight like this from New Jersey to Martha's Vineyard.

STEKETEE: I wouldn't call it restless...

BLITZER: Reckless.

STEKETEE: Yes, reckless. Even with a private pilot certificate you still get instrument training to allow you to control the airplane in emergency, and to recover from unusual latitude should you suffer spatial disorientation.

BLITZER: But he was not licensed, with the flight -- to fly that kind of instrument training.

STEKETEE: He did not have an instrument rating but he was working on one. But even a private pilot just starting out without the instrument rating does get the basic training in instrument flying.

BLITZER: Tell us something about the plane he was flying, this Piper Saratoga.

STEKETEE: Well, it's a 6 seat high performance single engine airplane. Flies nearly 200 miles an hour, about 160 knots. Among its class it is probably the more docile of the group. And in fact, our magazine, AOPA Pilot, just reviewed it coincidentally this month and it called -- praised the docile hand and called it a good step-up airplane from the average four seat general aviation plane that is more ubiquitous in the fleet.

BLITZER: Based on the search that you're familiar with what's developed so far, over the past couple days, what's your assessment?

STEKETEE: Well, the decision is up to federal investigators for probable cause. They will be looking at possible loss of control due to spatial disorientation, possible control flight into terrain, in this case the sea surface. They will be looking at the fuel taken out of the departure airport, and how much fuel was in one wing because the piper aircraft requires a manual switch of fuel tanks.

BLITZER: OK, Drew Steketee, it was kind of you to join us on LATE EDITION. Thank you so much. We have to take a short break but we'll be back with more in-depth discussion on John F. Kennedy, Jr. and the Kennedy family. Joining us will be historian Douglass Brinkley, CNN senior analyst Jeff Greenfield, and author Lee Rainie. Stay with us.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.: Over a quarter century ago, my father stood before you to accept the nomination for the presidency of the United States. So many of you came into public service because of him. In a very real sense, because of you, he is with us still.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: John F. Kennedy, Jr. speaking at the 1988 Democratic convention in Atlanta.

Joining us now to talk more about John F. Kennedy and his family are three guests. In New York, historian Douglas Brinkley, a contributing editor for John Kennedy's George magazine. Here in Washington, CNN Senior Analyst Jeff Greenfield, who served as a speechwriter for the late Robert Kennedy, and U.S. News and World Report's Lee Rainie, author of the book ``Growing Up Kennedy.''

A programming note: Around 3:30 at the White House, later today, 3:30 p.m. eastern time, President Clinton will be making a statement on the search for John F. Kennedy's airplane. We will of course bring that to you live when it happens.

Let's begin with Douglas Brinkley. Douglas, tell us about John Kennedy, Jr.

BRINKLEY: Well, I enjoyed just seeing the clip run of him speaking in the 1988 Democratic convention, and you could see just how forceful a speaker he was. Even though little clip -- and that was 10 years past --

you could see a kind of -- feel a kind of charisma and excitement about him, and one can only wonder what his future in American politics would have been.

I think, though, now, when there is still that slim hope that somehow that, you know, there will be a positive outcome, and I know it's slim indeed. But I think when one reflects on John, it's really the personal person, the great sense of humor and self-deprecation, the enjoyment of ribbing, being ribbed and ribbing others, and I think kind of the gentleness of him.

Numerous times I've seen people have come up to the streets when I was meeting him for lunch or something, and people would come to him, and he was always so gracious to everybody. It was never this thing like get out of my way, or move on. He would almost stop, and with perfect posture and almost do a little bow. And if somebody wanted to give him a gift or wanted to take a picture -- particularly if it was a common citizen, which is different, than, I think the media, he would always oblige.

And I think in this week we will hear a lot of testimonies of people that knew John that will be telling you about this sort of warm, special, intelligent, interesting individual that if he is not here with us, he's going to be greatly missed.

BLITZER: What makes him different, Lee Rainie, from other Kennedy kids? What stood out as you were writing your book ``Growing Up Kennedy?''

RAINIE: Both John and Caroline were raised in a very different environment from lots of their other cousins. Jackie Kennedy Onassis was very concerned about keeping them in as normal an environment as possible, and particularly after their father was assassinated, keeping them protected from a rather dangerous world. So they weren't nearly as competitive as some of their other cousins.

They also lived in much bigger fish bowl than the rest of them did. I think that could have disorienting. The most interesting part about his life is that he was so playful and so comfortable with who he was, and as Douglas Brinkley was saying, he really had a purpose, and the story of his life, the narrative of how his life is unfolding was that he was going to be man of consequence and he was moving on.

BLITZER: Jeff, you live in New York, he lives in New York. Your paths cross from time to time.

GREENFIELD: Occasionally. I mean, actually, my daughter was coming home from a Knick game two weeks ago. It was about midnight. And John Kennedy, Jr. was on crutches from this recent accident, on the subway platform waiting to go home to TriBeCa. Not a chauffeured limousine, not an entourage -- just him on his crutches waiting for the train. Given what he must have gone through, from the moment of his birth, given the fact that -- I kept trying to picture what would it be like.

You're having a fight with companion or your wife and somebody is taping it and selling to it a tabloid television show or to a tabloid for thousands of dollars because you are John F. Kennedy, Jr. -- to have become this very kind of easy-going fellow, who wore this mantle -- he knew who he was, he knew he wasn't John Smith. He was John Kennedy. And I think he had a certain detached, almost ironic sense of humor about it, the way Bobby and Jack did about life. I thought it was an astonishing thing was able to behave that way, given what must have been aimed at him.

BLITZER: Was it astonishing in your mind he became a pilot?

GREENFIELD: You know, there is a lot of speculation -- and that's what it is -- a lot of debate about whether or not there is a certain dangerous streak in the Kennedys, whether they court danger. I think Lee and Doug can probably speak to that much better than I, but, no, I mean, look at the family. I mean, they're whitewater rafting, they're mountain climbers, they sail, you know, in those waters. They always have

a certain amount of-- I don't know whether you think it was a danger or not.

RAINIE: It's a very competitive family, and almost anybody drawn into their orbit was drawn into their competitions, and John and Caroline certainly participated -- though not nearly at the level of fervor that some of their other cousins did. But he was a pretty safe guy. He was playing by the rules with this flight, it was done in the right way. We could wish that he filed a flight plan and had visual -- better training or more training on stuff, but he was doing it the right way. And all the stories that are when he thought there might be danger in his path he got professional people to help him with it.

BLITZER: Douglas, some of us would consider rollerblading pretty dangerous and reckless, at our age. You have the added advantage of knowing John Kennedy. Why was he doing these kinds of things?

BRINKLEY: I don't think there's anything that unusual about him. I do think like Roosevelt, John Junior and the Kennedy family is in the arena and they're living a vigorous life. There is -- they want to seize life by the scruff of neck, and so hiking and mountain climbing and kayaking are natural. I think there was an -- John had a great interest in transportation, a great love of rivers, for example. Kayaking was that individual in the boat going down a river and fighting with the river, which I know he enjoyed.

BRINKLEY: But, I think the aviation was something that was to him, that he liked talking about and thinking about it. And getting a pilots license was, at first it made some perfect sense, because he traveled a lot between Washington and Massachusetts, and to be able to leave when he wanted to and go when he wanted to instead of boarding a commercial airline.

But secondly, just a great love of the skies and a great love of either whole tradition of aviation and to me it was very natural and nothing at all particularly reckless about his love of kayaking or roller-blading or aviation.

GREENFIELD: There's a point I want to make beyond the personal -- because for tens of millions of people, this is what this shock is about. 1960 -- we go from the oldest elected president to the youngest elected president. You don't have to hit anybody over the head to see the symbolism of that. The World War II fighters now are going to lead the country. Seventeen days after that election, this baby boom child is born, I mean, you cannot help but understand what that means, and John Kennedy said that day, we prepare for a new administration and a new baby.

And in a sense, he is the kid who represents a kid born in the midst of the most optimistic time you can imagine and then to have gone through with his family and now, almost certainly him, all of these disasters, it's one of the big reasons why I think it hits home so much.

When he was born, all of our parents were coming into their own at that time.

RAINIE: We watched this family grow up. It was like the Truman Show, they were thrust in the front of the cameras from the moment of their infancy, and it could have been enormously disorienting and it's such a testament, particularly to Jackie Kennedy that she brought these kids up the way she did, and stood for them. She would say at times when the family was trying to draw them in, the way I bring them up is the most important thing in my life -- nothing else will matter if I screw it up, and he's a testament to that.

BLITZER: You know, Douglas, though, some are making the point that John Kennedy very close to his mother, waited to get his pilots license until after she passed away.

BRINKLEY: Well, I don't know if that's true or not. It very well might be. I think it just takes some time, and I know in the past year he was doing all of his right practice flights and things, anxious to finally get

the pilots license and anybody is.

But I think there is something here. I would pull John Kennedy, Jr. away from the Kennedy family so much and just talk about him as this individual, and I think for people my age, I'm 38 which was the same age as John, Jr., the loss is a generational loss. It's as if there's a kind of wave that just broke, and there's a deadening feel on a generational level. By that I mean, I did not know John Kennedy, or could remember him.

I was three years old at the time of the assassination, I can even remember that famous photograph of the salute, but throughout my life, whether I was in elementary school or high school or onto college or graduate school and to my profession as historian, John, Jr. was in the press. People were tracking him -- he was around, he was very open in generational way in New York City. He would go show up at the New Yorikan (ph) poets cafe or to a rock concert, or as Jeff mentioned, you know go to a Knicks game and take the subway.

He was part of the culture, and I think he contributed to my generation, a kind of good-natured glamour if you like. A rye, nonchalantness that at many times pointed out that life could be fun, that life is serious. The politics is serious, but without humor, it's all not worth it, and I think it's -- that's the kind -- there's a generational deadening here where people my age are going recall, I think this week, is when something part of our youth died.

BLITZER: Lee, why George magazine -- did he do this instead of doing what so many people wanted him to do, run for elected office.

RAINIE: I think it probably might have been a stepping stone to other aspects of public life, but the family has always been interested in the media and wanting to participate in it. He was also trying something that was very special. His parent's generation and certainly his grandfather, the politics of the Kennedy's were known in a binary way. It was good and evil, John was trying to attempt a synthesis. He was meeting with people that his parents would have considered anathema -- Richard Mellon Scaife, one of the arch conservatives in this country. Meeting with George Wallace, one his father's and uncles biggest antagonists in the administration. There was an interesting synthesis that was going on in his life and I think that's partly what Doug Brinkley is talking about. We've lost something because that vision might not be as powerful anymore.

BLITZER: You know Jeff, you were a very young kid, you were writing speeches for Bobbie Kennedy when he was branded a carpet bagger in New York State.

GREENFIELD: Actually I was in college when he came to New York, and I was deeply suspicious. I waited until he had been here awhile, and joined his staff after law school.

BLITZER: So he's no longer being branded a carpetbagger. But go through the generations -- the Kennedy's and what we're seeing now, and share with us your thoughts on how you see this young John Kennedy, Jr. emerging from that legacy.

GREENFIELD: What you have -- it was kind of interesting, I'll try to keep this brief. When the Vietnam War began to escalate, there was a kind of gap between John Kennedy and the Robert Kennedy supporters. John Kennedy was seen by some as a person who had gotten us into the war, kind of the imperial -- the imperial America, and Robert was seen as the guy who was going to get that legacy back from that. There was not -- there was some tension between the John and Robert Kennedy folk.

