

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	USIA_Media_Reaction to [list] at 08:14:32.00. Subject: Early Report 8/25: Middle East/Colombia (2 pages)	08/25/1999	P3/b(3)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Automated Records Management System [Email]
WHO ([Menem])
OA/Box Number: 500000

FOLDER TITLE:

[05/28/1999 - 11/04/1999]

2019-0157-F

ab1715

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]

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]

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Leslie Bernstein (CN=Leslie Bernstein/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:28-MAY-1999 09:38:31.00

SUBJECT: Politics This Week May 22nd - May 28th 1999

TO: asinger@erico.com (asinger@erico.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP on 05/28/99
09:37 AM -----

The Economist <politics@lists.economist.com>

05/27/99 10:09:48 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Politics This Week May 22nd - May 28th 1999

Welcome to Politics This Week

A summary of the world's main events from The Economist

Also available at <http://www.economist.com>

IN THE ECONOMIST THIS WEEK

Despite the revelations of spying on nuclear secrets, America should keep
on
engaging with China * How Thabo Mbeki can fill Nelson Mandela's shoes *
Will
Hillary Clinton become a senator for New York? * Why the oil, gas and
electricity industries are converging * Can mathematics beat the
stockmarket?
* Bonsai collecting provokes big passions * The latest from Kosovo *
Britain's
debate on genetically modified food * Zeppelins plan a comeback * War in
Kashmir

You can read these articles, and many more, in the free area of the The
Economist Web Edition, at <http://www.economist.com>. Subscribers get 50 more
new articles each week

FREE NEW SERVICE FOR REGISTERED USERS

Sign-up for Politics This Week in web-format, complete with colour charts, photographs and links to top stories on the website.

Receive the free new version of this newsletter by amending your details in the registration centre. If you are not yet a registered user sign up now:http://www.economist.com/tfs/registration_tfframeset.html

WANTED

- + Diplomatic efforts to narrow differences between Russia and the West over a plan to end the crisis in KOSOVO continued. But diplomacy looked in danger of stalling after the International War-Crimes Tribunal announced it planned to indict Slobodan Milosevic, reducing his incentive to compromise. NATO, meanwhile, agreed to increase to 50,000 the number of troops on standby in Macedonia -- though for what purpose remained unclear.
- + The European Commission proposed granting to MACEDONIA AND ALBANIA an association agreement as a means of bringing "the region closer to the perspective of full integration into EU structures." In other words, full membership was not yet on the cards.
- + Russia's President Boris Yeltsin, who recently appointed a new prime minister, SERGEI STEPASHIN, sacked some ministers from the Soviet era, including Yuri Maslyukov and Gennady Kulik, who had been in charge, respectively, of the economy and agriculture.
- + The government of LIONEL JOSPIN, the French prime minister, survived a vote of censure in the National Assembly. It had been brought by the conservative opposition in protest at the government's handling of a scandal in Corsica, which led to the sacking and detention of the prefect there. The vote coincided with the arrest of several suspects in the 1998 assassination of the previous prefect.
- + Just as the POLISH government brought to an end a strike by miners over lay-off pay, farmers began a series of border blockades in protest at imports and falling food prices.
- + JOHANNES RAU, a Social Democrat, was elected German president.

- + After the collapse of the DUTCH GOVERNMENT, efforts were under way to resurrect the three-party ruling coalition by offering concessions to its smallest party, D-66, which had prompted the government's collapse.

COLD WAR REVISITED

- + A congressional committee chaired by Christopher Cox of California revealed that CHINA HAD STOLEN CLASSIFIED INFORMATION on every deployed warhead in the American missile system. The spying had been going on for 20 years, and was continuing. The report recommended much tighter security at government laboratories. The Clinton administration promised it would try to provide it.
- + The wave of municipal legal action AGAINST THE GUN INDUSTRY gathered pace when Los Angeles, San Francisco and several other Californian cities announced that they intended to file suits.
- + The Supreme Court ruled that reporters and photographers could not accompany police into people's homes to record arrests, since this INVADDED THEIR PRIVACY. It also ruled that school districts could be sued for failing to stop sexual harassment of pupils by their classmates.
- + In ARGENTINA, all the main candidates bidding to succeed President Carlos Menem in October's presidential election ruled out any change in the country's fixed exchange rate. That seemed to steady the country's financial markets, and Latin America's.
- + A Brazilian newspaper published transcripts suggesting that PRESIDENT FERNANDO HENRIQUE CARDOSO backed efforts by his officials to strengthen one of the consortia bidding in last July's privatisation of the country's telecoms system. Just an attempt to get a better price, with no wrongdoing involved, said the government.
- + Colombia's DEFENCE MINISTER RESIGNED, in disagreement with a government decision to allow left-wing guerrillas to remain in control of a large chunk of jungle territory.

ENDLESS CONFLICT

- + Fighting broke out again on the border between ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA. Both sides accused the other of starting it and both claimed victory.
- + A three-man group, under Ingvar Carlsson, a former Swedish prime

minister, was appointed by the UN's secretary-general, Kofi Annan, to investigate his organisation's role in RWANDA during the 1994 genocide.

+ A ceasefire between the SIERRA LEONEAN government and rebels came into operation and peace talks opened in Togo. But fighting, it seemed, continued.

+ Madeleine Albright, America's secretary of state, met the leaders of most of IRAQ'S OPPOSITION PARTIES in Washington. They would get the \$90m-plus that Congress had voted for them, she said, but it would have to be spent on office equipment, not arms.

+ There were strong indications that the SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, Israel's troubled and mutinous proxy army in southern Lebanon, would shortly withdraw from a large part of the zone it occupies.

KASHMIR FLARES UP

+ Indian aircraft attacked guerrillas operating in the Indian part of KASHMIR, and lost two aircraft. India said the guerillas were being supplied by the Pakistani army. The two countries have twice gone to war over Kashmir.

+ Sonia Gandhi withdrew her resignation as leader of INDIA'S CONGRESS PARTY. Three senior politicians, including the powerful Sharad Pawar, who had said she was unfit to rule because of her foreign birth and her political inexperience, were expelled from the party. They said they would form a new party.

+ A Cambodian newspaper claimed that POL POT, the Khmer Rouge leader who died last year, was murdered.

ADVERTISEMENT

Oracle iSolutions enables today's successful e-businesses to leverage customer and market information, to create offerings to the customer they want to keep and grow, and to create programs that address evolving customer needs. Get started with Oracle. the e-business engine: <http://www.oracle.com/ebusiness/>

CUSTOMER SERVICE

To stop receiving this newsletter, please send an e-mail

with "unsubscribe" in the subject line to
politics-off@lists.economist.com

If you are a registered user at The Economist website, you can sign
up for or cancel the text and html versions of this newsletter or change
your e-mail address by amending your details at:
http://www.economist.com/tfs/registration_tframeset.html

If you would like to advise us of a new e-mail address and are not
registered at The Economist website, please send an e-mail with your
request to: economist-newsletters@lists.economist.com

This message was powered by Exactis.com

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard L. Siewert (CN=Richard L. Siewert/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-JUL-1999 11:16:19.00

SUBJECT: this just reeks of sosnik

TO: Douglas B. Sosnik (CN=Douglas B. Sosnik/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Clinton Welcomes Falkland Agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Clinton welcomes the agreement Britain and Argentina reached to reduce tension over the Falkland Islands, press secretary Joe Lockhart said today.

He said the accord demonstrated "the determination of both Argentina and the United Kingdom to work cooperatively and constructively to promote the well-being and stability of the region."

Britain and Argentina agreed Wednesday on a package of measures that included lifting a ban on Argentines visiting the islands, resuming direct flights from Chile and cooperating on fish preservation in the South Atlantic.

The measures marked the most significant thaw in relations between the two nations since they went to war over the islands that Argentina calls the Malvinas in 1982.

The U.S. statement referred to both the Falklands and the Malvinas.

Lockhart said Clinton congratulated British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Argentine President Carlos Menem for reaching the agreement.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Slate Magazine <delivery_morning@slate.com> (Slate Magazine <delivery_morning@slate.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-JUL-1999 07:24:52.00

SUBJECT: SLATE MORNING DELIVERY: Tues., July 20, 1999

TO: Joshua S. Gottheimer (CN=Joshua S. Gottheimer/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
SLATE MORNING DELIVERY: Tues., July 20, 1999

--today's papers: No Spin Control

--international papers: It's in the Genes

--the dismal science: Don't Laugh at Me, Argentina

today's papers

No Spin Control

By Scott Shuger

USAT, the WP and LAT lead with fresh radar data from JFK Jr.'s last flight, which indicates that his plane lost altitude at a much faster rate than had been thought previously. The NYT fronts the flight update but goes instead with the completion of the Bill Clinton/Ehud Barak talks in Washington, placing particular emphasis on Clinton's pledge to encourage Syria's Hafez Assad to take advantage of Barak's willingness to hammer out a comprehensive Middle East peace deal.

USAT, the WP and both Times go high with the new information that just before disappearing, Kennedy's plane lost 1,400 feet in 14 seconds, a descent rate far faster than his aircraft's safety specifications. The Post points out that at this speed, the plane could have begun breaking up even before hitting the ocean surface. And the NYT says this could explain why only small pieces of it have been found. The Post and both Times note that although private planes don't have flight data recorders, the missing plane reportedly had a manual cockpit voice recorder, which if recovered could provide some insight into the flight's last moments.

The LAT is alone in beginning its story by mentioning pilot error as the most likely cause of the crash. High up, it quotes a flight safety consultant as saying that the accident data is of the sort

that often indicates the pilot lost control because of disorientation or vertigo. The explanatory value of the coverage varies widely. A non-aviator would be hard-pressed to make sense of the mentions in the WP and LAT of a possible "graveyard spiral." And the WP discusses a possible "stall" and the Kennedy plane's "stall speed," without tarrying to explain, probably leaving the lay reader with the mistaken impression that it's the engine performance that's at issue. It's not--"stall" here refers to a plane's loss of lift, which can occur while the engine's working just fine, if the nose is too high or if the angle of bank in a turn is too steep. It seems that the papers could have made good use of a graphic or two here. (Yesterday's USAT had a good definition of a graveyard spiral--it's when the pilot, usually relying on his senses instead of his instruments, overcorrects with stick and rudder for a spin--the virtually liftless helical descent that follows a stall--thereby inducing another perhaps even more vicious one in the other direction.) The NYT does best in connecting vertigo with stalling, with its citation of an expert's account: "[T]he pilot might have begun a normal turn but lost sight of the horizon, then made the turn too tight, banking the plane too far over and losing lift."

Everybody notes that deteriorating weather limited yesterday's search. The NYT notes some public questioning of the extensiveness of the recovery effort as well as the Coast Guard's response that it conducts many such efforts every year. It also reports that President Clinton said the search should continue.

Besides reporting that Clinton will probably contact Syria's Assad within days, the NYT lead also sees evidence of the re-energized U.S./Israel relationship that Clinton and Barak are presiding over: new promises of increased military assistance to Israel, and the inclusion of Israel on a NASA flight next year.

The fronts at the WP, LAT, and USAT carry word that a 40-year-old drug costing just pennies a day shows promise in new research of being able to save the lives of tens of thousands of sufferers of congestive heart failure, which is when the heart can't pump blood well. The drug, spironolactone, is currently used to counteract water retention. The results were so good that the experiment was cut off early on the grounds that it would be unethical to continue giving half the 1,600 patients in the sample placebos.

The fronts at the WP and LAT feature Hewlett-Packard's announcement that its new CEO would be Carleton Fiorina, a Lucent Technologies exec, who thereby becomes the first female head of a company included in the Dow Jones Industrials, and only one of three in the Fortune 500. The WSJ says she's the first woman to head one of the nation's twenty biggest public corporations. The WP subhead suggests transvestitism: "Woman Crosses Gender Barrier to be Hewlett-Packard CEO."

Also in today's Slate <http://www.slate.com>

Why I Wouldn't Fly to Martha's Vineyard at Night

<http://www.slate.com/Code/chatterbox/chatterbox.asp?Show=7/19/99&idMessage=3235>

A Slow leak in the Net Bubble

<http://www.slate.com/Code/Moneybox/Moneybox.asp?Show=7/19/99&idMessage=3241>

It's Not Abortion, It's the Life Issue

http://www.slate.com/framegame/entries/99-07-16_32147.asp

international papers

It's in the Genes

By Alexander Chancellor

The world press ran out of new things to say about Kennedy tragedies many years ago, and all the old cliches were revived Monday in the massive coverage of the tragic loss of John F. Kennedy Jr. in a plane crash Friday--the "curse" on the family, its love of adventure, the "end of a dynasty," etc. But the Jerusalem Post peddled a new theory. The Kennedys are not "star-crossed, cursed, or unlucky," it said in a front-page report. "They undoubtedly bear the novelty-seeking and risk-taking gene discovered in Israel that makes members impulsive, adventurous, and tend to take chances with drugs, sex, speed, and other potentially dangerous activities." The paper was quoting Dr. Richard Ebstein, a molecular geneticist at Jerusalem's Herzog Memorial Hospital, who headed the team that discovered the gene. "If I were a Kennedy, I would consult the best psychological experts in the US to discuss what normal personalities are and how to control their risk-taking urge," he told the paper. Ebstein discovered "the D-4 receptor and serotonin transporter promoter gene" in 1996, the paper said. "He more recently found that it increases the bearer's risk of getting addicted to hard drugs (although several genes are probably involved), can cause adults to seek sensation, and makes newborns as young as two weeks more alert and curious about the outside world."