GREENFIELD: His death, I think, kind of think ended that, and with Teddy Kennedy failing the presidency, that generation had had that shot, but then you look at Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, lieutenant Governor of Maryland, quite possibly the next governor of Maryland.

Joe Kennedy, Jr. former congressman but clearly with apolitical future. Patrick from Rhode Island. Robert Junior, an environmental activist in New York, and there were those who did see John Kennedy, Jr. the man who

bore the name, as some day maybe fulfilling what a lot of people thought that '88 clip was about. Maybe stepping into the arena.

I think what it means really, is that you're now talking about 40 years plus where the Kennedy's have cast a shadow, for some people a bright one, for some people I'm sure a dark one over American political life, and the fact that there's this whole other generation now emerging to perhaps move to the leadership, it's just an astonishing fact of life. And when you combine with what's happened to that family, it separates it from all the other political dynasties in the country.

BLITZER: Douglas Brinkley, you wrote for George magazine, the editor, John Kennedy, Jr. A lot of people think he only gave his name to that magazine, really didn't have much hands-on involvement. Was he much of an editor, did he have a hands-on involvement?

BRINKLEY: Absolute hands-on editor-in-chief. And incidentally formed an incredible bond with the people at George. Richard Blow, (ph) who's the editor now, and Bis Mitchell (ph) before him and all the other people there. I think it was like a family atmosphere with John, as the head of it.

But he took ideas from people, loved to talk to everybody, but final decisions he made on his own. I once, not long ago had lunch with him, and he walked over to a library up in the upper East Side where he was writing intro to one of the issues, and I went into the library with him, and he sat down and showed me where he was writing this. I was amazed, it was a public library and here he was in this table, doing that and he was -- in a very much into this and as it was said, I mean I think the interviews he did for that magazine, I mean, to going and talking to George Wallace and reaching out, or the interest in talking to a Carl Sagan or a Fidel Castro or a Larry Flynt or what it might be.

It showed he was trying to understand all aspects, every crook and eddy of American culture. He was not afraid to say, what is punk rock or why do these young people like this, or why are senior citizens complaining about this.

He wanted to know it all. I felt he was a kind of a sponge of American culture and when I thought was going to take all that and build it up in himself as an arsenal which would eventually come forward in American political life in some kind of electoral realm.

BLITZER: You've studied, Lee, the other Kennedy, this generation the Kennedy kids, as they're called. Who is going to step up, you heard Jeff mention a few names. What should we be looking for?

RAINIE: I wouldn't look for one person to step up. They have been -- been trained in a lot of things, but most important of all, is their social mortgage to this country. They feel like they owe the country something, they've been schooled in the Catholic rites that they ought to give something back in return for the things that they've been given. So almost all of them are in public life in one way or another. You have to look at Kathleen Townsend as just pointed out, not only potential governors candidate in Maryland also -- also talked about as potential vice presidential candidate. Patrick Kennedy is moving up in the hierarchy of the Democratic Party. All of them have some role to play and it might be the media. I mean, Maria Shriver is a huge force in our business.

BLITZER: And speaking about the media, we only have a few seconds Jeff. Put your media observer hat on, and tell us are we the media going over board right now, or are we doing it right?

GREENFIELD: We always go overboard in a story like this. There's too many of us, and there are only so many things to say. But I must say, contrary to other stories where I think that case can be pounded home, this a lot of things that we do the public I think doesn't care about. I think they're into this story because it is too much of a touch stone in the lives of tens of millions to have seen this kid literally born suffer, survive, and now apparently end his life, I hope not, but probably. No.

You can fault us individually for you know, stressing it too much, but this is a big deal in America, unfortunately.

BLITZER: Jeff Greenfield, Lee Rainie, Douglas Brinkley, thanks so much to all of you for joining us on this sad day. When we return, the impact of the Kennedy's on the nation, we will go 'round the table with Roberts, Page, and Carlson and also, don't forget around 3:30 this afternoon, President Clinton will be at the White House, with a statement on the search for John Kennedy's plane. LATE EDITION will be right back.

BLITZER: Time for the LATE EDITION roundtable. Joining me, Susan Page, White House Bureau Chief for USA Today; Steve Roberts, contributing editor for U.S. News & World Report; and Tucker Carlson, political writer for the Weekly Standard. Steve, you've lived through an ordeal sort of like this. Tell us -- tell us about the wait.

ROBERTS: Well, my father-in-law, the late Hale Boggs, was a member of Congress, the majority leader of the House at the time. He was lost over Alaska 27 years ago.

BLITZER: Your wife, Cokie Roberts' father.

ROBERTS: He was there campaigning for another member, and we went through a similar process of search and not knowing. You have three reactions: on the one hand, you know immediately that there is probably no hope. And yet on a whole other level, you suspend belief and you hope against hope that there will be survivors. And you don't want to lose faith with the people who are lost, in almost a mystical way.

The second thing is that the normal process of grief is really dammed up. And you want to be able to express those emotions and you can't quite in that waiting period.

And the third thing is you're haunted then and haunted for the rest of your life by the 'what-if' question. What if they hadn't gone? What if the weather had been better? What if they had made other judgments? It's a very special period and one that I certainly can identify with.

BLITZER: And they never found his body.

ROBERTS: Never found any wreckage at all. And for our case, it was three months before we held a memorial service. And that was a very unusual circumstance, but no trace of my father-in-law's wreckage was ever found.

BLITZER: Tucker, you're younger than Steve. You're a lot younger than I am. The Kennedy legacy on your generation, what did it mean for you?

CARLSON: Well, I mean, obviously, I'm too young have to remembered the assassination. I mean, just, you know, ever since I've been alive, the Kennedys have been -- not, I mean, from my point of view not even associated with politics as much as with simply fame.

I mean, I remember going to party that John Kennedy gave a couple years ago, I think at one of the conventions. And seeing him sort of so surrounded by people that he couldn't even leave to get a drink. I remember feeling awfully sorry for him. He seemed to be a decent person in my limited dealings with him after that, despite all attention. But the salient image in my mind is just being crushed by people pushing forward hoping to touch him. It must have been awful.

BLITZER: Susan, we have another clip from John Kennedy's speech at the Democratic convention in 1988. Listen to what he told Democrats.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KENNEDY: I'm not a political leader, but I can speak for those of my age who have been inspired by Teddy to give their energy and their ideas to their community, and not just to themselves.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: There is no doubt that President Kennedy also inspired President Bill Clinton.

PAGE: That's right. There is a connection there. There are few figures in modern American political life who just have -- who just rang through the history that follows him. Ronald Reagan is one, John Kennedy was one,

FDR was another.

I was in the hall when John Kennedy, Junior gave that speech at the convention in Atlanta. And I remember he came into the convention hall that afternoon before the convention was underway to kind of scope out how things would be.

And I remember how he was just surrounded by almost groupies, just so eager to touch him or have their picture taken with him, and how gracious he was. It seems to me -- and I didn't know John Kennedy, Jr. that he spent his life trying to live his life, not someone else's life. Not the life his father left him. And I hope that if this is now the end of his life, that he is remembered for his own person and not as some kind of icon representing his family or other forces.

ROBERTS: I'm left with three snapshots of three different Kennedys. I was a freshman in college when John Kennedy was elected president. And I was at Harvard and he came to Harvard before his inauguration, and there was a tremendous sense of excitement that Jeff Greenfield and others have talked about. And my whole generation, really was left with -- marked by his commitment to service.

And I covered Robert Kennedy as a senator, and I remember being at a St. Patrick's Day lunch with him once, and it became in my mind the definition of charisma. It was as if he was in color, and everybody else in the room was in black and white. There was just a special dimension.

But I also covered Edward Kennedy's run for the presidency in 1980. And I remember deciding that I was going to do article for the New York Times about how the Kennedy myth would make him president. And I wound up doing an article about how the Kennedy myth would destroy his candidacy, and I was in a -- they were great myth makers, the Kennedys, and they worked very hard at it. And I was in a Dubuque, Iowa, and there was more applause when Ted came into the room than when he left. And he could not live up to their myth that the Kennedys had created, and that in some ways was one of the great burdens he carried.

BLITZER: You know, Tucker, among conservatives, the name Kennedy traditionally has not been revered that much. But John Kennedy, Jr., as editor of George magazine, tried to be -- and I read that magazine -- as nonpartisan, bringing in all sort of various viewpoints: Tony Blankley, a guest on this program, who is a conservative former spokesman for Newt Gingrich, as well as Paul Begala, who was one of the president's closest aides. Did -- how did conservatives view John Kennedy, Jr.?

CARLSON: I think as a nice guy. I mean, there's been -- you heard a lot of people this last day say, well, this may have been a stepping stone to public service. This was public service. I mean, he was a magazine publisher. I mean that's -- in my estimation, anyway, much more admirable than being some ninth string Congressman or a lieutenant governor or a lot of other jobs one could have in office. He was doing a service for the country. And anyone who thinks this is stepping stone may be right, I don't see evidence of it, though. He seemed like good editor, he seemed like

a hands-on editor, when I wrote for him, he -- I don't know, seemed like he was actually editing.

ROBERTS: He actually talked about that. He contemplated. He once had a conversation with Cokie -- and both of their fathers had been politicians and had been good friends -- and he talked about how the next generation, in Cokie's case and his case, they had chosen the media as their form of public service. And he even asked Cokie at one point, do you think our fathers would be politicians today, or would they be in the media like us? And in some ways, his view

BLITZER: Susan, you have the last word.

PAGE: Although he never ruled out the idea of running for office, there was some speculation that he might be a candidate for the New York Senate

seat that Hillary Clinton now seems to be running for, so it's not as though it was one career would rule out the other.

BLITZER: OK, Susan Page, Tucker Carlson, Steve Roberts, on this sad day, thanks for joining us, and when we return, we will reveal what's on the cover of this week's major news magazines in United States. And Bruce Morton has the last word.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MORTON: I think it's not so much one person as the family which has taken an extraordinary place in Americans hearts. Whether it's the glamour of Camelot as the Kennedy administration is remembered, or the sadness of all things that have gone wrong...

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Bruce Morton on the world's continuing connection with the Kennedy's.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: For Bruce Morton's last word on the Kennedy's celebrity, and a long time fascination.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

REPORTER: A plane believed to be carrying John F. Kennedy Junior has gone missing.

MORTON: I looked up Saturday afternoon, CNN had been on the air with the John Kennedy story all day. Fair enough, it's an all news network, but checking the monitors on the newsroom wall, I realized everybody else was on the air too. There were Brokaw and Jennings, and Rather all on the air, had been for hours.

When President Kennedy died, I was overseas, and we were shipping film back of how the British were mourning the assassinated American president.

REPORTER: President Kennedy died at 1:00 p.m. central standard time.

MORTON: The broadcast networks stayed on for days, and helped knit the country back together. It was a very big story, a president murdered.

When Apollo 11 landed on the moon, 30 years ago this coming Tuesday, the network I then worked for stayed on the air the whole time. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were on the moon, 20 some hours. It was a very big story, man walking around on a place that wasn't Earth.

But this time, John Kennedy is a celebrity of course, he's rich and famous, is the publisher of a much-talked about magazine, but he is not a president, nor a head of state, so what is it that generated so much coverage?

The parallel may not be President Kennedy nor Apollo, but Princess Diana, a celebrity who somehow had taken an extraordinary place in the hearts of everyday British people. "A personal princess," one man described her to me, meaning that he felt as if he knew her, even though, of course, they'd never met.

In John Kennedy's case, I think it's not so much one person as the family, which has taken an extraordinary place in America's hearts. Whether it's the glamour of Camelot, as the Kennedy administration is remembered, or the sadness of all the things that have gone wrong for the Kennedy's since, the murdered president, his murdered brother, and so on.

Somehow, the Kennedy's mean something to Americans, linked to success, or sadness or whatever, they are in our hearts and souls to stay. Coverage will continue. I'm Bruce Morton.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

BLITZER: Thanks Bruce. Now a look at what's on the cover of this week's major U.S. news magazines, in the United States. U.S. News calls it "The Kennedy Curse," with John Kennedy, Jr. and wife Carolyn on the cover.

Time has is a commemorative issue with John Kennedy Jr. "Boy and Man," on the cover.

And John Kennedy's also on the cover of Newsweek magazine with a report called: "A Kennedy Family Tragedy."

That's your LATE EDITION for Sunday, July 18th. Stay with CNN for

continuing coverage of the Kennedy story including a statement by President Clinton at approximately 3:30 p.m. Eastern, and be sure to catch us Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. Eastern for LATE EDITION: PRIME TIME. As always, we'll be back again next Sunday at noon eastern for the last word in Sunday talk. For now, thanks very much for watching.

I'm Wolf Blitzer in Washington.

END

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TEXT:

Good morning.

Here are summaries of today's top news from the front page of The New York Times.

Barak Pins Hopes for Mideast Peace on Next 15 Months

Ehud Barak has set a target deadline of 15 months for achieving a comprehensive framework for peace in the Middle East, a timeline chosen in part to dovetail with the American political calendar and the presidential election, Israeli officials said on Sunday.

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/world/mideast/071999us-israel.html>

Cone Throws a Perfect Game

David Cone dazzled the Montreal Expos with a wide assortment of pitches Sunday, throwing the 16th perfect game in major league history to lead the Yankees to a 6-0 victory.

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/sports/baseball/071999bba-yanks.html>

Rescue Effort Ends for 3 on Kennedy Plane

After two days of searching and holding out hope of survivors, authorities conceded late Sunday that John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and her sister likely are dead.

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/national/regional/071999kennedy-missing.html>

Milosevic Foe Says Give Him Immunity to Get Him to Quit

A leading Serbian opposition politician says the best way to get President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia out of power is to seduce him to resign, promising him immunity from arrest or extradition.

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/world/europe/071999yugo-draskovic.html>

Prosperity Builds Mounds of Cast-Off Clothes

Americans bought 17.2 billion articles of clothing in 1998 -- a 16 percent increase over 1993, according to NPG Group, a market research concern in Port Washington, N.Y. -- and gave the Salvation Army alone several hundred million pieces, well over 100,000 tons.

<http://www.nytimes.com/yr/mo/day/news/national/recycled-clothes.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/politics/071999campaign-donations.html>

War in Congo Rattles On Despite Accord

More than a week after the signing of a cease-fire accord to end the war in Congo, the fighting continues. The rebels say they have captured more territory and the countries embroiled in the year-old conflict are trading accusations that the agreement has been violated.

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/world/africa/071999congo-conflict.html>

Complex Telephone Takeover Battle Ends in Compromise

One of the fiercest takeover battles in recent years has ended in a gentlemen's agreement, with the telecommunications rivals Qwest Communications International Inc. and Global Crossing Ltd. agreeing to split the spoils between them.

<http://www.nytimes.com/yr/mo/day/news/financial/qwest-global.html>

For Van de Velde, a Crushing Collapse, and for Lawrie, a Soaring Comeback

The unlikely winner of the British Open Sunday was Paul Lawrie of Scotland, who started the day 10 strokes off the lead, but pulled off the greatest final-round comeback ever in a major championship.

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/sports/golf/071999glf-british-open.html>

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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: "Kurtz, James" <JKurtz@ida.org> ("Kurtz, James" <JKurtz@ida.org> [UNKNOWN

CREATION DATE/TIME: 19-JUL-1999 08:13:35.00

SUBJECT: FW: MILINET: 19 July NMIA ZGram

[001]

TO: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)c [UNKNOWN
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Pikus, Irv" <ipikus@ntia.doc.gov> ("Pikus, Irv" <ipikus@ntia.doc.gov> [UNKNOWN
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Mark C. Montgomery (CN=Mark C. Montgomery/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Lacombe, Phil" <placombe@veridian.com> ("Lacombe, Phil" <placombe@veridian.com>
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Keyes, David" <dkeyes@kpmg.com> ("Keyes, David" <dkeyes@kpmg.com> [UNKNOWN]
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Joyce, William B." <wbjoyce@erols.com> ("Joyce, William B." <wbjoyce@erols.com>
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Consilvio, Julie" <JConsilv@ida.org> ("Consilvio, Julie" <JConsilv@ida.org> [
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Burt, Pat" <pburt@ntia.doc.gov> ("Burt, Pat" <pburt@ntia.doc.gov> [UNKNOWN]
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Brinkerhoff, John" <JBrinkerxx@aol.com> ("Brinkerhoff, John" <JBrinkerxx@aol.c
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Zeichner, Lee M." <admin@leglnet.com> ("Zeichner, Lee M." <admin@leglnet.com>
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Virdi, Sona" <Sona.Virdi@ml.irs.gov> ("Virdi, Sona" <Sona.Virdi@ml.irs.gov> [
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Owens, Mac" <owensm@nwc.navy.mil> ("Owens, Mac" <owensm@nwc.navy.mil> [UNKNOW
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Kind, Peter A." <pkind@y2k.gov> ("Kind, Peter A." <pkind@y2k.gov> [UNKNOWN]
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: jrpowers@us.net (jrpowers@us.net [UNKNOWN])
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Hovey, Mike" <mhovey@idefense.com> ("Hovey, Mike" <mhovey@idefense.com> [UNKN
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Collins, John" <Warlord21@aol.com> ("Collins, John" <Warlord21@aol.com> [UNKN
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Brown, Bruce" <BROWNBK@MSN.COM> ("Brown, Bruce" <BROWNBK@MSN.COM> [UNKNOWN]
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Black, Peter" <petermblack@att.net> ("Black, Peter" <petermblack@att.net> [UN

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

-----Original Message-----

From: MAJUSMCRET@aol.com [mailto:MAJUSMCRET@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, July 19, 1999 6:11 AM

To: undisclosed-recipients

Subject: MILINET: 19 July NMIA ZGram

19 July 1999 ZGram

Good Morning All,

This past weekend the Internet has been flooded with prayers and condolences for John F. Kennedy Jr. who has likely met with an untimely end. America Online Inc. said Sunday that tens of thousands of messages had poured in at a rate not seen since the 1997 death of Princess Diana in a Paris car crash, and certainly I believe many of our readers have joined in either written or silent prayers.

A darker side of the Internet reared its head just as quickly however. The ZGram email inbox has been swamped with messages from people all over the world - most of whom I do not know - providing me with the "inside story" on the apparent death of John Kennedy Jr. - stories, threats and warnings with which I will not bother you - people looking for a few minutes worth of fame or a few dollars for a story.

This barrage of email messages in addition to two recent events had me contemplating the current state of ethics. Last week I witnessed two unrelated situations in which people were sadly disappointed by "friends" who gave up their right to be called a friend - all for a few dollars; in one case to gain a few dollars (probably less than \$6,000), in one case to save a few dollars (less than \$1,000).

So a buddy and I started searching the Web to see what information is available on ethics - lots! There are plenty of pages on medical ethics, engineering ethics, ethics in journalism, and there are even groups offering seminars on how to be ethical in both your personal and business life. After a lot of searching and conversing we came to the conclusion that while establishing ethical procedures for handling a new technology may be appropriate, on a person to person level ethics is one quality adults either have or they don't. Take solace in your own and pick your friends carefully.

Today's Updates:

3. Russia Has Secret Chemical Weapons Store - Norwegian Paper (Russia Today, 16 July 1999)

4. Two arrested for stealing fissile substance in Russia (Itar-Tass, 15 July 1999)

17. AT&T WorldNet Service Detects Credit Card Scam (Contributed by Harry Hann)

18. More Scams (Internet ScamBusters, #33, 16 July 1999)

3. Russia Has Secret Chemical Weapons Store -
Norwegian Paper (Russia Today, 16 July 1999)

OSLO -- For the last 15 years Russia has been operating a secret plant for producing and storing deadly chemical weapons just east of Murmansk on the Kola peninsula, the Norwegian daily Verdens Gang said on Thursday.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<underline><color><param>0000,0000,00FF</param><http://www.russiatoday.com/bulletin/bulletin.php3news.php3?id=79287&html>

4. Two arrested for stealing fissile substance in
Russia (Itar-Tass, 15 July 1999)

MURMANSK - The story with the arrest of three people who were trying to sell fissile material illegally, caused alarm among Murmansk residents. Technician Nikolai Yefimovich, 43, and engine-driver Yevgeny Balan, 50, are charged with stealing 17 kilograms of mercury and several grammes of californium-252 from a radioactive waste dump near Murmansk in northern Russia and trying to sell them.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://library.northernlight.com/FA19990715770000032.html?cb=0&dx=1006&sc=0>

do

17. AT&T WorldNet Service Detects Credit Card Scam (Contributed by Harry Hann)

A number of Internet Service Providers, including AT&T WorldNet Service, have recently detected a scam that attempts to fraudulently obtain individuals' credit card numbers through e-mail. The AT&T WorldNet Service Fraud & Security team is working with outside agencies to shut this scam down. We wanted to notify you about this issue now to protect you from releasing your confidential credit card information to people who may use it without your permission.

Some AT&T WorldNet Service members may have received e-mail with messages such as "Urgent message regarding your AT&T Net account" and "Information concerning your AT&T Account." These e-mails fraudulently state that due to billing problems, AT&T WorldNet Service members are required to resubmit their credit card information or risk losing their Internet access. AT&T WorldNet Service did NOT send nor authorize these e-mails.

PLEASE NOTE -- AT&T WorldNet Service will never request its members to provide credit card or password information through e-mail. For your

safety, we strongly recommend that you not provide credit card, password or financial information via e-mail to any individual or company.

If you receive an e-mail requesting your credit card information, or any other personal financial information, including passwords please forward it (including the full header) to: <abuse@att.net> with "Credit Card Fraud" in the Subject: line.

Thank you.

Michael J. Chaplo
Marketing Vice President
AT&T WorldNet Service

18. More Scams (Internet ScamBusters, #33, 16 July 1999)

In addition to the bank account fraud and overpriced survival kits, there are some new Y2K scams, including bogus Y2K insurance, credit card cons, and computer-sellers who trick people into replacing their PCs because their supposedly "non-compliant" systems might explode. Here are a few details:

One of the most popular Y2K scams tries to get you to divulge your credit card information. For example, someone calls claiming to be a service representative from your credit card company. The caller claims that in order to deal with Y2K problems, the credit card company is sending out replacement strips to stick over the magnetic strip on the back of your credit card. The caller goes on to say that if you don't get the replacement, you won't be able to use your cards starting January 1, 2000. Then, the caller asks for your credit card account number for "verification."