There was widespread reluctance in Kennedy-obsessed European newspapers to write off the future of the family dynasty. Corriere della Sera of Milan pegged John Jr.'s cousin Kathleen Kennedy Townsend on its front page as the heir to his "sceptre." "It would be good if Camelot, the mythical realm of King Arthur, were to end in the hands of a woman above suspicion," it said. "It would be poetic if the first American woman president were to be called not

Hillary but Kathleen." Corriere also carried an interview with Gay Talese, "the troubadour of today's America and yesterday's Italy," dismissing the idea of a Kennedy curse. "I think, on the contrary, that there burns inside them a feeling of invincibility, an obsession with challenge, an arrogance of power that drive them to take risks all the time," he was quoted as saying. Asked if he thought John Jr. had been different from the others, Talese replied: "Different in the sense that he wasn't a sexual predator, like his father, uncle and grandfather, nor addicted to drugs or alcohol, like other members of his family. ... But otherwise he was a Kennedy--sure of himself and convinced of his immortality."

La Repubblica of Rome, on the other hand, said John Jr.'s problem was that he knew he wasn't a Kennedy at heart and that he had crashed his plane because he wanted to be one. "He didn't manage to live like a Kennedy, but fate allowed him at least to leave this world as one," it concluded. (But what does La Repubblica know about it? Another characteristic of the Kennedys is that they invite reckless psychological examination.) La Repubblica led its front page with a headline saying that John Jr. shouldn't have flown at night because he wasn't certified to do so. In Britain, the tabloid Express announced in huge letters that he had "had a death wish." In Paris, Le Figaro's headline was "The Accursed Kings" ("Les Rois Maudits"), and its front-page editorial compared John Jr. to the late Princess of Wales. "Like Lady Di," it said, "fate struck because, according to one of those Elizabethan poets of whom President Kennedy always kept a quotation in reserve [not Elizabethan actually: James Shirley, 1596-1666], 'There is no armor against fate;/ Death lays his icy hand on kings.' "

In an editorial, the Times of London said John Jr.'s fate recalled another myth--that of Oedipus, who fulfilled a prophecy by killing his father and marrying his mother without knowing who they were. The Oedipus story survives, the paper said, "because it embodies the deep human sense that free will is a fragile thing, and no inheritance, however noble, frees one from the mark of sin. ... The fate of John Kennedy Jr reinforces in every mind that melancholy truth." The Independent of London also made the Princess Diana comparison, saying that her myth, like that of the Kennedys, was not solely the property of one country. "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 than run through the Kennedy rhetoric," it said in an editorial. "It is the Kennedy greatness to call us to a higher moral purpose, and the Kennedy tragedy that none of the family could fulfil that promise."

The Guardian of London commented in its editorial Monday that if John Jr.'s death "helps slow down the US trend toward a new kind of dynastic democracy, then some good will have come from this grim news." The paper also quoted Col. Muammar Qaddafi of Libya, as reported by the BBC, on its front page. While expressing his "deepest regret" about the tragedy, Qaddafi said he was "even more sad" that the United States has been unable to locate his plane. "America claims to know how to find a mustard seed, either on earth

or in space, thanks to its extraordinary capabilities," he said.
"Or perhaps the US is negligent and not serious in searching for its citizens from the Kennedy dynasty?"

the dismal science

Don't Laugh at Me, Argentina: Serious lessons from a silly crisis.

By Paul Krugman

Argentina used to be a place of legendary political irresponsibility, where generals in funny hats declared war on Margaret Thatcher, and populist politicians who promised paradise consistently delivered hyperinflation instead. But over the past 10 years President Carlos Menem has steadily turned the country's reputation around. Inflation has been eliminated, with the peso securely pegged to the dollar. An absurdly inefficient system of protected markets and money-losing public corporations has been liberalized and privatized, producing a fair bit of unemployment but a huge surge in productivity. And as recently as five or six months ago the country was the darling of the business press, praised for its success in riding out the world's financial storms.

As usual, however, good press was the sign that things were about to take a turn for the worse. For a variety of reasons, including the devaluation in neighboring Brazil, Argentina has been sliding into a moderately severe recession and with it a growing budget deficit, just as a presidential election approaches. And in apparent desperation over his lag in the polls, Eduardo Duhalde, the Peronist candidate--the candidate, in other words, of Menem's party, which brought Argentina its unaccustomed stability--startled everyone by announcing his intention to discuss possible debt relief for Argentina. Not with the banks, mind you, but with the pope. (The pope has recently joined the call for debt forgiveness for poor nations, but he was surely talking about Fourth World economies such as Mozambique, not relatively well-off places such as Argentina.)

You have to admit that it is pretty funny. Surely the Monty Python cast is about to leap into view, shouting "Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!" But somehow, the markets didn't appreciate the humor: The Buenos Aires stock market plunged, and the interest rate on Argentine bonds soared.

The odds are that this whole affair will soon blow over. But even assuming that the peso holds and that things don't fall apart, there is still a serious lesson in Argentina's current travails--namely, that you can scratch one more supposed economic panacea off your list. For Argentina has been the role model for

those who believe that a credibly stable currency is all you need to promote prosperity. And its troubles--especially the contrast with the unexpectedly good news from Brazil--are therefore a reminder that, as John Maynard Keynes pointed out way back in the 1920s, a strong currency and a strong economy are by no means the same thing.

Now, Argentina does, by law (the so-called "convertibility law"), have an undeniably strong currency. A peso is worth a U.S. dollar, and that promise is made credible by the legal requirement that every peso in circulation be backed by a dollar's worth of foreign exchange reserves. In other words, short of actually abandoning its own currency in favor of the U.S. dollar--a measure that has been discussed quite a bit lately--Argentina has done everything possible to make that currency credible and secure. This "currency board" system was introduced in 1991, when hyperinflation was a recent memory and most people expected it to return in due course, and you can make a reasonable case that Argentina should stick with its currency board for some time to come. (Domingo Cavallo, who as finance minister was the architect of the board, suggested a few months back that it should endure for a decade or so.) But you can no longer brush off the argument that the system is a sort of economic straitjacket, one that is becoming increasingly onerous.

The problem, you see, is that the same rules that prevent Argentina from printing money for bad reasons--to pay for populist schemes or foolish wars--also prevent it from printing money for good reasons such as fighting recessions or rescuing the financial system. Argentina came very close to financial collapse in 1995 when it turned out that the convertibility law left no leeway to rush cash to troubled banks. It has since established various safety nets to prevent a repeat of that crisis, but some observers doubt whether those nets are really strong enough. And now the country faces what is basically a garden-variety recession, the sort of thing that happens to every economy now and then--except that unlike the United States, or even a similar-sized First World country such as Australia, it cannot try to cushion the slump by lowering interest rates and pushing more money into the system.

Now, these problems with a rigidly fixed exchange rate are not news. But for a while, currency-board enthusiasts managed to convince themselves that they weren't significant. They argued that as long as governments themselves followed stable policies--and as long as the economy was sufficiently "flexible" (the all-purpose answer to economic difficulties)--there would be few serious recessions.

But it turns out that history does not stop just because the currency is stable. And faced with a politically inconvenient recession, the Peronists find that there is nothing they can do. They cannot print money. They cannot even borrow money for some employment-generating public spending, because fiscal indiscipline would undermine the peso's hard-won credibility. You can understand why Duhalde might be tempted to appeal to a higher authority.

Of course, Argentina's economic team still believes that its system is better than the alternatives. The more sensible advocates of currency boards and, if necessary, dollarization, have always based their views less on hope than on fear--fear that any attempt to fight a recession by devaluing would lead instead to a surge in inflation and a financial collapse. But, as it turns out, their fears may have been almost as overstated as their hopes. When Brazil--whose economic history is nearly as dismal as Argentina's--finally devalued in January, the predicted hyperinflation never arrived and neither did the financial meltdown. Indeed, it is starting to look as if the collapse of the real was just what the doctor ordered.

The serious lesson of the antics in Argentina, then, is that the big issues of monetary economics--fixed vs. flexible exchange rates, whether countries should have independent currencies at all--are still wide open. It's an eternal controversy, and not even the pope can resolve it.

The Internet's informed look at politics and culture -- SLATE. What Matters. (<http://www.slate.com>)

E-mail delivery is for SLATE subscribers only. To receive SLATE e-mail deliveries, sign up for an annual subscription and get four weeks free. Cancel at the end of the four weeks and pay nothing. Or, continue with SLATE and we'll charge you \$19.95 and send you a thank-you gift. To subscribe to SLATE now, go to <http://www.slate.com/subscribe/evening.asp> or call (800)706-3330.

SLATE subscribers can add or remove themselves from any SLATE delivery by going to our "E-mail Delivery Services" page at <http://www.slate.com/code/reg3/emailservices.asp> and checking or unchecking the appropriate boxes. See SLATE Member Services at <http://www.slate.com/code/reg3/memberservices.asp> for additional information about SLATE.

This delivery powered by Exactis.com <http://www.exactis.com>

Copyright (c) 1999 Microsoft and/or its suppliers. All rights reserved.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Christi A. Schneeberger (CN=Christi A. Schneeberger/OU=ONDCP/O=EOP [ONDCP])

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-AUG-1999 08:03:19.00

SUBJECT: Director's Schedule

TO: Kemala S. Duewel (CN=Kemala S. Duewel/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Kemala,

I have a feeling this morning could be crazy. There is the Director's schedule for next week.

Sunday - Enroute to Brazil

Monday - Brazil

Director McCaffrey will attend Country Team Briefings.

Director McCaffrey will meet with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Director McCaffrey will meet with the Minister of Justice.

Director McCaffrey will meet with President Cardoso.

Director McCaffrey will meet with General Cardoso.

Director McCaffrey will meet with Judge Walter Maierovitch, Director of SENAD.

Director McCaffrey will meet with the Director General of the Federal Police.

Tuesday - Bolivia

Director McCaffrey will attend Country Team Briefings.

Director McCaffrey will meet eradication officials and visit an eradication site.

Wednesday - Bolivia

Director McCaffrey will meet with President Banzer.

Director McCaffrey will meet with Bolivian Congressional Leadership.

Director McCaffrey will attend a luncheon with Human Rights NGOs.

Thursday - Peru

Director McCaffrey will meet with President Fujimori

Director McCaffrey will meet with Ombudsman Jorge Santistevan.

Director McCaffrey will meet with Sofia Macher, Human Rights Coordinator.

Director McCaffrey will Dr. Alejandro Aguinaga Recuenco, President of Controdrogas.

Friday - Argentina

Director McCaffrey will attend Country Team Briefings.

Director McCaffrey will meet with President Carlos Menem.

Director McCaffrey will visit the SEFRONAR/HQ MERCOSUR.

Director McCaffrey will meet with Eduardo Duhaldo, Gov. of B.A., Peronista Presidential Candidate.

Director McCaffrey will meet with the Minister of Interior.
Director McCaffrey will meet with the Foreign Minister.
Director McCaffrey will meet with Carlos Alvarez, Vice Presidential
Candidate for Alianza.

Saturday - Enroute Washington DC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	USIA_Media_Reaction to [list] at 08:14:32.00. Subject: Early Report 8/25: Middle East/Colombia (2 pages)	08/25/1999	P3/b(3)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Automated Records Management System [Email]
WHO ([Menem])
OA/Box Number: 500000

FOLDER TITLE:

[05/28/1999 - 11/04/1999]

2019-0157-F
ab1715

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]

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]

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: USIA_Media_Reaction@notesmail1.usia.gov (USIA_Media_Reaction@notesmail1.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:25-AUG-1999 08:14:32.00

SUBJECT: Early Report 8/25: MIDDLE EAST/COLOMBIA

TO: mconnell@pagate.pa.osd.mil (mconnell@pagate.pa.osd.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: AllenG@usfk.korea.army.mil (AllenG@usfk.korea.army.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

[001]

TO: Lou_Lantner@dir.voa.gov (Lou_Lantner@dir.voa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: [REDACTED] (b)(3)
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: kenneth_h._mackay@lmgate2.eop.gov (kenneth_h._mackay@lmgate2.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: kschalow@usia.gov (kschalow@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Jonathan_E._Smith@lmgate2.eop.gov (Jonathan_E._Smith@lmgate2.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: foleyj@panet.us-state.gov (foleyj@panet.us-state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard L. Siewert (CN=Richard L. Siewert/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: jloiello@erols.com (jloiello@erols.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: ica@usia.gov (ica@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Francisco J. Sanchez (CN=Francisco J. Sanchez/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: glynn@usia.gov (glynn@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: rodriguezl@panet.us-state.gov (rodriguezl@panet.us-state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: moisana@af.pentagon.mil (moisana@af.pentagon.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: lmwillia@usia.gov (lmwillia@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: ACKrober@us-state.osis.gov (ACKrober@us-state.osis.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: kscole@VOA.GOV (kscole@VOA.GOV [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: jssbera@usia.gov (jssbera@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: JGibson@pagate.pa.osd.mil (JGibson@pagate.pa.osd.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: JCARPER@USIS.MALINET.ML (JCARPER@USIS.MALINET.ML [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: ACjsonta@US-STATE.OSIS.GOV (ACjsonta@US-STATE.OSIS.GOV [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: [REDACTED] (b)(3)
READ:UNKNOWN

[001 cont]

TO: herman%windhoek@mhs.cstat.co.za (herman%windhoek@mhs.cstat.co.za [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Analysts in the Middle East and a handful of writers elsewhere commented on the latest developments in the Middle East in advance of Secretary Albright's planned visit to the region next week. News reports of the agreement struck Monday between Palestinians and Israelis to begin construction of a port in Gaza City attracted the attention of a Japanese pundit, who saw the project as "raising hopes" that the two sides would agree to "a new framework to promote peace" during Ms. Albright's visit. Elsewhere, observers were less convinced that a breakthrough in peace negotiations was at hand, although most agreed that much was riding on the secretary's ability to bring the two sides together. In Tel Aviv, mass-appeal, pluralist Yediot welcomed Israeli Prime Minister Barak's proposal to have a comprehensive agreement with the Palestinians signed by February of 2000, but contended that Mr. Barak was still intent on "foot-dragging" and evading the implementation of the Wye River accords. An Egyptian daily and one in Lebanon were sharply critical of the "Israeli side," charging that it had become "addicted to maneuvering [and] evading its obligations." In Damascus, the government-owned Syria Times spoke warmly of what it viewed as "America's intention to control all tracks of the Middle East peace process," adding that "hopes for obtaining a just and comprehensive peace" in the region were "pinned on [Ms.] Albright's ability to convince Israel to stop being evasive."