NEVER give out your credit card number - or any other personal information - to people who call over the phone or who send you emails requesting it.

(If you would like to subscribe to Internet ScamBusters send an email to scambusters@scambusters.org and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject field.)

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: earlybird-alert-owner@mail2.cloakroom.com@INET@LNGTWY (earlybird-alert-own

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 08:29:06.00

SUBJECT: EARLYBIRDS ARE UP!

TO: Steven J. Naplan@eop (Steven J. Naplan@eop [NSC])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Deborah B. Mohile@eop (Deborah B. Mohile@eop [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Today's Earlybirds are now available on
National Journal's Cloakroom:
<http://www.cloakroom.com/members/news/earlybird/>

This morning's headlines at 8:30 a.m.:

Hotline Earlybird: The Kennedy crash, Forbes' decision to switch,
California special plans and Gore's campaign strategy.
<http://cloakroom.com/members/news/earlybird/hotline.htm>

Greenwire Earlybird: Ocean-warming warnings, activist-corporate
partnerships and a clean-fuel breakthrough.
<http://cloakroom.com/members/news/earlybird/greenwire/>

Pundit Watch: JFK Jr., WH 2000 and Middle East peace.
<http://cloakroom.com/members/news/earlybird/pundits.htm>

TV Track: Who said what on the Sunday talk-show circuit
<http://cloakroom.com/members/news/earlybird/tvnews.htm>

Today on Cloakroom:

-- Talking Heads: While We Waited
<http://cloakroom.com/members/buzz/talkingheads.htm>

-- Daybook: Medicare Reform, U.S.-China Policy And More
<http://cloakroom.com/members/calendar/>

To stop receiving this E-mail Alert:

Reply to this message and include the word "unsubscribe" (without quotes)
in the BODY of the message.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: USIA_Media_Reaction@notesmaill.usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY (USIA_Media_Reaction@n

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 08:55:19.00

SUBJECT: Early Report 7/19: MIDEAST/CHINA-TAIWAN/SERBIA

TO: Steven J. Naplan@eop (Steven J. Naplan@eop [NSC])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

This weekend's talks between Israeli Prime Minister Barak and President Clinton dominated overseas media, with much of the discussion focusing on Israel's endeavor to secure a "marginalized" role for the U.S. in the unfolding peace process. Opinion was mixed between optimists who continued to see "hope for a breakthrough" and a "new window of opportunity," and skeptics and cynics who continued to believe that Israel was trying to finesse its way out of the Wye agreement at the "expense of the Palestinians." Most Israeli analysts were highly supportive of Mr. Barak's attempt to reduce U.S. involvement and thought, as one paper noted, it "makes a lot of sense," but cautioned that "America is not used to giving free meals." In contrast, observers in the Arab countries, as well as in Europe, worried about a reduced U.S. role, with a Syrian daily calling for "America's cosmopolitan weight" to put pressure on Mr. Barak. Questioning its role as a "neutral broker," some Israeli papers claimed that the U.S. had recently been "decidedly pro-Arab" and that "Israel remains a U.S. colony," while Arab analysts suggested, in the words of Cairo's pro-government Al Ahram, the "American way is partially responsible for the frustration that spread among both Arabs and Israelis." Within the Middle East, the most favorable views came from the Jordanian writers who continued to hold that the "picture that is emerging is very positive." European press also speculated about the role of the U.S. with London's conservative Financial Times asserting that should Mr. Clinton succeed in contributing to the peace process, "He would end his checkered presidency on a high note."

TAIWAN TENSIONS RISING, BUT PEACEFUL RESOLUTION STILL LIKELY

Foreign media commentators noted rising tensions among China, the U.S. and Taiwan over Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui's perceived policy shift away from a "one-China" policy. Beijing's Communist Party People's Daily "solemnly" warned Mr. Lee that "the one-China policy...will never be sabotaged." Hong Kong analysts advised Mr. Lee to show "more restraint" but judged that the PRC, not wanting to damage its relations with the U.S. or create sympathy for Taiwan, would not use force. German papers acknowledged that the conflict could intensify but predicted that Beijing would look for a face-saving solution with "few economic and political consequences." A South Korean daily characterized China's statement about its having "neutron bombs" as an attempt to provoke "Cold-War era" tensions to threaten Taiwan.

SERBIA: 'ATTEMPTS AT TOPPLING MILOSEVIC CONTINUE'

In sparse comment on developments in Yugoslavia, European papers focused on the growing anti-Milosevic protests in Serbia. Some cited opposition leader Vuk Draskovic's entry into the fray--by his joining Saturday's political rally in Kragujevac and "for the first time openly demanding [Milosevic's] resignation"--as the latest evidence that "opposition to Milosevic is visibly on the rise." Pundits in Russia and Hungary

speculated that the secession of Montenegro from the FRY may be inevitable.
BRIEF -- John F. Kennedy Jr.: 'America Will Mourn Its Golden Boy'
EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Irene Marr, Bill Richey

MIDEAST PEACE: U.S. ROLE AS 'MEDIATOR' QUESTIONED

ISRAEL: "No Free Meals"

Washington correspondent Orly Azolay-Katz wrote in mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot (7/18): "Ehud Barak may feel pleased with himself. His strategy is working. The Americans told him they are prepared to give Israel absolutely everything for the sake of peace agreements.... The Americans are going to bankroll Israeli military and civilian pullout from the Golan Heights, as well as provide sophisticated early warning installations.... They are even ready to send over American troops.... Barak may want reduced American involvement, but for the U.S. Israel remains an American colony.... Peace may serve Barak's personal interests but it certainly improves Bill Clinton's legacy and this is what the President is about right now--with his hugs, cunning and manipulation.... Barak has not yet tasted the last of America's sumptuous meals. He had better remember, however, that America is not used to giving free meals."

"Fresh Hopes"

Independent Haaretz said (7/18): "The public demonstration of renewed American affection restores an important diplomatic asset to the prime minister, as he embarks on tough negotiations with the Syrians and Palestinians in the coming 15 months.... The most important part of Barak's visit will begin Monday, when he and Clinton meet to sum up the tough problems the parties sorted out among themselves over the weekend.... Barak is going to get a precise picture of the financial, diplomatic and military resources the U.S. is prepared to invest in bringing peace to the Middle East. In return, Barak will have to leave on the president's desk open, secret and conditional commitments."

"American Unfairness"

Nationalist Hatzofe said (7/18): "President Clinton has been looking down upon Israel, treating us with condescension.... It follows that Barak's attempt to minimize American involvement makes a lot of sense. This is all the more true considering the fact that recently, U.S. involvement has been decidedly pro-Arab. Exploiting the image they have been projecting of being 'Israel's best friend,' the Americans have gone entirely over to the Palestinian side."

WEST BANK: "Experience With Deadlines Does Not Bode For Optimism"

In its lead editorial, independent, moderate Al-Quds opined (7/18): "The Clinton administration is dealing with Barak on the basis that he would deliver on his promises and work on reviving the peace process at the various tracks but despite the significance of the new time framework to conclude a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, our experience with previous [Israeli-set] deadlines does not bode for optimism."

"No Sacred Dates"

Semi official Al-Hayyat Al-Jadida wrote in a front-page editorial (7/18): "Since the signing of Oslo, the Israelis have invented the term 'there are no sacred dates' and have been able to convince the americans with it so as to re-negotiating already signed agreements. By using the time factor,

Israel wants to impose its own conditions on the Arab parties to give more concessions in the course of meeting the Israeli own terms for peace as long as Israel continues to violate the peace agreement, the Nov. 2000 Date will neither be sacred nor will it be observed."

"Israel Trying To Marginalize American Role"

Hani Habib, a leading columnist at independent, pro-Palestinian Authority Al-Ayyam

commented (7/18): "The U.S.-Israeli summit was concluded away from protocol norms as Prime Minister Barak was welcomed as a friend and ally following a long rupture of relations between the two countries during the regime of the ex-premier Netanyahu the Israeli premier is trying to marginalize the American role in the Middle East, and we believe that the American side will accept this marginalized role in return for a deal that will qualify Clinton to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on parallel footing with Rabin, Arafat and Peres. All this, of course, will have to take place at the expense of the Palestinians, who have previously paid for similar [deals]."

SYRIA: "Disorder In The Balance Of Powers"

Government-owned Tishreen said (7/18): "On the sidelines of his visit to Washington, Barak is currently arranging for a U.S. shipment of F-16 fighters to Israel.... Involvement in the peace process does not require armaments but sincere intentions and readiness to translate these intentions into deeds."

"Few Days For The Test"

Amid Khouli editorialized in government-owned Al-Thawra (7/17): "[Barak's] insistence on distancing America from her role as a partner in the peace process is ambiguous.... America is capable of extracting a specific and obvious political decision from Barak on peace based on the American initiative.... We hope that President Clinton will assume his personal role utilizing America's cosmopolitan weight to make Barak fulfill his promises; by this he will be able to cement the U.S. role and restore its credibility."

"The Peace Process Between Optimism And Reality"

Government-owned Al-Baath said (7/16): "A few days ago Syria announced that she is fully ready to reciprocate each Israeli positive step on peace with a parallel step; Syria believes that Netanyahu's false allegations on the Golan and the false claims on Syria's acceptance of Israel's early warning stations in the Golan are misleading attempts that cannot affect Syria's stand on peace."

EGYPT: "The Palestinian Issue Should Be Core Issue"

Ahmed Nafie, columnist, pro-government daily Al Ahram (7/16): "Truly, no one can downplay Barak's wish to start a new stage of confidence and promise to implement the international agreements Israel signed, but his talk about settlements was vague and his four No's were not tackled. In order to reach 'a historic reconciliation with Arab neighbors,' there should be a clear progress on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks based upon the Madrid formula. The Palestinian issue should be considered the core issue. This is done by implementing Wye and stopping settlements. More than any time before, the U.S. should amend its policy,

which has come to lack logic and clear international legitimacy. It is no secret that the American way is partially responsible for the frustration that spread among both Arabs and Israelis about the peace process. On Jerusalem, the U.S. should not be satisfied by just repeating the need to reach an agreement about it in the final-status talks. It should take the European lead by refusing to recognize Israel's policy toward the city. The U.S. should also pay attention to the issue of the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland. Closing all these gaps primarily depends on the U.S. position. The U.S. should put into practice the contents of the letter of assurance it sent to the Palestinian Authority and enforce a comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338."

"Palestinians Postpone Geneva Conference"

Salama Ahmed Salama, columnist, pro-government daily Al Ahram (7/18):
"While Barak was

confirming in Washington his decisive position on maintaining settlements and the intention to postpone the implementation of Wye or merge it into the final status talks, the Palestinians postponed the Geneva conference on human rights violations in the occupied territories.... For fifty years, Arabs have given Israel chances for peace. The Palestinian Authority was even more professional in giving concessions without return. Instead of admitting that, Minister Shaath threw the blame on European countries for postponing the conference. It was not strange that Amnesty International criticized the Palestinian position. When Palestinians discover that Barak's promises are mere talk, it will be too late for Shaath and his colleagues to request another conference."

JORDAN: "In Order To Take The Opportunity For Peace"

Center-left, influential Arabic daily Al-Dustur (7/19) editorialized:
"The capitals of the region are witnessing an active motion of contacts and consultations aimed at resuming the peace process and implementing the signed accords amidst a growing atmosphere of optimism and hope for a breakthrough in the peace process... This positive atmosphere must be translated into action on the ground, in the sense that Israel would implement the Wye River accord in deed and not in words, would implement the rest of the interim accords and would prepare for the final status negotiations... According to many statements, establishing peace is possible within a few months. This is on condition that Israel truly has genuine intentions to do so and to abide by the requirements and the commitments."

"Historical Opportunity"

Centrist, influential among the elite English daily Jordan Times (7/18) editorialized: "Israeli Prime Minister Barak's trip to Washington for talks with President Clinton on the state of the peace process has been hailed as offering a new window of opportunity for peace in the Middle East. The Israeli leader has convinced Clinton that peace in the region is going to be his government's top priority... The picture that is emerging is very positive, and that's why delivery on peace must take place soon, before this general sense of optimism dissipates.... All Arab leaders involved in negotiations with Israel are on the record as willing to engage him in meaningful talks leading to final settlement. He needs to reciprocate. But most importantly he needs to mobilize the peace forces in Israel to convince the skeptics that a historical opportunity for a historical settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict exists and it depends on how much Israel is going to concede."

BAHRAIN: "Two Point Make Us Skeptical About Barak"

According to Abdul Malik Salman in semi independent Arabic daily Akbar Al-Khalij 7/17: "There are two points that make us skeptical about Barak's intentions toward the Middle East peace process. First, his attempt to convince the Palestinians to give up the implementation of the Wye Agreement the second, he demanded that Clinton's and the American administration's role be more limited and restricted in the negotiations between Israel and the Arab sides the danger regarding this particular point is that we detect a desire to maneuver, aside from the possibility of American interference Barak is preparing himself for a series of negotiations that will make him appear to the world as a peace loving person and will give him enough space to maneuver"

BRITAIN: "Mood In The Middle East Suddenly Upbeat"

The independent Financial Times editorialized 7/19: "The mood in the Middle East is suddenly upbeat. Ehud Barak is being feted in Washington, where he claims that he could reach a comprehensive peace with the Palestinians, Syria and the Lebanon within the 18 months that President Clinton has left in the White House. This presents a challenge for Mr. Clinton to rise to. He would end his checkered presidency on a high note, if he could help bring lasting peace. But a settlement must be one that is truly comprehensive, providing a fair deal for the

Palestinians... A bigger risk to the peace process is that Mr. Clinton will duck the issue because of Al Gore's presidential campaign and his wife Hillary's bid for the Senate. Having offended some Jewish voters last year by calling for a Palestinian state. Mrs. Clinton has now swung the other way.... Mr. Clinton might suggest his wife read the Oslo agreement, which leaves Jerusalem for final status talks. There is now a long and bipartisan tradition of U.S. presidential engagement in Mideast peacemaking, set by Presidents Nixon, Carter and Bush. Mr. Clinton should uphold it."

GERMANY: "Barak's Slogan Is To Do Everything On His Own"

Left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau said (7/17): "General Barak learned strategic thinking from scratch. This is of great use for him as Israel's premier. In a wise manner, he acts on the stage in the Middle East. He plays the main role and works as director at the same time.... This was the case when he formed his government, and this is the case during his first visit to the United States. First of all, the premier is restructuring the set, and then he is giving the United States the role of the extra which it deserves.... Barak's slogan is to do everything on his own. He does not want peace that is dictated on him, but he wants to find a solution in cooperation with his opponents. If he succeeds, he will enter the history books of great Israeli politicians such as Begin, and Rabin and will not remain a minor player such as his predecessor Netanyahu."

"Barak Does Not Consider U.S. A Neutral Broker"

According to centrist Leipziger Volkszeitung (7/17): "When Barak announces the overdue implementation of the Wye-Plantation agreement and makes the whole process dependent on 'technical preconditions,' the former...soldier is coming to the fore again. Like Netanyahu, Barak does not consider the U.S. government a neutral broker in the political business in the Middle East and he regards the United States as too friendly to the Palestinians.

Barak was even more clear than Netanyahu when he told the U.S. president that Washington should not interfere as much as in the past in the Middle East peace process. But without U.S. mediation efforts and without U.S. billion dollar assistance for Israel, the political landscape in the Middle East would probably look different today. Gratitude is not part of the political business. And it is likely that all sides involved need to wait for a new momentum in the peace process."

ITALY: "America Can And Should Take A Step Back"

Enrico Franceschini's report from Jerusalem in left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (7/19): "Peace with the Palestinians, with Syria and with Lebanon by November 2000, i.e., before the U.S. presidential elections. This is the hope and the common goal of Ehud Barak and Bill Clinton, who agreed on this 'timetable' during their talks in Washington these days....Barak was able to establish a personal feeling and an immediate friendship with Clinton. But he asked the American president to play a new role in the peace negotiations: no longer as an arbiter and a party directly involved, limiting himself instead to 'encourage, promote and support' the negotiations. With an Israeli leader who is determined to make peace with the Arabs in the short run, in sum, America can and should take a step back."

PAKISTAN: "Barak's Peace Initiative"

Nadeem Shahid had this to say in center-right national daily The Nation (7/19)

"Will Barak be able to resolve the disputes which have generated hatred and violence in the region for decade? For one thing, extremist elements have a strong presence on both sides and they can make it difficult for their leaders to adopt a give-and-take policy in the talks which is a must for a peaceful settlement of issues between nations.... But at least he is different from his predecessor and perhaps he will be able to make a difference as far as the Middle East peace process is concerned."

TAIWAN TENSIONS RISING, BUT PEACEFUL RESOLUTION STILL LIKELY

CHINA: "Destruction Of Cross-Straits Relationship Not Allowed"

Xinhua commentator said in official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao), (7/19): "Lee's redefinition of the cross-Straits relationship embodies a last-ditch struggle before stepping down. Also, he is gambling with the future of Taiwan as well as the interests and happiness of the Taiwanese people. We solemnly warn Li Deng-hui: the 'One China policy', the foundation for the cross-straits relations, will never be sabotaged."

"He Who Splits A Country Is A Historical Sinner"

Xinhua commentator said in official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao), (7/17): "Encouraged by the recent farces played by some anti-China forces in the U.S., and U.S.-led NATO interference into Yugoslavia's internal affairs under the excuse of 'human rights overstepping sovereignty', Lee Teng-hui thought the opportunity to create 'two Chinas' or 'one China, one Taiwan' is coming.... However, his attempt is in vain. The cross-Straits relations do not in any way resemble the 'two Germanies' and his desire is only one-sided."

HONG KONG: "Lee's Miscalculation"

The independent South China Morning Post had this editorial (7/17): "Mr. Lee cannot have been unaware of the risk of setting off a chain reaction on these lines. He has given an ideal opportunity to the mainland to restate the sanctity of the 'One China' policy, and has caused embarrassment for Washington at a time when this is the last thing President Bill Clinton needs for the U.S. relationship with Beijing. The hope must be that, having made their point forcefully this week, the central authorities will now be ready to let the crisis cool down. But that requires Mr. Lee to show a good deal more restraint in future if he is not to do Taiwan, the peace of the region, and, in the end, himself unnecessary harm."

"Rows Across The Strait Will Be Limited To Verbal Disputes"

Independent Sing Tao Daily News had this editorial (7/18): "The Chinese leaders do not want China's international image to be impaired. Any form of action will prevent China from improving its relations with the U.S., and Taiwan may profit. There are strong pro-Taiwan sentiments in the U.S. Congress. Many Congressmen support including Taiwan in 'the Theatre Missile Defense system', which is strongly opposed by Beijing. If military conflicts occur in the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan may be included in the defense system and the U.S. will increase the arms supply to Taiwan. By taking these factors into consideration, Chinese leaders will tend not to use force to attack 'the two states theory'."

"U.S. Will Not Let Taiwan Work On Independence"

Independent Sing Pao Daily News had this editorial (7/19): "The U.S. does not want to see Lee Teng-hui create trouble when Sino-U.S. relations are at a low ebb. The U.S. does not want to see the speedy reunification of Taiwan and China, and it hopes Taiwan will continue to buy U.S. arms. However, in the triangular relationship between China, Taiwan and the U.S., the U.S. knows where to find the balance. That is, it must abide by the principle of 'one China'. The U.S. will not let Taiwan work on independence, for that would break up Sino-U.S. relations, and war clouds would gather. This would not be good for Asia or the world."

SOUTH KOREA: "Threatening Taiwan And Holding The U.S. In Check"

Reporter Park Chung-tae of the moderate Hankook Ilbo (7/17) wrote: "As military analysts say, the Chinese possession of neutron bombs is no longer significant. What's significant,

then, is the timing of the Chinese government's announcement of that fact. That the announcement came at all is also meaningful.... By attracting attention to neutron bombs, Cold-War era products, China is apparently trying to provoke something similar to the kind of tensions we saw during the Cold-War era. Obviously, Beijing is aiming at posing threats to Taiwan while trying to hold the U.S. in check."

GERMANY: "China Is Getting Unpredictable"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (7/19) said: "The threat to invade Taiwan is an old hat. China has always kept open this option. But China has a strong, economic interest in peace along its borders. However, with its increasingly nationalistic tones, China's leadership has put pressure on itself. And if the crisis escalates according to the old pattern, than there is the danger that Beijing intensifies the conflict even more."

"Beijing's Taiwanese Dilemma"

Sven Hansen said in left-of-center Die Tageszeitung of Berlin (7/19): "A military attack could further isolate China and would have unforeseeable economic consequences. The decision is made even more difficult because of the power struggle between reformers and hardliners. The controversy is increasing pressure on the reformers under Premier Zhu Rongji who are on the defensive anyway. Their policy of constructive cooperation with the West could be further damaged. Party leader Jiang Zemin has not yet made up his mind. He seems to look for a solution that will save Beijing's face, has little economic and political consequences and will not give the supporters of Taiwan's independence a new momentum."

ITALY: "Comedy Of Misunderstandings Still Without an End"

An analysis by prominent commentator Sergio Romano in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera said (7/17): "Taiwan's desire for independence clashes with Beijing's nationalistic and pan-Chinese dogma. The problem, in other words, is not resolvable. There is only one way out in these circumstances: that China and the United States become aware of that and, after some bellicose statements to save appearances, decide to focus their attention on something else."

"U.S. Ambiguous Attitude On Taiwan"

Antonio Pollio Salimbeni writes from Washington in pro-DS (leading government party) L'Unita' (7/17): "The United States maintains an ambiguous attitude on Taiwan: while supporting the policy of a 'single China,' it took it less than two days to grant a visa for the United States to Lee Teng-hui, knowing that it would create alarm in Beijing. With the risk of a nuclear threat from North Korea, there is really no need for a hot summer for Taiwan."