COLOMBIA: MCCAFFREY VISIT TO REGION; 'RUMORS' OF U.S. INTERVENTION

U.S. drug czar Barry McCaffrey's Latin American tour to explore strategies with states in the region for choking off cocaine supplies from Colombia

headlined papers in Latin America and sparked some coverage in the European press. Many commentators focused on the U.S. role in the region, amid continued speculation on whether Washington is "prepared to launch a large-scale military intervention in Colombia in support of Pastrana's fight against the guerrillas." Noting Washington's readiness to give aid to the Pastrana government in the form of funds to equip the army, a Buenos Aires writer suggested that this "cold intervention...does not mean that Washington has abandoned its offensive strategy." Remarking that "the USG is showing all signs of its desire to intervene in the region," a Brasilia daily stressed, "Brazil follows the tradition of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries." While one La Paz paper noted "the increasing rumors about a possible American intervention," another argued that the battle lines for the drug trade would be better concentrated in the "large markets of consumption in the developed countries." A Lima daily judged it "unlikely that the Pentagon is preparing an intervention," since "there is no urgent reason for the White House to take such a risky decision as sending troops." A leading Caracas daily, however, asserted that "anyone who disbelieves that the U.S. will do its utmost...to strengthen the Colombian army so that it can confront and attack the narco-guerrilla is naive." Adding its voice to the fray, Madrid's independent El Mundo observed that, given the numbers of FARC, ELN, and paramilitary groups fighting there, "the last thing Colombia needs is to have another army enter the scene."

BRIEFS -- Jiang And Yeltsin In Bishkek: 'China Seeks Ally To Oppose U.S.'

-- Orahovac: 'Barricades Reflect Tensions Shaking Kosovo'

EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Kathleen J. Brahney, Bill Richey

MIDDLE EAST: 'HOPES FOR PEACE' 'PINNED' ON ALBRIGHT'S VISIT

ISRAEL: "Footdragging, Barak Style"

Liberal analyst Meir Steiglitz opined in mass-appeal, pluralist Yediot (8/25): "Prime Minister Barak's proposal to have a comprehensive agreement with the Palestinians signed by February 15, 2000 is praiseworthy indeed. The time has come to stop the endless, fruitless negotiations.... Barak's idea is so good that one cannot help wondering why not start permanent status talks right now.... Well, the reason is that Barak is very busy those days. Next week in Cairo, and in the presence of Secretary Albright, he plans to sign an agreement with the Palestinian Authority, which frees him of implementing the Wye accords. Those accords, in turn, legitimized the non-compliance with the Second Oslo agreements, which in fact authorized the revision of the First Oslo agreement.... All of which indicates that the agreement Barak wants to sign next February will simply permit him not to abide by the agreement he is planning to sign in Cairo next week.... The late President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin demonstrated that the road to peace could be as straight as an arrow. Barak, despite his reassuring statements, is going to add another chapter to the footdragging process which started with Oslo II."

"Security Prisoners, My Foot"

Nationalist writer Yisrael Rosenblatt contended in mass-appeal, pluralist

Maariv (8/25): "In its drive to make Palestinian terrorists-murderers look less ugly, Israel's magical word laundry has been trying to get us used to the insane idea that Palestinian murderers who killed Israeli men, women and children in their homes or on the streets are 'security prisoners.' What does security have to do with a Palestinian terrorist who stabs to death four Jewish women on a Jerusalem street? What exactly is the security aspect of a busy bus station in downtown Tel Aviv?... Now they have come up with a new formula. Shlomo Ben-Ami, our Internal Security Minister, announced the other day on Israel TV that all Palestinian 'war prisoners' will ultimately be freed. The current Guru of the Left appears to have endorsed the depraved terminology of the terrorist organizations.... That being the case, we might take the next logical step and start building memorials to the heroes of the Palestinian revolution."

EGYPT: "Israeli Maneuvering Unacceptable"

Pro-government Al Ahram observed (8/24): "The maneuvering and coercion of the Israeli position on implementing deals signed with Palestinians, last of which was Wye, are unacceptable. With the arrival of new leadership in Israel, peace supporters were optimistic about overcoming obstacles. But the situation now does not show that real change will take place in the Israeli conduct toward a comprehensive and just peace on all tracks. Arafat spoke about that with President Mubarak in Alexandria the other day. Since the Wye deal, signed under U.S. sponsorship, includes all the details and schedules for implementation, it is logical that these details do not need to go through another boring negotiation. The Israeli side has become addicted to maneuvering, evading its obligations, and pressuring the Palestinian Authority continually to give concessions."

LEBANON: "Negotiation Through Aggression"

Kamal Fadlallah judged in pro-Hoss Al-Liwa (8/24): "Israel's policy in conducting negotiations is based on aggression. Israel pressures Lebanon by increasing its military activities in the south prior to Albright's visit. Such policies give Israel the ability to change the negotiation focus to local security issues instead of resuming peace talks from where they ended in 1996."

SYRIA: "Will Albright's New Mission Succeed?"

Political analyst Riad Zein concluded in the government-owned Syria Times (8/24): "President Clinton and Secretary Albright made positive statements which demonstrate America's intention to control all tracks of the Middle East peace process, and they reiterated America's commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The new American position is positive and it represents an open message to the new Israeli leadership. It holds Barak's government responsible for problems in peace process, due to the contradictory statements made (by Barak's government) on the requirements for peace.... If the United States is serious about putting things on track and converting its commitment to peace into action, it must compel Israel to honor the concluded agreements. Hopes for obtaining a

just and comprehensive peace are pinned on Albright's ability to convince Israel to stop being evasive and adhere to the Madrid terms of reference."

GERMANY: "The Iron Lady's Visit"

Left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau maintained (8/25) in an editorial: "There is movement in the peace talks...as one can see at the recent amnesty for the Palestinian prisoners.... Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak seems to have realized that he cannot further delay the implementation of the Wye Agreement, which was delayed by his predecessor, Nethanyahu, in particular in light of the fact that the visit of an iron lady from Washington is on his calendar. The preliminary talks with Syria turned out to be more difficult than election winner Barak anticipated.... Israel's new government needs some progress in the peace process if it does not want to disappoint the hopes that Barak's election victory generated among Palestinians and politically left-oriented Israelis."

INDIA: "Arafat Hopes For Palestinian Unity"

Bahrain correspondent Kesava Menon had this to say in the centrist Hindu (8/24): "The Palestinians complain that no progress has been made in their negotiations with Israel and some Israeli analysts suggest that the Palestinians are being obdurate. Whether some movement will be registered before the U.S. Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, visits the region next week remains to be seen. From the actions of several actors involved in the process, however, it would appear that everyone is preparing for what could be a crucial phase.... Yasser Arafat has met the leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the two main rejectionist groups that are based in Syria.... The Israelis believe that Ms. Albright could be most productively engaged in the Syrian track of the negotiations and they do not want the United States to broker a breakthrough in the current impasse on the Palestinian track.... While the United States would probably be happy if the Israelis and Palestinians resolve their current differences bilaterally it is unlikely that Ms. Albright will remain aloof once she arrives in the region and finds the two principals still bickering."

JAPAN: "Port Construction Step Forward Toward Peace"

Liberal Asahi's Jerusalem correspondent Murakami observed (8/25): "Senior Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat has clarified that the Palestinians have reached an agreement with Israel on construction of a port at Gaza Strip. The Israeli side maintained that details on the date for starting the port construction project would be decided, subject to accords on the timing of Israeli military withdrawals from the West Bank, and the release of Palestinian political prisoners. It seems certain that there has been progress in (peace) negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel, raising the hope that both sides will agree on a new framework to promote peace in the Middle East during Secretary Albright's visit to the Middle East, scheduled for early next month."

COLOMBIA: MCCAFFREY VISIT TO REGION; 'RUMORS' OF U.S. INTERVENTION

ARGENTINA: "Brasilia Sets Clear Limits On Washington"

Eleonora Gosman, on special assignment in Brasilia for leading Clarin, observed (8/24): "Yesterday, Barry McCaffrey completed the first leg of his South American tour here. He had a diplomatically cordial, though lukewarm, reception.... And he encountered an unsurmountable barrier: The high-ranking officials he met made it clear to him that they do not admit 'any kind of military intervention' in Colombia.... During the press conference, McCaffrey emphasized that 'there will be no U.S. military intervention.' Instead, and at least for the time being, Washington is ready to intensify the 'aid' to Pastrana's government, which they consider 'seriously threatened.' This aid will consist of a heavy injection of funds to equip and train the armed forces. He will also receive additional intelligence support. This is, to a certain point, the 'cold intervention' everyone has talked so much about. McCaffrey knows that there is another complicated front: Argentina. He will meet with Carlos Menem, but, he said, he is much more interested in listening to (presidential candidates) Fernando de la Rúa and Eduardo Duhalde. The anti-drug 'czar' came to listen to 'suggestions.' This does not mean that Washington has abandoned its offensive strategy. There will be a meeting in October and another one in November which will gather 34 countries in the region. Perhaps, that might be the time to present a long-term initiative."

"The Anti-Drug 'Czar' In Argentina"

Gerardo Young, leading Clarin's political columnist, wrote (8/24): "Convinced that the conflict in Colombia is a long-lasting one...Barry McCaffrey will meet this Friday with Fernando de la Rúa and Eduardo Duhalde, the two candidates to succeed Carlos Menem in the presidency...to sound out their position regarding the Colombian conflict. The reason is obviously clear. With the idea of increasing its political or even military influence in Colombia, the United States needs support from countries in the region, not only now, but also for the up-coming months or years. Although president Carlos Menem, for the time being, rejected any possibility of supporting an intervention, surveys (in this sense) have only started.... Duhalde was the only one who declared he is in favor of a possible military intervention in the area taken over by the FARC guerrillas, when he said, four weeks ago, that 'you cannot rule out' a single hypothesis.... De la Rúa will say that, if he becomes the next president 'his view regarding Colombia will depend on the opinion of Brazil, the key ally in the region.' This will conclude the anti-drug 'czar's' tour. It will be almost like a doctor's house-call, but it will help Argentine politicians, those who are leaving and those who will be arriving, to show their position vis-a-vis up-coming international dilemmas."

BRAZIL: "Problems At The Border"

Brasilia's center-left Correio Braziliense ran this editorial (8/24), commenting on Colombia's internal crisis, its consequences for Brazil and the possibility of an American intervention in the area. It said: "The USG is showing all signs of its desire to intervene in the region. It has its reasons. By the end of the year the Panama Canal will be returned to the Panamanians. The famous southern command located in the canal zone will be

progressively deactivated. There is a concern that an eventual victory of the guerrillas in Colombia, allied with the narcotraffickers, will turn Central America into a drug corridor. General Barry McCaffrey, the U.S. strongman against drugs, is in Brazil to discuss the Colombian problem with Brazilian authorities. This will be the first formal contact between Brazilians and Americans to discuss the crisis in the neighboring country. Brazil follows the tradition of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, but it has not experienced a problem of this magnitude since the Paraguay war in the last century. The conflict and its foreseeable consequences for Brazil suggest careful but urgent measures. It is necessary to reinforce the border's defense, to gather better and additional information about what is really going on in Colombia, and to give

wide dissemination to all this. Brazil cannot and must not be left at the mercy of the American propaganda machine. The Brazilian agenda must be prepared in Brasilia. Not in Washington."

BOLIVIA: "The Other Front In The Battle Against Drugs"

Catholic-church owned, left-leaning Presencia carried this editorial (8/24): "It is a fact that the large rings of drug commerce are not based in Latin America, but are concentrated in the large markets of consumption in the developed nations.... It would be good if the country formed a front to get the developed countries to fulfill their domestic part in the battle."

"To Clarify Penetration Of Drug Trafficking"

Conservative El Diario maintained (8/24): "The president's statements about the penetration of drug trafficking in political parties, justice, the police and the armed forces, are serious and alarming.... This creates sensitivity at a regional level, while there are increasing rumors about a possible American intervention in Colombia due to the growing attacks of the guerrillas allied with drug trafficking, which in the Bolivian case, and given the president's remarks, would make this country more vulnerable to a similar action.... It could be that the (president's) statements were caused by the visit of the anti-drug 'czar,' so that he does not underestimate drug trafficking's power in our country, and that, instead, the United States supports in an appropriate way the government's efforts against this scourge."

"The Empire Exists"

Centrist La Prensa held (8/24): "The empire still lives, although now in its perfected form...[and] has been put into practice by the United States after WWII and, especially since the fall of the Berlin Wall.... Instead of intervening directly in each country, what the contemporary empire does is mark the territory in which each nation can move with sovereignty.... From time to time, this situation is more evident, as will undoubtedly happen on the occasion of General McCaffrey's arrival to Bolivia, along with all the paraphernalia that comes with him."

PERU: "A Low Cost Strategy Is Being Prepared"

Political analyst Roman Ortiz commented in straight-forward, respected El Comercio (8/23): "Is Washington prepared to launch a large-scale military intervention in Colombia in support of Pastrana's fight against the guerrillas?... In spite of the consultations held by U.S. officials with several Latin American foreign ministries about the possibility of counting on their participation in case such a military operation were launched, it is unlikely that the Pentagon is preparing an intervention. Since the Vietnam War, the political imperative of not suffering losses in its foreign interventions has determined U.S. strategy. Seen in perspective, Kosovo seems a military stroll in comparison with a possible operation in Colombia. Faced with this prospect, the United States has other alternatives which it is already putting into practice. Washington has various objectives in Colombia: to contain drug trafficking, to protect the Panama Canal, and to avoid a full victory of the guerrillas. In sum, there is no urgent reason for the White House to take such a risky decision as sending troops to Colombia. So then, why has the United States raised the possibility of a joint intervention with its Latin American partners? Probably because it needs to obtain other concessions from them, such as their commitment to intensify border surveillance in order to stop the flow of supplies to the Colombian guerrillas. But from there to sponsoring a large scale military intervention, lies a chasm that Washington does not seem ready to cross."

VENEZUELA: "Madeleine's Muse"

Caracas's leading, liberal El Nacional ran an op-ed (8/24) by editorial board member Beatriz de Majo: "In last Tuesday's New York Times piece entitled 'Colombia Struggles, and How Can

We Help,'...[Secretary of State Albright] referred to the drug-peace-economy relationship. Her article should make us think about what parts of this should involve us.... Whatever happens to Colombia will, for good or ill, drag us, its closest neighbors, along.... What is at stake is very serious. Whoever does not want to see that Colombia is on the path to increasingly unavoidable and bloody internal armed conflict, is living in another world. Whoever who does not want to see that the guerrillas, paramilitaries and drugs are an indivisible issue, each feeding by the strength of the others, is living in another reality. Anyone who disbelieves that the United States will do its utmost--as Albright declares in her famous article--to strengthen the Colombian Army so that it can confront and attack the narco-guerrilla, is also naive.... What is not yet clear is how the cooperation and agreement commonly promised to our neighbours is going to happen. Albright states very clearly that all cooperation should go beyond a simple fight against drugs.... The time has come to highlight hemispheric solidarity and the adherence to democracy and justice claimed as Bolivar's heritage, and join Colombia in an enthusiastic and committed way in the fight for national peace, which is, concurrently, the fight for rights and the eradication of the drug culture. Such action will eventually lead to more peace on our borders, more security for our citizens, and fewer drugs in our environment."

SPAIN: "The Colombian Abyss"

Independent El Mundo judged (8/25): "The peace dialogue has been

indefinitely suspended while combat rages more fiercely than ever. The government has virtually no control over almost half the country, and its army is weak and poorly armed. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), with its 15,000 soldiers, is one of the world's biggest drug trafficking operations. The National Liberation Army (ELN), with 8,000 troops, wants to make itself heard after Pastrana relegated it to a disdainful second place in the peace process. The paramilitary groups number about 5,000, half of them peasants fed up with the guerrilla-wrought devastation, the other half mercenaries. All have made violence their modus vivendi. Caught in the crossfire, the Colombian populace has mounted massive protests against the violence, the kidnappings, and the country's drift towards criminality. Civil society is about the only hope left for Colombia. The alternatives are acceding to FARC's Bolivarian designs, which it shares with [Venezuela's Hugo] Chavez, or American intervention. And the last thing Colombia needs is to have another army enter the scene."

MOSCOW: "Kosovo Scenario In South America"

Karen Khachaturov observed in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (8/25): "There are rumors about 'possible foreign (U.S.) intervention' in Colombia. They have caused irreparable damage to the negotiations process in that country. According to foreign sources, the United States is holding consultations with Peru, Ecuador and other countries, seeking their support for intervention. The reaction of the South American nations is negative, since none of them feels safe in the face of possible U.S. aggression. They are protesting against attempts to revive the big stick and gunboat policies."

BRIEFS

JIANG AND YELTSIN IN BISHKEK: 'CHINA SEEKS ALLY TO OPPOSE U.S.'

RUSSIA: "China Seeks Ally To Oppose U.S."

Reformist Vremya-MN front-paged this (8/25) by Arkady Dubnov in Bishkek: "Chinese leader Jiang Zemin made it clear a month ago that he would only come to Bishkek if his Russian friend (Boris Yeltsin) did. Friendship is a great thing, especially when you have someone against whom you can use it. Beijing hopes Moscow will be an ally in fighting 'American hegemony' which the Chinese leaders find particularly dangerous after Kosovo."

"Stake Is On Beijing"

Yuri Chubchenko asserted in reformist, business-oriented Kommersant Daily (8/25): "Russia has stayed out of Central Asian affairs long enough. After it sent its foreign minister to stand in for its president at last year's summit, Central Asian countries decided to bet on Beijing."

BRITAIN: "Moscow, China Cement Anti-NATO Pact"

The conservative Times had this from diplomatic editor Michael Binyon in Moscow (8/25): "President Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin, the Chinese leader, will begin a rare summit meeting today that will underline the hostility in

Moscow and Beijing to NATO's hegemony in Kosovo and the determination in both capitals to resist Western encroachments in their backyard. China, like Russia, saw Kosovo as a dangerous precedent that could be used to justify other Western interventions around the world without authorization by the UN. Though regional security, border issues and trade form the bulk of the agenda, the real importance lies in reinforcing the Moscow-Beijing axis, and the growing determination of Russia and China to confront what they see as American world domination."

GERMANY: "Bear Flirting With The Dragon"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich commented (8/25): "Moscow and Beijing have a common interest in keeping Central Asia stable to secure access to the resources there. The post-Communist leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan can rest assured that Moscow and Beijing will support them in their fight against the Muslim rebels. For President Boris Yeltsin and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin those regional questions are of less interest. To them Chinese-Russian relations are more important. Moscow as well as Beijing want to reduce the international influence of the United States. The Russians in particular are miffed about the United States' Balkan policy. Beijing wants to cover ground in the conflict over Taiwan. But the basic problem between the two will not be a topic of discussion--China's efforts to gain economic influence in the Far East of Russia, which will undermine Moscow's position in the long run. As nice as the Russian bear and the Chinese dragon are treating each other, this is a far cry from a strategic alliance."

ORAHOVAC: 'BARRICADES REFLECT TENSIONS SHAKING KOSOVO'

RUSSIA: "Russia-NATO Relations May Sour"

Gennady Sysoyev judged in reformist, business-oriented Kommersant Daily (8/25): "The standoff may be the end of the Kosovo operation. The KFOR command is in no hurry to intervene, letting the Russians know that they can't do much in Kosovo without NATO. The standoff outside Orahovac can't go on indefinitely. It will either escalate into an armed conflict or mar relations between Russia and NATO."

NETHERLANDS: "Dutch Peacekeepers A Pawn"

Influential independent NRC Handelsblad's editorial argued (8/24): "A lot of the problems stem from the unclear situation which the international organizations in Kosovo allow to exist. On the one hand, they are in power, but at the same time they offered the KLA room to operate as some sort of an administration.... It was not too smart of The Hague to openly resist replacement of the Dutch peacekeepers. In order for KFOR to perform well, it will have to operate as a unity. Whatever the Albanians may think of the Russians, the Russians are part of the international peacekeeping force and should be respected as such. The Dutch attitude has probably strengthened the Kosovars in their opposition against the Russians. Escalation will not serve anybody's interest."

FRANCE: "Serbs In Danger"

Bruno Frappat observed in Catholic La Croix (8/25): "For months, the Albanians were being chased from their country, humiliated and often massacred. Today, two months after the end of the NATO strikes, the few Serbs who remain in Kosovo live in a climate of fear, terror and insecurity.... Every evening in Pristina, war songs and hate chants are heard. These are part of the sinister repertory of the UCK.... NATO intervened in a legitimate effort to stop Belgrade's ethnic cleansing policy. Instead, the strikes momentarily accelerated that process. Later, the Kosovar population was able to return home. Before visiting Pristina, Hubert Vedrine indicated that the priority was 'security for all.'... Starting with those who are the most threatened: the Serbs.... Today, the international community has the responsibility of finding ways to protect the new victims of Kosovo."

GERMANY: "No Reason For Malicious Glee Toward The Serbs"

Right-of-center Fuldaer Zeitung stressed (8/25): "There are fewer than 30,000 Serbs in all of Kosovo. 195,000 Serbs fled from the threats and aggressions of the long-oppressed Kosovo-Albanians. There is no reason for malicious glee toward the Serbs, who started the Balkan conflict. As long as both sides consider themselves victims and nurture their martyr myths, a solution to the problem will be impossible."

ITALY: "Barricades Reflect Tensions Shaking Kosovo"

Pietro Del Re emphasized in left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (8/25): "Barricades in Orahovac reflect tensions that are shaking Kosovo.... It looks likely that if the Albanians do not remove their barricades, the Russian troops will be deployed elsewhere, perhaps in the sector of Kosovo where there are more Serbs. Why didn't they think of this earlier? In the meantime, the UNHCR announced that no more than 30,000 Serbs are left in the province, mostly located in three sites in the North."

BULGARIA: "KLA Cannot Put On Democracy Hat"

Left-leaning Monitor (8/25) said: "It is quite clear by now that due to its confrontation with the KLA, the UN Mission in Kosovo is not capable of enforcing law and order in the Serbian province. NATO's bombings did not stop the ethnic cleansing, they forged a different one. KFOR is unable to prevent the Kosovo Albanians from chasing the Serb population out of Kosovo. This is why many politicians in the West are calling for the transformation of the KLA from an armed guerrilla force into a political power. This kind of transformation is hardly possible. The KLA was conceived not as a political, but as a military-terrorist organization. Its structure is based on criminal mafia-clan elements. It is very difficult to imagine that a political power of European type would eventually emerge from this type of organization. Sooner or later it will have to be banned or forcefully eliminated."

##

TEXT:

WPC

2BPV' Courier 10cpi|x?xxx,kx6X@8;X@ 3'

3' 3' 3' X' hp x X X 3'
3' 3'

X Xp x #Xx\ P6QyXP#
X' hp x (#O
ddx
XxX<O
X4 -X' hp x #:x2PkCXP#

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

X4 #.:2PkCP#EARLY REPORT #XX\ P6QyP#USIA #:Z2PkCP#U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY,
WA

SHINGTON DC 20547 OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTIONOO

X X' hp x (##XP\ P6QyP#Bill Richey, Branch Chief Media Reaction, (202) 61965

11 Ann Pincus, Director

Archived at: www.

usia.gov/products/medreac.htm

#Xn\ P6Qy&P#Wednesday, August 25, 1999

X' hp x MIDDLE EAST: 'HOPES FOR PEACE' 'PINNED' ON ALBRIGHT'S VISIT

X' hp x

X' hp x Analysts in the Middle East and a handful of writers elsewhere comment
ed on

the latest developments in the Middle East in advance of Secretary
Albrig

ht's planned visit to the region next week. News reports of the
agreement stru

ck Monday between Palestinians and Israelis to begin
construction of a port in

Gaza City attracted the attention of a Japanese
pundit, who saw the project as

"raising hopes" that the two sides would
agree to "a new framework to promote p
eace" during Ms. Albright's visit.

Elsewhere, observers were less convinced th
at a breakthrough in peace

negotiations was at hand, although most agreed that
much was riding on the

secretary's ability to bring the two sides together. In
Tel Aviv,

massappeal, pluralist Yediot welcomed Israeli Prime Minister Barak's

proposal to have a comprehensive agreement with the Palestinians signed by
Feb

ruary of 2000, but contended that Mr. Barak was still intent on
"footdragging"

and evading the implementation of the Wye River accords.

An Egyptian daily and one in Lebanon were sharply critical of the "Israeli side," charging that it had become "addicted to maneuvering [and] evading its obligations." In Damascus, the government-owned Syria Times spoke warmly of what it viewed as "America's intention to control all tracks of the Middle East peace process," adding that "hopes for obtaining a just and comprehensive peace" in the region were "pinned on [Ms.] Albright's ability to convince Israel to stop being evasive."

COLOMBIA: MCCAFFREY VISIT TO REGION; 'RUMORS' OF U.S. INTERVENTION

U.S. drug czar Barry McCaffrey's Latin American tour to explore strategies with states in the region for choking off cocaine supplies from Colombia headlined papers in Latin America and sparked some coverage in the European press. Many commentators focused on the U.S. role in the region, amid continued speculation on whether Washington is "prepared to launch a largescale military intervention in Colombia in support of Pastrana's fight against the guerrillas." Noting Washington's readiness to give aid to the Pastrana government in the form of funds to equip the army, a Buenos Aires writer suggested that this "cold intervention...does not mean that Washington has abandoned its offensive strategy." Remark that "the USG is showing all signs of its desire to intervene in the region," a Brasilia daily stressed, "Brazil follows the tradition of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries." While one La Paz paper noted "the increasing rumors about a possible American intervention," another argued that the battle lines for the drug trade would be better concentrated in the "large markets of consumption in the developed countries." A Lima daily judged it "unlikely that the Pentagon is preparing an intervention," since "there is no urgent reason for the White House to take such a risky decision as sending troops." A leading Caracas daily, however, asserted that "anyone who disbelieves that the U.S. will do its utmost...to strengthen the Colombian army so that it

can confront and attack the narcoguerrilla is naive." Adding its voice to the fray, Madrid's independent El Mundo observed that, given the numbers of FARC, E LN, and paramilitary groups fighting there, "the last thing Colombia needs is to have another army enter the scene."