SERBIA: 'ATTEMPTS AT TOPPLING MILOSEVIC CONTINUE'

BRITAIN: "Getting Rid Of Milosevic"

The conservative Daily Telegraph editorialized (7/19): "The West has made clear that Slobodan Milosevic has no place in its vision of a peaceful, democratic Balkans, yet it is failing to press home the advantage gained by victory.... Kosovo was the issue on which Milosevic built his rise to power. It could still prove his nemesis, though he has survived mass protests before and will exploit divisions between his opponents. The West is right to conclude that a revitalized Balkans has no place for the Yugoslav president. But it is in danger of failing to capitalize on his humiliation in Kosovo. The same thing happened after Saddam Hussein's army was driven out of Kuwait. And look what trouble he has caused since."

GERMANY: "Help Serbia"

Rolf Paasch opined in left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau (7/19): "After all the disappointments caused by nationalism, the lost war and the miserably failed protests, nobody has trust in anybody else any more in Serbia. Draskovic and Djindjic, these are names that must be mentioned in the same breath with Milosevic. This is not a revolutionary situation. Nevertheless, the West must react to this deeply depressed country: Either with further sanctions and international isolation...or with reconstruction assistance and offers for a return to Europe. It is not Kosovo but Serbia that poses the greatest problem for the restoration of

stability in the Balkans.... Concrete aid projects for municipalities that are governed by the opposition seem to be the only way to help Serbia. In reality, this will be frustrating and laborious because of the resistance of the Milosevic regime. But it cannot be a reason to stop such efforts right from the start."

ITALY: "Belgrade Regime Beginning To Vacillate Under Pressure"

A report from Belgrade in leading business Il Sole-24 Ore noted (7/18): "Attempts at toppling Milosevic continue in Yugoslavia. Amid opposition forces and reservists, petitions and street demonstrations, the Belgrade regime is beginning to vacillate under the pressure. Everybody seems to have realized that if they really want to remove Milosevic, this is the time to make their voices heard. Previously divided opposition groups...seem to have found a point of agreement in the choice of street demonstrations as a way to protest against the regime. For the first time since the end of the war, Vuk Draskovic's party has decided to join the protesters."

RUSSIA: "Opposition To Milosevic On The Rise"

Dmitry Privalov wrote in centrist Trud (7/17): "In Yugoslavia...opposition to President Slobodan Milosevic is visibly on the rise. The leader of the Serb Renewal Movement Vuk Draskovic for the first time openly demanded his resignation. He suggested forming a transitional government in the country. The meeting of the national parliament is being boycotted by deputies from his party. The intensity of the situation is being aggravated by Belgrade's difficult dialogue with Montenegro, where demands are growing for a severance of ties with Serbia. The talks between the heads of the two union republics in Belgrade centered mostly on the question of expanding Montenegro's autonomy within the federation, while in Montenegro it is not ruled out that a referendum on its withdrawal...may be held before the end of the year."

HUNGARY: "Is There a Yugoslavia Still Left?"

Jozsef Makai opined in influential Magyar Hirlap (7/17): "Yugoslavia, as the federation of Serbia and Montenegro, cannot be saved. The most important Balkans moderator, the United States, has already indicated that they oppose Montenegro's secession. According to Washington, such a move would further destabilize the region. There is also an unvoiced consideration for the United States to want to keep the FRY together: Let Montenegro be the catalyst to start and accelerate changes in Serbia. I do not think Montenegro wants such a role, but, because of the drag, they have been compelled to work out a choreography for the secession process. Why has Montenegro had enough of Yugoslavia? After the NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia, not just relations between Belgrade and Podgorica changed, but the priorities and strategic goals of the two republics also became different. There is no joint path for the two republics to take. Serbia is busy with reconstruction; Montenegro...is interested in Western integration."

JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.: 'AMERICA WILL MOURN ITS GOLDEN BOY'

BRITAIN: "The Kennedy Myth"

The conservative Times commented (7/19): "John Jr., to his credit, sought to escape from the gilded prison of his family's past. By keeping his distance from politics and making his own career, he seemed to be turning his back on his family's destined tragic path. But it was not to be.... Even in these times, where we recognize myths as poetic truths and not oracular forecasts, the fate of John Kennedy Jr. reinforces in every mind that melancholy truth."

"There Is Still Some Meaning In The Kennedy Myth"

The centrist Independent ran this lead editorial (7/19): "It would be a fitting legacy if John Junior's death reminded America and the world of the high ideal of public service and liberal values that run through the Kennedy rhetoric. It is the Kennedy greatness to call us to a higher moral purpose, and the Kennedy tragedy that none of the family could fulfill that promise."

"America Will Mourn Its Golden Boy"

The mass-circulation tabloid Sun had this personal column by editor David Yelland (7/19): "His death is an utter tragedy. America will mourn its golden boy."

FRANCE: "Jealous Gods"

Charles Lambroschini front-paged this editorial in right-of-center Le Figaro (7/19): "John Kennedy Junior had everything: youth, handsomeness, wealth and happiness. Yet, strangely enough this disappearance seems to be a normal thing. The image of John John...saluting his father like a soldier, is still in the memory of the world.... But it also is a reminder of how much the gods are jealous. It seems that for the Kennedys, so many gifts, so many successes have to be paid for in bloodshed.... In the United States, prosperous but short of dreams, John John was still the symbol of a lost romanticism."

"The Little Prince"

Gonzague Saint-Bris signed an editorial in right-of-center Le Figaro (7/19): "It is a disappearance worth of Saint Exupery.... John Kennedy was this mythic heir one could expect everything from.... Today, John Kennedy left through the main door, that of the blue sky and the sea. The Little Prince of America seems to be whispering as a last thought the William Yeats' poem: "Walk slowly, because you are walking on my dreams."

ITALY: "America's Crown Prince"

Mario Platero wrote from New York in leading business Il Sole-24 Ore (7/18): "The umpteenth connection between fate and facts has occurred again in the Kennedy family.... In the best tradition of 'Camelot,' John John had it all: He was good-looking and very rich. He was perhaps the most famous young man in America. Certainly the closest America has to a crown prince.... Now this image of happiness has disappeared in the abyss of the Atlantic."

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#Xn\ P6Qy&P#Monday, July 19, 1999

X` hp x □MIDEAST PEACE: U.S. ROLE AS 'MEDIATOR' QUESTIONED

X` hp x

□X` hp x This weekend's talks between Israeli Prime Minister Barak and Presiden
 t

Clinton dominated overseas media, with much of the discussion focusing on
 Isr

ael's endeavor to secure a "marginalized" role for the U.S. in the
 unfolding pe

ace process. Opinion was mixed between optimists who continued
 to see "hope fo

r a breakthrough" and a "new window of opportunity," and
 skeptics and cynics wh

o continued to believe that Israel was trying to
 finesse its way out of the Wye

agreement at the "expense of the
 Palestinians." Most Israeli analysts were hi

ghly supportive of Mr. Barak's
 attempt to reduce U.S. involvement and thought,

as one paper noted, it

"makes a lot of sense," but cautioned that "America is n
 ot used to giving

free meals." In contrast, observers in the Arab countries, a
 s well as in

Europe, worried about a reduced U.S. role, with a Syrian daily cal
 ling for

"America's cosmopolitan weight" to put pressure on Mr. Barak. Questio
 ning

its role as a "neutral broker," some Israeli papers claimed that the U.S.
 had recently been "decidedly proArab" and that "Israel remains a U.S.

colony,"

while Arab analysts suggested, in the words of Cairo's
 progovernment Al Ahram,

the "American way is partially responsible for the frustration that spread among both Arabs and Israelis." Within the Middle East, the most favorable views came from the Jordanian writers who continued to hold that the "picture that is emerging is very positive." European press also speculated about the role of the U.S. with London's conservative Financial Times asserting that should Mr. Clinton succeed in contributing to the peace process, "He would end his checkered presidency on a high note."

□TAIWAN TENSIONS RISING, BUT PEACEFUL RESOLUTION STILL LIKELY

□Foreign media commentators noted rising tensions among China, the U.S. and Taiwan over Taiwan President Lee Tenghui's perceived policy shift away from a "one China" policy. Beijing's Communist Party People's Daily "solemnly" warned Mr. Lee that "the oneChina policy...will never be sabotaged." Hong Kong analysts advised Mr. Lee to show "more restraint" but judged that the PRC, not wanting to damage its relations with the U.S. or create sympathy for Taiwan, would not use force. German papers acknowledged that the conflict could intensify but predicted that Beijing would look for a facesaving solution with "few economic and political consequences." A South Korean daily characterized China's statement about its having "neutron bombs" as an attempt to provoke "ColdWar era" tensions to threaten Taiwan.

□X□X` hp x

□X□□SERBIA: 'ATTEMPTS AT TOPPLING MILOSEVIC CONTINUE'

□X□X` hp x

In sparse comment on developments in Yugoslavia, European papers focused on the growing antiMilosevic protests in Serbia. Some cited opposition leader Vuk Draskovic's entry into the fray by his joining Saturday's political rally in Kragujevac and "for the first time openly demanding [Milosevic's] resignation" as the latest evidence that "opposition to Milosevic is visibly on the rise." Pundits in Russia and Hungary speculated that the secession of Montenegro from the FR Y may be inevitable.

□X□X` hp x □BRIEF□□ □ John F. Kennedy Jr.: 'America Will Mourn Its Golden Boy'

□X□X` hp x EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Irene Marr, Bill Richey

X` hp x □MIDEAST PEACE: U.S. ROLE AS 'MEDIATOR' QUESTIONED
 X` hp x
 ISRAEL: "No Free Meals"

□Washington correspondent Orly AzolayKatz wrote in masscirculation,
 pluralist Y
 ediot (7/18): "Ehud Barak may feel pleased with himself. His
 strategy is work
 ing. The Americans told him they are prepared to give
 Israel absolutely everyt
 hing for the sake of peace agreements.... The
 Americans are going to bankroll
 Israeli military and civilian pullout from
 the Golan Heights, as well as provid
 e sophisticated early warning
 installations.... They are even ready to send ov
 er American troops....
 Barak may want reduced American involvement, but for th
 e U.S. Israel
 remains an American colony.... Peace may serve Barak's personal
 interests
 but it certainly improves Bill Clinton's legacy and this is what the
 President is about right nowwith his hugs, cunning and manipulation....
 Barak
 has not yet tasted the last of America's sumptuous meals. He had
 better rememb
 er, however, that America is not used to giving free meals."

□"Fresh Hopes"

□Independent Haaretz said (7/18): "The public demonstration of renewed
 America
 n affection restores an important diplomatic asset to the prime
 minister, as he
 embarks on tough negotiations with the Syrians and
 Palestinians in the coming
 15 months.... The most important part of
 Barak's visit will begin Monday, when
 he and Clinton meet to sum up the
 tough problems the parties sorted out among
 themselves over the weekend....
 Barak is going to get a precise picture of the
 financial, diplomatic and
 military resources the U.S. is prepared to invest in
 bringing peace to the
 Middle East. In return, Barak will have to leave on the
 president's desk
 open, secret and conditional commitments."

□"American Unfairness"

□Nationalist Hatzofe said (7/18): "President Clinton has been looking down
 upo
 n Israel, treating us with condescension.... It follows that Barak's
 attempt
 to minimize American involvement makes a lot of sense. This is all
 the more tr
 ue considering the fact that recently, U.S. involvement has been
 decidedly proA

rab. Exploiting the image they have been projecting of being 'Israel's best friend,' the Americans have gone entirely over to the Palestinian side."