BRIEFS Jiang And Yeltsin In Bishkek: 'China Seeks Ally To Oppose U.S.'

Orahovac: 'Barricades Reflect Tensions Shaking Kosovo'

EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Kathleen J. Brahney, Bill Richey

MIDDLE EAST: 'HOPES FOR PEACE' 'PINNED' ON ALBRIGHT'S VISIT

ISRAEL: "Footdragging, Barak Style"

Liberal analyst Meir Steiglitz opined in massappeal, pluralist Yediot (8/25):

"Prime Minister Barak's proposal to have a comprehensive agreement with the Pal

estinians signed by February 15, 2000 is praiseworthy indeed.

The time has com

e to stop the endless, fruitless negotiations.... Barak's

idea is so good that

one cannot help wondering why not start permanent status talks right now....

Well, the reason is that Barak is very busy

those days. Next week in Cairo, an

d in the presence of Secretary Albright,

he plans to sign an agreement with the

Palestinian Authority, which frees

him of implementing the Wye accords. Those

accords, in turn, legitimized

the noncompliance with the Second Oslo agreement

s, which in fact

authorized the revision of the First Oslo agreement.... All of

which

indicates that the agreement Barak wants to sign next February will simply

permit him not to abide by the agreement he is planning to sign in Cairo next

t week.... The late President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin demonstrated that

the road to peace could be as straight as an arrow.

Barak, despite his reassu

ring statements, is going to add another chapter

to the footdragging process wh

ich started with Oslo II."

"Security Prisoners, My Foot"

Nationalist writer Yisrael Rosenblatt contended in massappeal, pluralist

Maariv

(8/25): "In its drive to make Palestinian terrorists murderers look less ugly, Israel's magical word laundry has been trying to get us used to the insane idea that Palestinian murderers who killed Israeli men, women and children in their homes or on the streets are 'security prisoners.' What does security have to do with a Palestinian terrorist who stabs to death four Jewish women on a Jerusalem street? What exactly is the security aspect of a busy bus station in downtown Tel Aviv?... Now they have come up with a new formula. Shlomo Ben-Ami, our Internal Security Minister, announced the other day on Israel TV that all Palestinian 'war prisoners' will ultimately be freed. The current Guru of the Left appears to have endorsed the depraved terminology of the terrorist organizations.... That being the case, we might take the next logical step and start building memorials to the heroes of the Palestinian revolution."

X hp x
X hp x - EGYPT: "Israeli Maneuvering Unacceptable"

Progovernment Al Ahram observed (8/24): "The maneuvering and coercion of the Israeli position on implementing deals signed with Palestinians, last of which was Wye, are unacceptable. With the arrival of new leadership in Israel, peace supporters were optimistic about overcoming obstacles. But the situation now does not show that real change will take place in the Israeli conduct toward a comprehensive and just peace on all tracks. Arafat spoke about that with President Mubarak in Alexandria the other day. Since the Wye deal, signed under U.S. sponsorship, includes all the details and schedules for implementation, it is logical that these details do not need to go through another boring negotiation. The Israeli side has become addicted to maneuvering, evading its obligations, and pressuring the Palestinian Authority continually to give concessions."

LEBANON: "Negotiation Through Aggression"

Kamal Fadlallah judged in pro-Hossain Ali (8/24): "Israel's policy in

conducting negotiations is based on aggression. Israel pressures Lebanon by increasing its military activities in the south prior to Albright's visit. Such policies give Israel the ability to change the negotiation focus to local security issues instead of resuming peace talks from where they ended in 1996."

SYRIA: "Will Albright's New Mission Succeed?"

Political analyst Riad Zein concluded in the government-owned Syria Times (8/24)

: "President Clinton and Secretary Albright made positive statements which demonstrate America's intention to control all tracks of the Middle East peace process, and they reiterated America's commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The new American position is positive and it represents an open message to the new Israeli leadership. It holds Barak's government responsible for problems in peace process, due to the contradictory statements made (by Barak's government) on the requirements for peace.... If the United States is serious about putting things on track and converting its commitment to peace into action, it must compel Israel to honor the concluded agreements. Hopes for obtaining a just and comprehensive peace are pinned on Albright's ability to convince Israel to stop being evasive and adhere to the Madrid terms of reference."

X' hp x

GERMANY: "The Iron Lady's Visit"

X' hp x Leftofcenter Frankfurter Rundschau maintained (8/25) in an editorial:

"There is movement in the peace talks...as one can see at the recent amnesty for the Palestinian prisoners.... Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak seems to have realized that he cannot further delay the implementation of the Wye Agreement, which was delayed by his predecessor, Nethanyahu, in particular in light of the fact that the visit of an Iron Lady from Washington is on his calendar.

The preliminary talks with Syria turned out to be more difficult than election winner Barak anticipated.... Israel's new government needs some progress in the peace process if it does not want to disappoint the hopes that Barak's election victory generated among Palestinians and politically left-oriented Israelis."

INDIA: "Arafat Hopes For Palestinian Unity"

Bahrain correspondent Kesava Menon had this to say in the centrist Hindu (8/24): "The Palestinians complain that no progress has been made in their negotiations with Israel and some Israeli analysts suggest that the Palestinians are being obdurate. Whether some movement will be registered before the U.S. Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, visits the region next week remains to be seen. From the actions of several actors involved in the process, however, it would appear that everyone is preparing for what could be a crucial phase.... Yasser Arafat has met the leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the two main rejectionist groups that are based in Syria.... The Israelis believe that Ms. Albright could be most productively engaged in the Syrian track of the negotiations and they do not want the United States to broker a breakthrough in the current impasse on the Palestinian track.... While the United States would probably be happy if the Israelis and Palestinians resolve their current differences bilaterally it is unlikely that Ms. Albright will remain aloof once she arrives in the region and finds the two principals still bickering."

JAPAN: "Port Construction Step Forward Toward Peace"

Liberal Asahi's Jerusalem correspondent Murakami observed (8/25): "Senior Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat has clarified that the Palestinians have reached an agreement with Israel on construction of a port at Gaza Strip. The I

sraeli side maintained that details on the date for starting the port construction project would be decided, subject to accords on the timing of Israeli military withdrawals from the West Bank, and the release of Palestinian political prisoners. It seems certain that there has been progress in (peace) negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel, raising the hope that both sides will agree on a new framework to promote peace in the Middle East during Secretary Albright's visit to the Middle East, scheduled for early next month."

X' hp x

COLOMBIA: MCCAFFREY VISIT TO REGION; 'RUMORS' OF U.S. INTERVENTION

ARGENTINA: "Brasilia Sets Clear Limits On Washington"

Eleonora Gosman, on special assignment in Brasilia for leading Clarin, observe
d (8/24): "Yesterday, Barry McCaffrey completed the first leg of his South American tour here. He had a diplomatically cordial, though lukewarm, reception...
. And he encountered an unsurmountable barrier: The highranking officials he met made it clear to him that they do not admit 'any kind of military intervention' in Colombia.... During the press conference, McCaffrey emphasized that 'there will be no U.S. military intervention.' Instead, and at least for the time being, Washington is ready to intensify the 'aid' to Pastrana's government, which they consider 'seriously threatened.' This aid will consist of a heavy injection of funds to equip and train the armed forces. He will also receive additional intelligence support. This is, to a certain point, the 'cold intervention' everyone has talked so much about. McCaffrey knows that there is another complicated front: Argentina. He will meet with Carlos Menem, but, he said, he is much more interested in listening to (presidential candidates) Fernando de la Rúa and Eduardo Duhalde. The antidrug 'czar' came to listen to 'suggestions.'
This does not mean that Washington has abandoned its offensive strategy. There will be a meeting in October and another one

in November which will gather 3
4 countries in the region. Perhaps, that
might be the time to present a longte
rm initiative."

"The AntiDrug 'Czar' In Argentina"

Gerardo Young, leading Clarin's political columnist, wrote (8/24):
"Convinced
that the conflict in Colombia is a longlasting one...Barry
McCaffrey will meet
this Friday with Fernando de la Rúa and Eduardo
Duhalde, the two candidates to
succeed Carlos Menem in the presidency...to
sound out their position regarding
the Colombian conflict. The reason is
obviously clear. With the idea of incr
easing its political or even
military influence in Colombia, the United States
needs support from
countries in the region, not only now, but also for the upco
ming months or
years. Although president Carlos Menem, for the time being, rej
ected any
possibility of supporting an intervention, surveys (in this sense) ha
ve
only started.... Duhalde was the only one who declared he is in favor of a
possible military intervention in the area taken over by the FARC
guerrillas, w
hen he said, four weeks ago, that 'you cannot rule out' a
single hypothesis....

De la Rúa will say that, if he becomes the next
president 'his view regarding
Colombia will depend on the opinion of
Brazil, the key ally in the region.' T
his will conclude the antidrug
'czar's' tour. It will be almost like a doctor'
s housecall, but it will
help Argentine politicians, those who are leaving and
those who will be
arriving, to show their position visavis upcoming internation
al
dilemmas."

BRAZIL: "Problems At The Border"

Brasilia's centerleft Correio Braziliense ran this editorial (8/24),
commenting
on Colombia's internal crisis, its consequences for Brazil and
the possibility
of an American intervention in the area. It said: "The USG
is showing all sig
ns of its desire to intervene in the region. It has its
reasons. By the end o

f the year the Panama Canal will be returned to the Panamanians. The famous southern command located in the canal zone will be progressively deactivated. There is a concern that an eventual victory of the guerrillas in Colombia, allied with the narcotraffickers, will turn Central America into a drug corridor. General Barry McCaffrey, the U.S. strongman against drugs, is in Brazil to discuss the Colombian problem with Brazilian authorities. This will be the first formal contact between Brazilians and Americans to discuss the crisis in the neighboring country. Brazil follows the tradition of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries, but it has not experienced a problem of this magnitude since the Paraguay war in the last century. The conflict and its foreseeable consequences for Brazil suggest careful but urgent measures. It is necessary to reinforce the border's defense, to gather better and additional information about what is really going on in Colombia, and to give

wide dissemination to all this. Brazil cannot and must not be left at the mercy of the American propaganda machine. The Brazilian agenda must be prepared in Brasilia. Not in Washington."

X hp x

X hp x BOLIVIA: "The Other Front In The Battle Against Drugs"

Catholic church owned, left-leaning Presencia carried this editorial (8/24): "It is a fact that the large rings of drug commerce are not based in Latin America, but are concentrated in the large markets of consumption in the developed nations.... It would be good if the country formed a front to get the developed countries to fulfill their domestic part in the battle."

"To Clarify Penetration Of Drug Trafficking"

Conservative El Diario maintained (8/24): "The president's statements about the penetration of drug trafficking in political parties, justice, the police and the armed forces, are serious and alarming.... This creates

sensitivity at a regional level, while there are increasing rumors about a possible American intervention in Colombia due to the growing attacks of the guerrillas allied with drug trafficking, which in the Bolivian case, and given the president's remarks, would make this country more vulnerable to a similar action.... It could be that the (president's) statements were caused by the visit of the antidrug 'czar,' so that he does not underestimate drug trafficking's power in our country, and that, instead, the United States supports in an appropriate way the government's efforts against this scourge."

"The Empire Exists"

Centrist La Prensa held (8/24): "The empire still lives, although now in its perfected form...[and] has been put into practice by the United States after WW II and, especially since the fall of the Berlin Wall.... Instead of intervening directly in each country, what the contemporary empire does is mark the territory in which each nation can move with sovereignty.... From time to time, this situation is more evident, as will undoubtedly happen on the occasion of General McCaffrey's arrival to Bolivia, along with all the paraphernalia that comes with him."

PERU: "A Low Cost Strategy Is Being Prepared"

Political analyst Roman Ortiz commented in straightforward, respected El Comercio (8/23): "Is Washington prepared to launch a largescale military intervention in Colombia in support of Pastrana's fight against the guerrillas?... In spite of the consultations held by U.S. officials with several Latin American foreign ministries about the possibility of counting on their participation in case such a military operation were launched, it is unlikely that the Pentagon is preparing an intervention. Since the Vietnam War, the political imperative of not suffering losses in its foreign interventions has determined U.S. strategy."

Seen in perspective,
Kosovo seems a military stroll in comparison with a possible operation in
Colombia. Faced with this prospect, the United States has other
alternatives which it is already putting into practice. Washington has various
objectives in Colombia: to contain drug trafficking, to protect the Panama
Canal, and to avoid a full victory of the guerrillas. In sum, there is no urgent
reason for the White House to take such a risky decision as sending troops to
Colombia. So then, why has the United States raised the possibility of a joint
intervention with its Latin American partners?
Probably because it needs to
obtain other concessions from them, such as their commitment to intensify border
surveillance in order to stop the flow of supplies to the Colombian guerrillas.
But from there to sponsoring a large scale military intervention, lies a chasm that
Washington does not seem ready to cross."

VENEZUELA: "Madeleine's Muse"

Caracas's leading, liberal El Nacional ran an op-ed (8/24) by editorial board member
Beatriz de Majo: "In last Tuesday's New York Times piece entitled 'Colombian
Struggles, and How Can

We Help,"...[Secretary of State Albright] referred to the drug-poor economy relationship.
Her article should make us think about what parts of this should involve us....
Whatever happens to Colombia will, for good or ill, drag us, its closest neighbors, along....
What is at stake is very serious. Whoever does not want to see that Colombia is on the path to increasingly unavoidable and bloody
internal armed conflict, is living in another world. Whoever who does not want to see that the
guerrillas, paramilitaries and drugs are an indivisible issue, each feeding by the strength of the others, is living in another reality.
Anyone who disbelieves that the United States will do its utmost as Albright declares
in her famous article to strengthen the Colombian Army so that it can

conf

ront and attack the narcoguerrilla, is also naive.... What is not yet clear is

how the cooperation and agreement commonly promised to our neighbours is going

to happen. Albright states very clearly that all cooperation should go beyond

a simple fight against drugs.... The time has come to highlight hemispheric s

olidarity and the adherence to democracy and justice claimed as Bolivar's herit

age, and join Colombia in an enthusiastic and committed way in the fight for na

tional peace, which is, concurrently, the fight for rights and the eradication

of the drug culture. Such action

will eventually lead to more peace on our borders, more security for our

citizens, and fewer drugs in our environment."

X` hp x

X` hp x SPAIN: "The Colombian Abyss"

Independent El Mundo judged (8/25): "The peace dialogue has been indefinitely

suspended while combat rages more fiercely than ever. The government has virt

ually no control over almost half the country, and its army is weak and poorly

armed. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), with its 15,000 sold

iers, is one of the world's biggest drug trafficking operations. The National

Liberation Army (ELN), with 8,000

troops, wants to make itself heard after Past

rana relegated it to a

disdainful second place in the peace process. The paramilitary groups

number about 5,000, half of them peasants fed up with the guerrillawrought

devastation, the other half mercenaries. All have made violence the ir

modus vivendi. Caught in the crossfire, the Colombian populace has mounted massive protests against the violence, the kidnappings, and the country's

drift

towards criminality. Civil society is about the only hope left for Colombia.

The alternatives are acceding to FARC's Bolivarian designs, which it shares wit

h [Venezuela's Hugo] Chavez, or American intervention.

And the last thing Colo

mbia needs is to have another army enter the scene."

X` hp x

X` hp x MOSCOW: "Kosovo Scenario In South America"

Karen Khachaturov observed in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (8/25): "There are rumors about 'possible foreign (U.S.) intervention' in Colombia. They have caused irreparable damage to the negotiations process in that country. According to foreign sources, the United States is holding consultations with Peru, Ecuador and other countries, seeking their support for intervention. The reaction of the South American nations is negative, since none of them feels safe in the face of possible U.S. aggression. They are protesting against attempts to revive the big stick and gunboat policies."

BRIEFS

JIANG AND YELTSIN IN BISHKEK: 'CHINA SEEKS ALLY TO OPPOSE U.S.'

RUSSIA: "China Seeks Ally To Oppose U.S."

Reformist VremyaMN frontpaged this (8/25) by Arkady Dubnov in Bishkek: "Chinese leader Jiang Zemin made it clear a month ago that he would only come to Bishkek if his Russian friend (Boris Yeltsin) did. Friendship is a great thing, especially when you have someone against whom you can use it. Beijing hopes Moscow will be an ally in fighting 'American hegemony' which the Chinese leaders find particularly dangerous after Kosovo."

"Stake Is On Beijing"

Yuri Chubchenko asserted in reformist, business-oriented Kommersant Daily (8/25): "Russia has stayed out of Central Asian affairs long enough. After it sent its foreign minister to stand in for its president at last year's summit, Central Asian countries decided to bet on Beijing."

BRITAIN: "Moscow, China Cement AntiNATO Pact"

The conservative Times had this from diplomatic editor Michael Binyon in Moscow (8/25): "President Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin, the Chinese leader, will begin a rare summit meeting today that will underline the hostility in

Moscow and Beijing to NATO's hegemony in Kosovo and the determination in both capitals to resist Western encroachments in their backyard. China, like Russia, saw Kosovo as a dangerous precedent that could be used to justify other Western interventions around the world without authorization by the UN. Though regional security, border issues and trade form the bulk of the agenda, the real importance lies in reinforcing the Moscow-Beijing axis, and the growing determination of Russia and China to confront what they see as American world domination."

GERMANY: "Bear Flirting With The Dragon"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich commented (8/25): "Moscow and Beijing have a common interest in keeping Central Asia stable to secure access to the resources there. The post-Communist leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan can rest assured that Moscow and Beijing will support them in their fight against the Muslim rebels. For President Boris Yeltsin and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin those regional questions are of less interest. To them Chinese-Russian relations are more important. Moscow as well as Beijing want to reduce the international influence of the United States. The Russians in particular are miffed about the United States' Balkan policy. Beijing wants to cover ground in the conflict over Taiwan. But the basic problem between the two will not be a topic of discussion: China's efforts to gain economic influence in the Far East of Russia, which will undermine Moscow's position in the long run. As nice as the Russian bear and the Chinese dragon are treating each other, this is a far cry from a strategic alliance."

ORAHOVAC: 'BARRICADES REFLECT TENSIONS SHAKING KOSOVO'

RUSSIA: "Russia-NATO Relations May Sour"

Gennady Sysoyev judged in reformist, business-oriented Kommersant Daily (8/25): "The standoff may be the end of the Kosovo operation. The KFOR

command is in
no hurry to intervene, letting the Russians know that they
can't do much in Kosovo without NATO. The standoff outside Oraovac can't
go on indefinitely. It
will either escalate into an armed conflict or mar
relations between Russia and
NATO."

NETHERLANDS: "Dutch Peacekeepers A Pawn"

Influential independent NRC Handelsblad's editorial argued (8/24): "A lot
of the
problems stem from the unclear situation which the international
organizations in Kosovo allow to exist. On the one hand, they are in
power, but at the same time they offered the KLA room to operate as some
sort of an administration.
... It was not too smart of The Hague to openly
resist replacement of the Dutch peacekeepers. In order for KFOR to perform
well, it will have to operate as
a unity. Whatever the Albanians may think
of the Russians, the Russians are part
of the international peacekeeping
force and should be respected as such. The
Dutch attitude has probably
strengthened the Kosovars in their opposition against
the Russians.
Escalation will not serve anybody's interest."

FRANCE: "Serbs In Danger"

Bruno Frappat observed in Catholic La Croix (8/25): "For months, the
Albanians
were being chased from their country, humiliated and often
massacred. Today,
two months after the end of the NATO strikes, the few
Serbs who remain in Kosovo
live in a climate of fear, terror and
insecurity.... Every evening in Pristina,
war songs and hate chants are
heard. These are part of the sinister repertoire
of the UCK.... NATO
intervened in a legitimate effort to stop Belgrade's ethnic
cleansing
policy. Instead, the strikes momentarily accelerated that process.
Later,
the Kosovar population was able to return home. Before visiting Pristina,
Hubert Vedrine indicated that the priority was 'security for all.'...
Sta

ring with those who are the most threatened: the Serbs.... Today, the interna
tional community has the responsibility of finding ways to protect the new vic
tims of Kosovo."

GERMANY: "No Reason For Malicious Glee Toward The Serbs"

Rightofcenter Fuldaer Zeitung stressed (8/25): "There are fewer than 30,000 S
erbs in all of Kosovo. 195,000 Serbs fled from the threats and aggressions of
the longoppressed KosovoAlbanians. There is no reason for malicious glee towar
d the Serbs, who started the Balkan conflict. As long as both sides consider t
hemselves victims and nurture their martyr myths, a solution to the problem wil
l be impossible."

ITALY: "Barricades Reflect Tensions Shaking Kosovo"

Pietro Del Re emphasized in leftleaning, influential La Repubblica (8/25):
"B
arricades in Orahovac reflect tensions that are shaking Kosovo.... It looks li
kely that if the Albanians do not remove their barricades, the Russian troops w
ill be deployed elsewhere, perhaps in the sector of Kosovo where there are mo
re Serbs. Why didn't they think of this earlier? In the meantime, the UNHCR
announced that no more than 30,000 Serbs are left in the province, mostly loc
ated in three sites in the North."

BULGARIA: "KLA Cannot Put On Democracy Hat"

Leftleaning Monitor (8/25) said: "It is quite clear by now that due to its con
frontation with the KLA, the UN Mission in Kosovo is not capable of enforcing l
aw and order in the Serbian province . NATO's bombings did not stop the ethnic
cleansing, they forged a different one. KFOR is unable to prevent the Kosovo A
lbanians from chasing the Serb population out of Kosovo. This is why many poli
ticians in the West are calling for the transformation of the KLA from an armed
guerrilla force into a political power. This kind of transformation is hardly
possible. The KLA was

conceived not as a political, but as a militaryterrorist
organization.

Its structure is based on criminal mafia clan elements. It is v
ery

difficult to imagine that a political power of European type would
eventual

ly emerge from this type of organization. Sooner or later it will
have to be b

anned or forcefully eliminated."

###Xx\ P6QyXP#

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

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Helen Veit (CN=Helen Veit/OU=WHO/O=GOV [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:26-AUG-1999 16:35:55.00

SUBJECT: Friday, August 27, 1999

TO: Helen Veit (CN=Helen Veit/OU=WHO/O=GOV@WHO [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sean P. O'Shea (CN=Sean P. O'Shea/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Anne E. McGuire (CN=Anne E. McGuire/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Anne W. Bovaird (CN=Anne W. Bovaird/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Setti D. Warren (CN=Setti D. Warren/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Clay Reed (CN=Clay Reed/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Irma L. Martinez (CN=Irma L. Martinez/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Thurgood Marshall Jr (CN=Thurgood Marshall Jr/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Kris M Balderston (CN=Kris M Balderston/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Friday, August 27, 1999

USDA

From August 27)29, Secretary Glickman will attend meetings of the Cairns Group agricultural nations in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Under Secretary Schumacher will meet with clam producers in Wellfleet, MA.

Commerce

ESA will release Personal Income and Outlays, July 1999.

ONDCP

General McCaffrey will be in Buenos Aires, Argentina:

Charge Manuel Rocha and Secretary Eduardo Amadeo will greet the Director upon arrival in Buenos Aires.

In the morning, the country team will brief the Director at the Sheraton with Rocha, DEA, A/SAC, and Marrero.

The Director will have office visits with President Carlos Menem, SEDRONAR Secretary Eduardo Amadeo, MERCOSUR Drug Secretaries, Interior Minister Carlos Corach, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, police and military officials and the Governor of B.A., Peronista Presidential Candidate Eduardo Duhalde, and Vice Presidential Candidate for Alianza Carlos Alvarez.

Later there will be a joint press conference with Drug Secretaries at SEDRONAR.

SBA

Administrator Alvarez will attend a SBA-American Federation of Government Employees signing ceremony re: new labor contract.

FEMA

Director Witt will attend a Project Impact, "Jersey Shore Prepares for Storm Season" Summit with Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. in Neptune, NJ.

SSA

On August 27-28, Representative Danny Davis will hold a series of Town Hall meetings in his district in IL to hear constituent concerns. SSA staff will participate in all of the events associated with the meetings including a session scheduled to be held at Malcolm X College at which over 1,500 constituents are expected.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: USIA_Media_Reaction@notesmail1.usia.gov (USIA_Media_Reaction@notesmail1.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 3-SEP-1999 14:35:24.00

SUBJECT: Daily Digest 9/3: LATIN AMERICAN WORRIES: COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA

TO: tbrown@usia.gov (tbrown@usia.gov [OMB])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: naplan_s@a1.eop.gov (naplan_s@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN]) (NSC)
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: enriques@osd.pentagon.mil (enriques@osd.pentagon.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: rcomer@sed.stel.com (rcomer@sed.stel.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Zachariasiewicz_Robert@dol.gov (Zachariasiewicz_Robert@dol.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: rscott@pagate.pa.osd.mil (rscott@pagate.pa.osd.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: harperrp@state.gov (harperrp@state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: pro890@aol.com (pro890@aol.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: nwarren@ceip.org (nwarren@ceip.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: napsnet@nautilus.org (napsnet@nautilus.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mhadaya@usia.gov (mhadaya@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: MIKE_HALTZEL@FOREIGN-REL.SENATE.GOV (MIKE_HALTZEL@FOREIGN-REL.SENATE.GOV [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: siegel@panet.us-state.gov (siegel@panet.us-state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: _michael_l@state.gov (_michael_l@state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Melissa M. Murray (CN=Melissa M. Murray/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Matt Gobush (CN=Matt Gobush/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mconnell@pagate.pa.osd.mil (mconnell@pagate.pa.osd.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: tlvpao@usia.gov (tlvpao@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: sjordan@uschamber.com (sjordan@uschamber.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mikels@ndu.edu (mikels@ndu.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: ron_hindle@enzi.senate.gov (ron_hindle@enzi.senate.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: rpelletreau@afridi.com (rpelletreau@afridi.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: sipiapa@aol.com (sipiapa@aol.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: reekerp@panet.us-state.gov (reekerp@panet.us-state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: boustany@washpost.com (boustany@washpost.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: aba@cbsnews.com (aba@cbsnews.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mvolpe01@tufts.edu (mvolpe01@tufts.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mneely@usia.gov (mneely@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mlogsdon@usia.gov (mlogsdon@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: vandusem@wwic.si.edu (vandusem@wwic.si.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: braxton@no.return.address (braxton@no.return.address [OA])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: glynn@usia.gov (glynn@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: cowartm@panet.us-state.gov (cowartm@panet.us-state.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Last week's visit to the region by ONDCP Director Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the continuing crisis in Colombia and changes in Venezuela's government by President Hugo Chavez sparked continued speculation among Latin American editorialists about U.S. policy toward the region, concern about Colombia's continuing "implosion," and new worries about an anti-democratic trend in Venezuelan politics. No sudden increase--or diminution--of U.S. assistance to the Colombian military was foreseen. Main editorial themes follow:

LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS ON U.S. 'INTERVENTION' AND THE COLOMBIAN 'THREAT':

While some commentators saw Gen. McCaffrey's trip as possibly laying the groundwork for regional cooperation on a future military intervention in Colombia, no analyst predicted a sudden increase--and certainly no diminution--in the current tempo of U.S. involvement in assisting the Colombian military. Many analysts saw the Colombian crisis as intractable and U.S. security concerns likely to persist. A few pundits in Mexico and Venezuela saw a likelihood for a much greater U.S. "intervention" in the future and warned of the conflict's potential "Vietnamization." Some observers saw as factors affecting U.S. policy on Colombia the wrangling over drug policy prior to the U.S. presidential elections, and U.S. concerns that Colombian instability could affect the Panama Canal. Pundits in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela feared that a "sinking" Colombia might threaten the region, and there were scattered calls for greater "hemispheric solidarity." Brazil's center-right O Globo asserted that "it would be dangerous for Brazil to ignore the seriousness of the situation in Colombia" and said "Brazil's best move is to redouble its border surveillance...while participation in an international peacekeeping force should not be ruled out." Buenos Aires' leading Clarin noted the "direct consequences in the region" of the Colombian "crisis" and said "this situation poses the need for governments--with Colombia's...initiative--to make efforts aimed at elaborating joint initiatives to treat a problem of mutual interest, recovering leadership in regional negotiations."