□WEST BANK: "Experience With Deadlines Does Not Bode For Optimism"

□In its lead editorial, independent, moderate AlQuds opined (7/18): "The Clinton administration is dealing with Barak on the basis that he would deliver on his promises and work on reviving the peace process at the various tracks but despite the significance of the new time framework to conclude a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, our experience with previous [Israeli] deadlines does not bode for optimism."

□"No Sacred Dates"□

Semi official AlHayyat AlJadida wrote in a frontpage editorial (7/18): "Since the signing of Oslo, the Israelis have invented the term 'there are no sacred dates' and have been able to convince the Americans with it so as to renegotiate already signed agreements. By using the time factor, Israel wants to impose its own conditions on the Arab parties to give more concessions in the course of meeting the Israeli own terms for peace as long as Israel continues to violate the peace agreement, the Nov. 2000 Date will neither be sacred nor will it be observed."

□"Israel Trying To Marginalize American Role"

□Hani Habib, a leading columnist at independent, proPalestinian Authority AlAyham

commented (7/18): "The U.S-Israeli summit was concluded away from protocol norms as Prime Minister Barak was welcomed as a friend and ally following a long rupture of relations between the two countries during the regime of the extreme right Netanyahu the Israeli premier is trying to marginalize the American role in the Middle East, and we believe that the American side will accept this marginalized role in return for a deal that will qualify Clinton to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on parallel footing with Rabin, Arafat and Peres. All this, of course, will have to take place at the expense of the Palestinians, who have previously paid for similar

[deals]."

□SYRIA: □ "Disorder In The Balance Of Powers"

□Governmentowned Tishreen said (7/18): "On the sidelines of his visit to Wash ington, Barak is currently arranging for a U.S. shipment of F16 fighters to Is rael.... Involvement in the peace process does not require armaments but since re intentions and readiness to translate these intentions into deeds."

□"Few Days For The Test"

□Amid Khouli editorialized in governmentowned AlThawra (7/17): "[Barak's] insi stence on distancing America from her role as a partner in the peace process i s ambiguous.... America is capable of extracting a specific and obvious politi cal decision from Barak on peace based on the American initiative.... We hope that President Clinton will assume his personal role utilizing America's cosmo politan weight to make Barak fulfill his promises; by this he will be able to cement the U.S. role and restore its credibility."

□"The Peace Process Between Optimism And Reality"

□Governmentowned AlBaath said (7/16): "A few days ago Syria announced that sh e is fully ready to reciprocate each Israeli positive step on peace with a par allel step; Syria believes that Netanyahu's false allegations on the Golan and the false claims on Syria' s acceptance of Israel's early warning stations in the Golan are misleading attempts that cannot affect Syria's stand on peace."
"

□EGYPT: "The Palestinian Issue Should Be Core Issue"

□Ahmed Nafie, columnist, progovernment daily Al Ahram (7/16): "Truly, no one ca n downplay Barak's wish to start a new stage of confidence and promise to impl ement the international agreements Israel signed, but his talk about settlemen ts was vague and his four No's were not tackled. In order to reach 'a histori c reconciliation with Arab neighbors,' there should be a clear progress on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks based upon the Madrid formula. The Pa lestinian issue should be considered the core issue. This is done by implement

ing Wye and stopping settlements. More than any time before, the U.S. should amend its policy, which has come to lack logic and clear international legitimacy. It is no secret that the American way is partially responsible for the frustration that spread among both Arabs and Israelis about the peace process.

On Jerusalem, the U.S. should not be satisfied by just repeating the need to reach an agreement about it in the final status talks. It should take the European lead by refusing to recognize Israel's policy toward the city. The U.S. should also pay attention to the issue of the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland. Closing all these gaps primarily depends on the U.S. position. The U.S. should put into practice the contents of the letter of assurance it sent to the Palestinian Authority and enforce a comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338."

□"Palestinians Postpone Geneva Conference"

□Salama Ahmed Salama, columnist, progovernment daily Al Ahram (7/18):
"While Barak was

confirming in Washington his decisive position on maintaining settlements and the intention to postpone the implementation of Wye or merge it into the final status talks, the Palestinians postponed the Geneva conference on human rights violations in the occupied territories.... For fifty years, Arabs have given Israel chances for peace. The Palestinian Authority was even more professional in giving concessions without return. Instead of admitting that, Minister Shaath threw the blame on European countries for postponing the conference. It was not strange that Amnesty International criticized the Palestinian position. When Palestinians discover that Barak's promises are mere talk, it will be too late for Shaath and his colleagues to request another conference."

□JORDAN: "In Order To Take The Opportunity For Peace" □

Centerleft, influential Arabic daily AlDustur (7/19) editorialized:
"The capitals of the region are witnessing an active motion of contacts and consultations aimed at resuming the peace process and implementing the signed accords amidst a growing atmosphere of optimism and hope for a

breakthrough in the peace process... This positive atmosphere must be translated into action on the ground, in the sense that Israel would implement the Wye River accord in deed and not in words, would implement the rest of the interim accords and would prepare for the final status negotiations... According to many statements, establishing peace is possible within a few months. This is on condition that Israel truly has genuine intentions to do so and to abide by the requirements and the commitments."

□"Historical Opportunity"□

Centrist, influential among the elite English daily Jordan Times (7/18) editorialized: "Israeli Prime Minister Barak's trip to Washington for talks with President Clinton on the state of the peace process has been hailed as offering a new window of opportunity for peace in the Middle East. The Israeli leader has convinced Clinton that peace in the region is going to be his government's top priority... The picture that is emerging is very positive, and that's why delivery on peace must take place soon, before this general sense of optimism dissipates.... All Arab leaders involved in negotiations with Israel are on the record as willing to engage him in meaningful talks leading to final settlement. He needs to reciprocate. But most importantly he needs to mobilize the peace forces in Israel to convince the skeptics that a historical opportunity for a historical settlement of the ArabIsraeli conflict exists and it depends on how much Israel is going to concede."

□BAHRAIN: "Two Points Make Us Skeptical About Barak"

□According to Abdul Malik Salman in semi independent Arabic daily AlKhali j 7/17: "There are two points that make us skeptical about Barak's intentions toward the Middle East peace process. First, his attempt to convince the Palestinians to give up the implementation of the Wye Agreement the second, he demanded that Clinton's and the American administration's role be more limited and restricted in the negotiations between Israel and the Arab sides the danger regarding this particular

point is that we detect a desire to maneuver, aside from the possibility of American interference Barak is preparing himself for a series of negotiations that will make him appear to the world as a peace loving person and will give him enough space to maneuver"

□BRITAIN: "Mood In The Middle East Suddenly Upbeat"

□The independent Financial Times editorialized 7/19: □ "□The mood in the Middle

East is suddenly upbeat. Ehud Barak is being feted in Washington, where he cl

aims that he could reach a comprehensive peace with the Palestinians, Syria and

the Lebanon within the 18 months that President Clinton has left in the White

House. This presents a challenge for Mr. Clinton to rise to. He would end his

checkered presidency on a high note, if he could help bring lasting peace. But a settlement must be one that is truly comprehensive, providing a fair deal for the

Palestinians... A bigger risk to the peace process is that Mr. Clinton will du

ck the issue because of Al Gore's presidential campaign and his wife Hillary's

bid for the Senate. Having offended some Jewish voters last year by calling fo

r a Palestinian state. Mrs. Clinton has now swung the other way.... Mr. Clinto

n might suggest his wife read the Oslo agreement, which leaves Jerusalem for fi

nal status talks. There is now a long and

bipartisan tradition of U.S. preside

ntial engagement in Mideast

peacemaking, set by Presidents Nixon, Carter and Bu

sh. Mr. Clinton should

uphold it."

□GERMANY: "Barak's Slogan Is To Do Everything On His Own"

□Leftofcenter Frankfurter Rundschau said (7/17): "General Barak learned strategi

c thinking from scratch. This is of great use for him as Israel's premier. I

n a wise manner, he acts on the stage in the Middle East. He plays the main r

ole and works as director at the same time.... This was the case when he form

ed his government, and this is the case during his first visit to the United S

tates. First of all, the premier is

restructuring the set, and then he is giv

ing the United States the role of

the extra which it deserves.... Barak's slo

gan is to do everything on his

own. He does not want peace that is dictated on him, but he wants to find a solution in cooperation with his opponents. If he succeeds, he will enter the history books of great Israeli politicians such as Begin, and Rabin and will not remain a minor player such as his predecessor Netanyahu."

□"Barak Does Not Consider U.S. A Neutral Broker"

□According to centrist Leipziger Volkszeitung (7/17): "When Barak announces the overdue implementation of the Wye Plantation agreement and makes the whole process dependent on 'technical preconditions,' the former...soldier is coming to the fore again. Like Netanyahu, Barak does not consider the U.S. government a neutral broker in the political business in the Middle East and he regards the United States as too friendly to the Palestinians. Barak was even more clear than Netanyahu when he told the U.S. president that Washington should not interfere as much as in the past in the Middle East peace process. But without U.S. mediation efforts and without U.S. billion dollar assistance for Israel, the political landscape in the Middle East would probably look different today. Gratitude is not part of the political business. And it is likely that all sides involved need to wait for a new momentum in the peace process."

□ITALY: "America Can And Should Take A Step Back"

□Enrico Franceschini's report from Jerusalem in left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (7/19): "Peace with the Palestinians, with Syria and with Lebanon by November 2000, i.e., before the U.S. presidential elections. This is the hope and the common goal of Ehud Barak and Bill Clinton, who agreed on this 'timetable' during their talks in Washington these days....Barak was able to establish a personal feeling and an immediate friendship with Clinton. But he asked the American president to play a new role in the peace negotiations: no longer as an arbiter and a party directly involved, limiting himself instead to 'encourage, promote and support' the negotiations. With an Israeli leader who is determined to make peace with the Arabs in the short run, in sum, America can and should

take a step back."

□PAKISTAN: "Barak's Peace Initiative"

□Nadeem Shahid had this to say in centerright national daily The Nation (7/19)

"Will Barak be able to resolve the disputes which have generated hatred and violence in the region for decade? For one thing, extremist elements have a strong presence on both sides and they can make it difficult for their leaders to adopt a giveandtake policy in the talks which is a must for a peaceful settlement of issues between nations.... But at least he is different from his predecessor and perhaps he will be able to make a difference as far as the Middle East peace process is concerned."

□TAIWAN TENSIONS RISING, BUT PEACEFUL RESOLUTION STILL LIKELY

CHINA: "Destruction Of CrossStraits Relationship Not Allowed"

□Xinhua commentator said in official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ri

bao), (7/19): "Lee's redefinition of the crossStraits relationship embodies a lastditch struggle before stepping down. Also, he is gambling with the future of Taiwan as well as the interests and happiness of the Taiwanese people. We solemnly warn Li Denghui: the 'One China policy', the foundation for the cross straits relations, will never be sabotaged."

□"He Who Splits A Country Is A Historical Sinner"

□Xinhua commentator said in official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ri

bao), (7/17): "Encouraged by the recent farces played by some antiChina forces

in the U.S., and U.S.-led NATO interference into Yugoslavia's internal affairs

under the excuse of 'human rights overstepping sovereignty', Lee Tenghui thought the opportunity to create 'two Chinas'

or 'one China, one Taiwan' is coming.... However, his attempt is in vain.