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S 'RED BERET DEMOCRACY': Commentators in Argentina, Brazil and Mexico worried that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his supporters in the new national constituent assembly were making changes that would damage the country's democratic institutions and frighten foreign investors. Looking at Venezuela's impact on the region, center-right O Estado de Sao Paulo headlined "Dictatorships Are Highly Contagious Regimes" and stressed that "it will be disastrous if any Latin American nation yields completely to the authoritarian temptation." Mexican editorialists were strongly critical of Mr. Chavez. Conservative El Heraldo De Mexico lamented that "just when everyone thought that Latin American nations have found the road towards...democracy, recent developments in Venezuela have led to fears that another form of dictatorship is in the works." A Buenos Aires daily said, "Chavez certainly recalls previous failed military folk" and acknowledged that his "reforms" could damage Venezuela's democracy, but added, "It is still hard to deny that Chavez...could provide the political direction to alter" that country's "totally corrupted, perpetually self-serving elites."

EDITOR: Bill Richey

Editor's Note: This survey is based on 70 reports from 9 countries, Aug.

15-Sept.3.

COLOMBIA: "On The Edge Of Chaos; If Not Pastrana, Who?"

Leading El Tiempo had this opinion piece by Rudolf Hommes (8/28): "The establishment and media in the United States believe that that country is the world's policeman.... The theme of the majority of articles and publications that appear in the U.S. about Colombia is that here the government is not competent enough to warrant confidence.... The conclusion of these analyses is that if the Colombians are incapable of restoring order, others will have to intervene to do it.... We Colombians...are committing a major historical mistake in buying this story.... Doesn't anyone realize that the worst thing for the country would be to become a U.S. protectorate, or even worse, a Venezuelan satellite?... If Pastrana is not to be the leader, who is?... Pastrana has to face the problem and put Tirofijo, Chavez, Castro, Fujimori and Madame Albright in their places, even if it is too late. If he does it, the country will support him, but the country will not support him if he continues acting as if nothing were happening."

VENEZUELA: "Venezuela, Cuba, The FARC And The U.S."

Centrist El Globo carried this op-ed piece by Jesus Paz Galarraga (9/2): "The title alone indicates that we are going to refer to the statements by U.S. State Department spokesman James Foley. Once again, our northern neighbor displays its pattern of interventionist behavior in dependent and underdeveloped countries. This is not some isolated occurrence; were it so, Mr. Foley's 'warning' that dovetails nicely with the international media campaign against President Chavez would be quite a coincidence....

"Arising from the drug issue are other political proposals which cannot be ignored by even the clumsiest observer. Such is the case for Venezuelan-Colombian affairs; our country is the most interested one in reaching a peace. One-third of Colombian territory is occupied by the guerrillas, and Venezuela is and has been the target of abductions, kidnappings, lost airplanes, etc.; President Chavez, logically, is willing to take on an active role through direct contact with the guerrillas, be it in Venezuela or in Colombia (with President Pastrana's consent, of course). Chavez, Fidel Castro and other leaders have been mentioned as potential mediators. This has led to another political misrepresentation. The Colombian press has stated that Bogota and Washington fear a possible 'political-military axis' composed of Cuba, Venezuela and the FARC guerrilla. It has also claimed that Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez and FARC would try to 'create political instability in the region, form an axis against Washington to confront potential military aggression, and control strategic territory in the hemisphere.' What do you think of that?...

"All of this does not mean we suffer a pathological phobia of U.S. governments, much less the American people. We simply think that understanding based on common respect should not be a mere diplomatic phrase, but a fact.... Without demagoguery, but with firmness, doctrine, consistency and courage, we would like to maintain the best relations with the USA and every nation in the world."

"Calm And Good Sense"

Leading, liberal El Nacional published this editorial (8/25): "Drug czar, General Barry McCaffrey, is on one of his frequent trips to the Southern Hemisphere, this time visiting Buenos Aires and Brasilia. The topic is no secret. It is Colombia: what to do about the Colombia crisis, narcotrafficking and, we suppose, the guerrilla. One topic McCaffrey has made no attempt to hide is Latin American participation in a probable intervention.... As is evident, the international press is full of news and accounts, some legitimate, some probably trial balloons. They are contradictory and misleading, but it is difficult to believe they are not a serious sign that something is going on--going on fast--regarding the Colombian conflict.... It's difficult to see

how the Colombia conflict will develop. It's no easier to imagine the role to be played by Venezuela. President Chavez has said that he does 'not want to intervene in Colombian affairs,' and he is also 'opposed to intervention by other countries.' This is a position consistent with Venezuela's permanent interests: non-intervention and not supporting any intervention. This is an intelligent position that undoubtedly will be supported by the whole nation."

"Colombia's Troubles Grow More Complicated"

Popular El Mundo carried this comment (8/25) by Moises Moleiro: "Based on some strange movements lately, and, as always, on the pressure exerted by Republican congressmen, the United States seems to have dark intentions regarding Colombia. Or so can be inferred from the attempts in the U.S. media to discredit President Pastrana...this from a country with almost 50 million drug users.... If these [intervention] plans are true, it will be not only a crime against what is right, but an inexcusable political mistake.... A U.S. military intervention would not relieve any of Colombia's troubles, but would exacerbate all of them. The United States does not even have the necessary political pretext; this would be the first time in human history that another country were invaded simply because drugs are grown there.... What's more, any possible intervention would provoke a wave of Latin American outrage."

"A Little Vietnam, Or A Big One?"

Popular tabloid Ultimas Noticias (8/25) carried this op-ed by Domingo Alberto Rangel: "An event similar [to U.S. involvement in Vietnam] will take place--or is taking place already--in Colombia. The United States has deployed a number of 'advisors' in Colombia.... But this U.S. interference will not stop the guerrilla's rise. More weapons and advisors will be needed in Colombia. That won't work either. Then the United States will face a dilemma. Either it undertakes an intervention even larger than the one in Vietnam, or it gives up its incursions in Colombia.... In the end, Colombia will win. It will win because its is a just cause. It will be a nation defending its sovereign rights. The current war will turn into one of national liberation [against the United States]. And Colombia will not be alone; twenty other Latin American nations are obliged to show solidarity with it."

"Madeleine's Muse"

Caracas's leading, liberal El Nacional ran an op-ed (8/24) by editorial board member Beatriz de Majo: "Anyone who disbelieves that the United States will do its utmost--as Albright declares in her famous article--to strengthen the Colombian Army so that it can confront and attack the narco-guerrilla, is also naive.... What is not yet clear is how the cooperation and agreement commonly promised to our neighbors is going to happen. Albright states very clearly that all cooperation should go beyond a simple fight against drugs.... The time has come to highlight hemispheric solidarity and the adherence to democracy and justice claimed as Bolivar's heritage, and join Colombia in an enthusiastic and committed way in the fight for national peace, which is, concurrently, the fight for rights and the eradication of the drug culture. Such action will eventually lead to more peace on our borders, more security for our citizens, and fewer drugs in our environment."

"Who Wants To Be Laos Or Cambodia?"

Popular El Mundo carried this op-ed by Felipe Mujica (8/21): "The presence of almost 1,000 'advisors' in Colombia puts the conflict on the brink of tremendous change. The State Department's 'reassuring' remarks that these advisors are not on the front line only offend our intelligence.... Such circumstances open the door to what President Chavez has rightly labeled the 'Vietnamization' of the Colombian conflict. Backed by a multilateral intervention, the military solution--the same strategy that has failed for more than 50 years--would be imposed again, this time with U.S. choppers and joined by uniformed Latin Americans. Lamentably, some

foreign ministries in the hemisphere have been touched by this choice. And this is because some of them think that a solution to Colombia's plight without the guerrilla's complete defeat could spark underlying violence in their own societies. Others view the 'NATO-ization' of the Colombian conflict as an opportunity to curry favor with the hemispheric superpower. Both of them are wrong. The 'domino effect' of the Colombian war's internationalization would sweep the entire region away.... If Colombia becomes a Vietnam, we will have the dubious honor of emulating Laos and Cambodia as 'relievers,' 'sanctuaries,' and areas for the conflict's spread."

"A Threat To The Whole Region"

Centrist El Globo ran this op-ed by Franklin Barriga Lopez (8/20): "Pre-emptive measures--fundamentally, strengthening the military presence along borders--are necessary and timely. Since it is an internal conflict, and in accordance with most Colombians' desire (based on recent surveys), Pastrana's government should openly ask the international community for help in order to preserve legitimate rule and to stop, once and for all, the ongoing narco-subversion."

"Colombia's On Fire, And Its Neighbor Is No Fireman"

Business-oriented Economia Hoy (8/20) carried this opinion piece by regular writer Jesus Sanoja Rodriguez: "Because if the United States views us as a

bridge--and, along the way, an obstacle to the global fight against drug-trafficking, then the United States is free to 'decertify' us or demand help that [infringes upon] our sovereignty, such as using our air space. Let him who has eyes see: It is very clear that in the U.S. fight against drug-trafficking in Colombia, Washington and the DEA will seek to involve us as suits their national interests.... Venezuela will be the one harmed; because of its shared border with Colombia and bilateral agreements and disagreements, our neighbor status and our relations will turn dangerous."

"Coded Messages"

Leading, liberal El Nacional said (8/18): "Republicans attack President Clinton and his administration for the unflattering results of its anti-narcotics policies. Probably for this reason, General Barry McCaffrey's perspective has radicalized. He kept repeating in Caracas that Venezuela 'could face severe problems with narcotrafficking.' He referred to the Venezuelan position of not permitting overflights of U.S. planes based in the Antilles.... The Colombia issue affects us profoundly, so we must address all of its dimensions. It is not a problem exclusive to the government; it must receive a wider and more considered analysis."

"Colombia: A Fatal Optimism"

Ramon Pinango, political scientist gave this view in liberal, leading El Nacional (8/19): "What can Venezuela do?... Only a strategy based on a harsh realism, which some might label pessimistic exaggeration, can allow us to look for solutions, such as requesting the intervention of international organizations to try to avoid Colombia's drama from spreading to our country."

"Washington: With What Authority?"

Freddy Yopez penned an op-ed in Caracas' centrist El Globo (8/19): "Throughout the world there is talk about a possible U.S. intervention in the Colombian armed conflict, as if the United States has the right.... But this article deals with the arrogance and disrespect shown by U.S. authorities in trying to impose conditions on President Hugo Chavez concerning his vision and management of Venezuelan diplomacy regarding Colombia's armed conflict.... I have no doubt that a U.S. armed intervention in Colombia brings with it the idea of creating an adverse situation in Venezuela in search of President Chavez's fall."

ARGENTINA: "Chavez's Steps Forward And Steps Back"

Jorge Elias, daily-of-record La Nacion's international analyst on special assignment in Caracas, commented (9/3): "The (Venezuelan) economy, overwhelmed by recession, received the impact of the measures adopted by the assembly, where Chavists represent 92 percent of the seats.... Markets have accumulated losses for over 5 percent, August inflation --with consumption being adjusted to the crisis--has been 1.5 percent...and unemployment is around 16 and 20 percent. The political crisis impacts on private analysts' reports who consider Chavez's excessive accumulation of

power as dangerous."

"Mercosur Or 'Narcosur'?"

Historian Armando Alonso Piñero wrote an opinion piece for pro-government La Prensa (9/3): "Before leaving (Argentina) for Washington, the so-called anti-drug czar publicly expressed his concern about the increase in Argentine consumption and drug-trafficking. Without any purpose of underestimating this fact, it calls our attention to the fact that (McCaffrey) does not show the same concern about the greatest consumer market in the world...precisely the United States. Although in recent years the U.S. drug consumption must have been reduced, the money circulating within the country because of drug-trafficking has considerably increased."

"Does There Have To Be An Intervention In Colombia?"