The crossStraits relations do not in any way resemble the 'two Germanies' and his desire is only one-sided."

□HONG KONG: "Lee's Miscalculation"

□The independent South China Morning Post had this editorial (7/17): "Mr. Lee cannot have been unaware of the risk of setting off a chain reaction on these lines. He has given an ideal opportunity to the mainland to restate

the sanctity
 of the 'One China' policy, and has caused embarrassment for
 Washington at a time
 when this is the last thing President Bill Clinton
 needs for the U.S. relationship
 with Beijing. The hope must be that,
 having made their point forcefully
 this week, the central authorities will
 now be ready to let the crisis cool down.
 But that requires Mr. Lee to
 show a good deal more restraint in future if
 he is not to do Taiwan, the
 peace of the region, and, in the end, himself unnecessary harm."

□"Rows Across The Strait Will Be Limited To Verbal Disputes"

□Independent Sing Tao Daily News had this editorial (7/18): "The Chinese
 leader
 does not want China's international image to be impaired. Any form
 of action will
 only prevent China from improving its relations with the U.S.,
 and Taiwan may profit. There are strong proTaiwan sentiments in the U.S.
 Congress. Many Congressmen support including Taiwan in 'the Theatre
 Missile Defense system', which is
 strongly opposed by Beijing. If military
 conflicts occur in the Taiwan Strait,
 Taiwan may be included in the defense
 system and the U.S. will increase the
 arms supply to Taiwan. By taking
 these factors into consideration, Chinese leaders
 will tend not to use
 force to attack 'the two states theory'."

□"U.S. Will Not Let Taiwan Work On Independence"

□Independent Sing Pao Daily News had this editorial (7/19): "The U.S. does
 not
 want to see Lee Tenghui create trouble when SinoU.S. relations are at
 a low ebb.
 The U.S. does not want to see the speedy reunification of
 Taiwan and China,
 and it hopes Taiwan will continue to buy U.S. arms.
 However, in the triangular
 relationship between China, Taiwan and the U.S.,
 the U.S. knows where to find
 the balance. That is, it must abide by the
 principle of 'one China'. The U.S.
 will not let Taiwan work on
 independence, for that would break up SinoU.S. relations,
 and war clouds
 would gather. This would not be good for Asia or the world."

□SOUTH KOREA: "Threatening Taiwan And Holding The U.S. In Check"

□Reporter Park Chungtae of the moderate Hankook Ilbo (7/17) wrote: "As
 military

ry analysts say, the Chinese possession of neutron bombs is no longer significant. What's significant,

then, is the timing of the Chinese government's announcement of that fact. T

hat the announcement came at all is also meaningful.... By attracting attention to neutron bombs, ColdWar era products, China is apparently trying to provoke something similar to the kind of tensions we saw during the ColdWar era.

Obviously, Beijing is aiming at posing threats to Taiwan while trying to hold the U.S. in check."

□GERMANY: "China Is Getting Unpredictable"

□Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (7/19) said: "The threat to invade Taiwan is an old hat. China has always kept open this option. But China has a strong, economic interest in peace along its borders. However, with its increasingly nationalistic tones, China's leadership has put pressure on itself. And if the crisis escalates according to the old pattern, then there is the danger that Beijing intensifies the conflict even more."

□"Beijing's Taiwanese Dilemma"

□Sven Hansen said in leftofcenter Die Tageszeitung of Berlin (7/19): "A military attack could further isolate China and would have unforeseeable economic consequences. The decision is made even more difficult because of the power struggle between reformers and hardliners. The controversy is increasing pressure on the reformers under Premier Zhu Rongji who are on the defensive anyway. Their policy of constructive cooperation with the West could be further damaged. Party leader Jiang Zemin has not yet made up his mind. He seems to look for a solution that will save Beijing's face, has little economic and political consequences and will not give the supporters of Taiwan's independence a new momentum."

X` hp x □ITALY: "Comedy Of Misunderstandings Still Without an End"

□An analysis by prominent commentator Sergio Romano in centrist, topcirculation Corriere della Sera said (7/17): "Taiwan's desire for independence clashes with Beijing's nationalistic and panChinese dogma. The problem, in other words

s, is not resolvable. There is only one way out in these circumstances: that China and the United States become aware of that and, after some bellicose statements to save appearances, decide to focus their attention on something else.

"

X` hp x

□"U.S. Ambiguous Attitude On Taiwan"

□Antonio Pollio Salimbeni writes from Washington in proDS (leading government

party) L'Unita' (7/17): "The United States maintains an ambiguous attitude on

Taiwan: while supporting the policy of a 'single China,' it took it less than

two days to grant a visa for the United

States to Lee Tenghui, knowing that it

would create alarm in Beijing.

With the risk of a nuclear threat from North

Korea, there is really no

need for a hot summer for Taiwan."

□SERBIA: 'ATTEMPTS AT TOPPLING MILOSEVIC CONTINUE'

BRITAIN: "Getting Rid Of Milosevic"

□The conservative Daily Telegraph editorialized (7/19): "The West has made cle

ar that Slobodan Milosevic has no place in its vision of a peaceful, democratic

Balkans, yet it is failing to press home the advantage gained by victory....

Kosovo was the issue on which Milosevic built his rise to power. It could stil

l prove his nemesis, though he has survived mass protests before and will explo

it divisions between his opponents. The West

is right to conclude that a revit

alized Balkans has no place for the

Yugoslav president. But it is in danger of

failing to capitalize on his

humiliation in Kosovo. The same thing happened a

fter Saddam Husseins army

was driven out of Kuwait. And look what trouble he h

as caused since.

□X□X` hp x

□X□X` hp x

□GERMANY: "Help Serbia"

□Rolf Paasch opined in leftofcenter Frankfurter Rundschau (7/19): "After all t

he disappointments caused by nationalism, the lost war and the miserably failed

protests, nobody has trust in anybody else any more in Serbia. Draskovic and

Djindjic, these are names that must be mentioned in the same breath with Milose

vic. This is not a revolutionary situation.

Nevertheless, the West must react

to this deeply depressed country:
 Either with further sanctions and international isolation...or with reconstruction assistance and offers for a return to Europe. It is not Kosovo but Serbia that poses the greatest problem for the restoration of stability in the Balkans.... Concrete aid projects for municipalities that are governed by the opposition seem to be the only way to help Serbia. In reality, this will be frustrating and laborious because of the resistance of the Milosevic regime. But it cannot be a reason to stop such efforts right from the start."

□ITALY: "Belgrade Regime Beginning To Vacillate Under Pressure"

□A report from Belgrade in leading business Il Sole24 Ore noted (7/18): "Attempts at toppling Milosevic continue in Yugoslavia. Amid opposition forces and reservists, petitions and street demonstrations, the Belgrade regime is beginning to vacillate under the pressure. Everybody seems to have realized that if they really want to remove Milosevic, this is the time to make their voices heard. Previously divided opposition groups...seem to have found a point of agreement in the choice of street demonstrations as a way to protest against the regime. For the first time since the end of the war, Vuk Draskovic's party has decided to join the protesters."

□RUSSIA: "Opposition To Milosevic On The Rise"

□Dmitry Privalov wrote in centrist Trud (7/17): "In Yugoslavia...opposition to President Slobodan Milosevic is visibly on the rise. The leader of the Serb Renewal Movement Vuk Draskovic for the first time openly demanded his resignation. He suggested forming a transitional government in the country. The meeting of the national parliament is being boycotted by deputies from his party. The intensity of the situation is being aggravated by Belgrade's difficult dialogue with Montenegro, where demands are growing for a severance of ties with Serbia. The talks between the heads of the two union republics in Belgrade centered mostly on the question of expanding Montenegro's autonomy within the federation, while in Montenegro it is not ruled out that a referendum on its withdrawal..

.may be
held before the end of the year."

□HUNGARY: "Is There a Yugoslavia Still Left?"□

Jozsef Makai opined in influential Magyar Hirlap (7/17): "Yugoslavia, as the federation of Serbia and Montenegro, cannot be saved. The most important Balkans moderator, the United States, has already indicated that they oppose Montenegro's secession. According to Washington, such a move would further destabilize the region. There is also an unvoiced consideration for the United States to want to keep the FRY together: Let Montenegro be the catalyst to start and accelerate changes in Serbia. I do not think Montenegro wants such a role, but, because of the drag, they have been compelled to work out a choreography for the secession process. Why has Montenegro had enough of Yugoslavia? After the NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia, not just relations between Belgrade and Podgorica changed, but the priorities and strategic goals of the two republics also became different. There is no joint path for the two republics to take. Serbia is busy with reconstruction; Montenegro...is interested in Western integration."

□BRIEF

JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.: 'AMERICA WILL MOURN ITS GOLDEN BOY'

BRITAIN: "The Kennedy Myth"

□The conservative Times commented (7/19): "John Jr., to his credit, sought to escape from the gilded prison of his family's past. By keeping his distance from politics and making his own career, he seemed to be turning his back on his family's destined tragic path. But it was not to be.... Even in these times, where we recognize myths as poetic truths and not oracular forecasts, the fate of John Kennedy Jr. reinforces in every mind that melancholy truth."

□"There Is Still Some Meaning In The Kennedy Myth"

□The centrist Independent ran this lead editorial (7/19): "It would be a fitting legacy if John Junior's death reminded America and the world of the high ideal of public service and liberal values that run through the Kennedy rhetoric.

It is the Kennedy greatness to call us to a higher moral purpose, and the Kennedy tragedy that none of the family could fulfill that promise."

□"America Will Mourn Its Golden Boy"□

The masscirculation tabloid Sun had this personal column by editor David Yellan (7/19): "His death is an utter tragedy. America will mourn its golden boy."

□FRANCE: "Jealous Gods"

□Charles Lambroschini frontpaged this editorial in rightofcenter Le Figaro (7/19): "John Kennedy Junior had everything: youth, handsomeness, wealth and happiness. Yet, strangely enough this disappearance seems to be a normal thing. The image of John John...saluting his father like a soldier, is still in the memory of the world.... But it also is a reminder of how much the gods are jealous. It seems that for the Kennedys, so many gifts, so many successes have to be paid for in bloodshed.... In the United States, prosperous but short of dreams, John John was still the symbol of a lost romanticism."

□"The Little Prince"

□Gonzague SaintBris signed an editorial in rightofcenter Le Figaro (7/19): "It is a disappearance worth of Saint Exupery.... John Kennedy was this mythic hero one could expect everything from.... Today, John Kennedy left through the main door, that of the blue sky and the sea. The Little Prince of America seems to be whispering as a last thought the William Yeats' poem: "Walk slowly, because you are walking on my dreams."

□ITALY: "America's Crown Prince"

□Mario Platero wrote from New York in leading business Il Sole24 Ore (7/18): "The umpteenth connection between fate and facts has occurred again in the Kennedy family.... In the best tradition of 'Camelot,' John John had it all: He was

s goodlooking and very rich. He was perhaps the most famous young man in America. Certainly the closest America has to a crown prince.... Now this image of happiness has disappeared in the abyss of the Atlantic."

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