Vicente Gonzalo Massot, executive director of La Nueva Provincia from Bahia Blanca, who is a former secretary of defense, wrote an opinion piece for daily-of-record La Nacion (9/3): "An X-ray of the Colombian case would show us that for the time being, the internationalization of the conflict has transformed it into a hemispheric security problem for Washington. This has triggered a U.S. hidden intervention...expecting the results which could be obtained by President Pastrana in his negotiation with guerrillas. If such a negotiation failed--and it is difficult to imagine how it could be successful--'the right to humanitarian meddling' would cover the formalities demanded by the post-Cold War to justify a full intervention. Then the consensus of Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries would be missing. In the middle of an extraordinary event in Latin America, would it be so difficult for Washington--if determined to do it--to gain consensus among its near and remote neighbors South of the Rio Grande?"

"Initiatives For The Colombian Crisis"

An editorial in leading Clarin read (9/2): "The OAS has not played the role it should have during a crisis like the Colombian one, which has direct consequences in the region and, particularly, on those countries which border the area occupied by the guerrillas. Therefore, this situation poses the need for governments--with Colombia's priority initiative--to make efforts aimed at elaborating joint initiatives to treat a problem of mutual interest, recovering leadership in regional negotiations."

"Combat Readiness In Venezuelan Congress"

Jorge Elias, daily-of-record La Nacion's international analyst on special assignment in Caracas, commented (9/1): "Decisions made by Chavez now--in replacement of the (Venezuelan) congress--may turn out null if the Bolivar constitution is defeated in elections. In the meantime, the whole situation has an economic impact which cannot be disregarded. Inflation is controlled by lack of consumption and the balance of payments is stabilized by the increase in oil prices, but this government does not have a concrete plan and there is a negative perception which affects the country risk and drives investors away."

"Venezuela's Red Beret Democracy"

Ivan Briscoe, the independent, English-language Buenos Aires Herald's international and political columnist, opined (8/31): "The fault of a military reformer lies not so much in the message, but in the message's bearer.... Yet it is still hard to deny that Chavez, and only someone like Chavez, could provide the political direction to alter the totally corrupted, perpetually self-serving elites which happened to preside over Venezuela, and had done so for nearly fifty years.... Chavez certainly recalls previous failed military folk...and his reforms...could do much to destroy confidence and stability in the country's institutions for years, but at the same time, the red beret has a point: A temple turned sour and mercantilist is not really a temple."

"Colombia's Problems"

An editorial in the independent, English-language Buenos Aires Herald read (8/31): "Colombia's problems, and Colombia as a problem, are half a century old, and the terrifying fact is that the only solution offered is the long-term view of General McCaffrey. There is nothing for the immediate future."

"McCaffrey Prepares A Summit"

Maria O'Donnell, daily-of record La Nacion's Washington-based correspondent, wrote (8/31) "U.S. anti-drug 'Czar' Barry McCaffrey will continue to push forward the idea of a regional response to Colombia's problem: After his Latin American tour, he is now organizing a summit with his hemispheric counterparts. One of the most urgent problems he wants to solve results from the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama.... In order to compensate the loss of Howard Air Force Base...the United States is in search of a fourth location in Central America."

"Do You Know Who Stopped By?"

Raimundo Orlando, editor-in-chief for pro-government La Prensa, commented (8/31): "McCaffrey admits that the Colombian collapse needs therapy, but an appropriate and slow one. This is why he toured America like a doctor in a clinic, feeling, in each country, the pulse of its present and future leaders. Because Clinton is already walking the last portion of his administration and he (faces) election times, and he knows that his erroneous decision in foreign policy today will tomorrow become a dangerous national legacy for his successor. Now he knows this better. The humanist, or the czar or the hard-liner who visited us told him so."

"The U.S. Set Its Eyes On Salta"

In its "Zona" supplement, leading Clarin (8/29) had this by its international analyst Oscar Cardoso: "The project being discussed between Washington and Buenos Aires has two possible scenarios...Salta and Misiones, and its origin is linked both with the fight against

drug-trafficking and with the military control of the world that the Pentagon is redesigning to make up for the loss of its historical presence in Panama.... President Menem seems to have thought that an advance in the granting of those facilities would demonstrate not only the seriousness of Argentina's desire to become part of NATO, but also his willingness to commit himself beyond formalities and even beyond the few remaining months of his term of office."

"Always The Vietnam Ghost"

Left-of-center Pagina 12's international analyst Claudio Uriarte said (8/29): "The interventionist prospect in Colombia is blocked by the regional rejection.... Which leaves one with a half-way prospect--the intervention already being practiced, with the reconstruction and reinforcement of the Colombian army, combined with a blockade of bordering supply routes to the FARC. What

is already happening, what does have regional support--as did not happen in Vietnam. It is a sort of 'gray intervention.'"

"Washington's Strategy Arrives Late"

Business/financial El Cronista's international analyst Guillermo Ortiz wrote (8/29): "The Colombian crisis is not exclusively military, but it has features resulting from an implosion of the government, deepening of the domestic conflict and increase in violence.... McCaffrey said that the Colombian situation is 'complex, dangerous and changing,' and no one ignores that it is a disintegrating nation of almost 40 million inhabitants, less than three hours away from Miami by plane."

"A General Having A Political Pulse"

Daily-of-record La Nacion's (8/30) international analyst Jorge Elias held: "McCaffrey is looking for a balance between Clinton's formal trust in Pastrana's peace strategy and the distrust of the members of the U.S. Congress and Pentagon hard-liners about the region of 42,000 square kilometers granted by Pastrana to the FARC as a truce which was never achieved."

"Other Messengers On Intervention"

Leading Clarin's political columnist Daniel Santoro wrote (8/27): "Even though McCaffrey, during his entire Latin American tour, denied the possibility of a U.S. military intervention, other messengers from Washington have already made informal consultations with the government, the opposition and the armed forces regarding this maximum-level hypothesis for the medium term."

"Anti-Drug Czar, With Menem And Favorite (Candidates) To Succeed Him"

Daily-of-record La Nacion said (8/27): "The commitment which the general, known as the anti-drug czar, wants to obtain is a long-term and political one: not for an immediate intervention in Colombia, an action which the White House publicly rules out, but to gather confirmed regional support

which will, of course, strengthen a future decision in any sense."

"The Anti-Drug 'Czar' In Argentina"

Gerardo Young, leading Clarin's political columnist, wrote (8/24): "Convinced that the conflict in Colombia is a long-lasting one...Barry McCaffrey will meet this Friday with Fernando de la Rúa and Eduardo Duhalde, the two candidates to succeed Carlos Menem in the presidency.... With the idea of increasing its political or even military influence in Colombia, the United States needs support from countries in the region, not only now, but also for the upcoming months or years."

"The President Of Bogota"

Claudio Uriarte, left-of-center Pagina 12's international analyst, opined (8/23): "The [Colombian] state's monopoly of force is being questioned.... What is sad about all this is that Pastrana does not have much of a choice, because his army is weak and corrupt and the situation has been uncontrolled for decades. At this moment, the president is losing even more power--some 300 U.S. advisors have 'de facto' intervened in the armed forces, while the U.S. thesis of a cordon sanitaire to prevent guerrillas from entering bordering countries has already caused the shifting of Peruvian troops and the beginning of river and road interdiction operations of Brazilian supplies.... Colombia is a target of constant U.S. surveillance overflights.... And the Colombian government is an increasingly formal fiction."

"The U.S. Will Not Send Troops To Colombia"

Joaquin Morales Sola, daily-of-record La Nacion's international issues analyst, opined (8/20): "The first moments of confusion seem to belong to the past for the Washington government regarding the domestic crisis in Colombia.... Since the tragic experience in Vietnam, Washington may not send troops to die overseas without being sure that its government will then suffer a strong lack of popularity.... However, the Colombian internal war is a top priority conflict for the White House. Colombia has become the third country in the world in terms of the military help it receives from the United States."

"Colombia And Vietnam"

Raimundo Orlando, pro-government La Prensa's managing editor and drug specialist, commented (8/17): "Wanting to end drug-trafficking in Colombia is like wanting to cut down all the trees in the Amazon, and trying to eliminate Colombian guerrillas is a long-lasting and bloody challenge.... America must not be a hypocrite. The double front which the United States would encounter would not lead to a final solution either. But nobody can seriously believe that Colombia may fix its many and tough problems on its own."

BRAZIL: "The Agony Of A Democracy"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo's editorial (9/3) said: "Democracy in

Venezuela is just waiting for the mercy shot.... There is no longer harmony or balance between the three branches [of government]. Actually, there is only one power, since the constitutional assembly is nothing but the faithful executor of President Hugo Chavez's will.... In order to fight corruption and inefficiency, which have indeed permeated the judiciary and the legislative branches, Colonel Chavez is killing those institutions.... Chavez's popularity, however, will be as ephemeral as that of almost all national-populist caudillos, and social reactions will soon emerge to force the colonel to take off his sheep's skin.... The same way that only the Germans who had not read or taken Mein Kampf seriously deluded themselves with Hitler's intentions, only those who have not paid attention to the 'Bolivarianist' program will become surprised with Chavez.... [During his visit to Brazil tomorrow] Colonel Chavez is not expected to obtain the government of Brazil's support for his attempt to mediate the situation in Colombia--an initiative that more disturbs than calms the local process--or for the course he is setting for Venezuela. Undoubtedly that nation needs reforms capable of recovering the institutions and of fostering economic growth. But such reforms must be carried out within democratic limits, which are limits that Mr. Chavez apparently ignores."

"Poverty And Frustration Led Venezuelans To Support Radical Change"

An op-ed page byliner in center-right O Estado de S. Paulo by Venezuelan Ambassador to Brazil Milos Alcalay said (9/3): "The building of a new democracy is the challenge Venezuela is facing in order to arrive at the changes for a new republic.... The sudden deterioration suffered by the Venezuelan democratic system is to a certain extent similar to the collapse of institutions in Eastern Europe. The constitutional assembly had to declare an emergency to prevent an institutional collapse.... Poverty, frustration and desperation have led the Venezuelan people to support a radical change in democracy.... Chavez proposes a participatory democracy capable of guaranteeing an ethical change, a radical transformation, but within democracy, and this model does not satisfy everyone. Change has its enemies. But most of the Venezuelans have opted for it. It is perfectly acceptable that one criticizes the current Venezuelan model, because democracy demands it. But what is unacceptable is that one intends to compare Venezuela's democracy with the disastrous Nazi era."

"Threats Over Colombia"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo (9/2) observed: "It would sound strange if the U.S. government...were just a mere spectator of the efforts being made to transform Latin America's third most populated nation into a narco-state misgoverned by the guerrilla. Such a hypothesis would cause a civil war in addition to raising the hostility of the region's nations.... Washington might even tolerate the repetition of the Castroist phenomenon in Colombia, but would remove any regime of the kind that dared to aggravate its original sins by sponsoring drug-trafficking. The U.S. assistance to Colombia to eradicate coca plants and drug refineries, and to fight organized crime, constitutes a legitimate and opportune activity. The

use of military force must be avoided."

"Government Of Brazil Beginning To Admit Concerns About Venezuela"

A political analysis in liberal Folha de S. Paulo's international section said (9/1): "The government of Brazil is beginning to admit its concerns vis-a-vis the political process established by President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. In the meeting he will have with Chavez this Saturday in Manaus, Brazilian President Cardoso will pass him all the messages.... Cardoso will alert him to the importance of the recently reintroduced democracy on the continent, as well as defending the free functioning of institutions and the respect for international treaties. All of this is already part of Chavez's speech, but the constitutional assembly in Caracas is in reality dissolving the congress and intervening in the judiciary.... In addition to the geopolitical rhetoric that pleases Brazil, there is mutual interest in enlarging the weak bilateral trade at a moment when both nations suffer the consequences of domestic recession and the retraction of global investments."

"Dictatorships Are Highly Contagious Regimes"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo's political and economic analyst, Antonio Carlos Pereira, commented (8/31) on the sudden change of view by foreign investors in Latin America: "What concerns them are indications that there may be a political retrogression in the region.... Democracy is in the process of consolidation in several nations of the region. But in others the temptation of arbitrary behavior has once again become evident.... The worst signs come from Venezuela, where the constitutional assembly is not a legislative entity responsible for drafting a constitution. It is a committee that assumes absolute executive powers.... When this committee concludes its mission, Colonel Hugo Chavez will be able to rule without

mediators. It will be disastrous if any Latin American nation yields completely to the authoritarian temptation. Dictatorships are highly contagious regimes.... This is not good for Brazil, which must have a democratic landscape around it that is propitious not only to the consolidation of civil liberties but to the realization of the regional trade and economic integration projects."

"ANC Rules, And ANC Is Chavez"

A political analysis in liberal Folha de S. Paulo's international section said (8/31): "It is evident that the ANC (National Constitutional Assembly) is the legal instrument for Chavez's 'peaceful revolution' or 'Venezuela's resurrection.'... In other words, the ANC rules, and the ANC is Chavez."

"The Colombian Balkanization"

Independent Jornal da Tarde's op-ed page (8/30) said: "The most recent stage of the civil war being faced by the Colombians for 30 years consists in the Balkanization of that nation.... In the midst of the crossfire are the 40 million Colombians who massively reject with demonstrations the violence carried out by armed groups, and are the unarmed victims of this

brutality."

"No One Invited The Colonel"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo's editorial (8/29) said: "What disqualifies President Hugo Chavez for the role he has not been invited to perform [to mediate peace in Colombia] is his disastrous style. The colonel does not inspire confidence.... Under the pretext of overcoming the political, economic and moral crisis that affects Venezuela, he is accumulating discretionary powers, the practice of which usually victimizes democracy.... Nothing, therefore, recommends that the nations of the region recognize Venezuela's president as the 'peace sponsor' and mediator of the Colombian conflict. The nations of the region have institutional mechanisms capable of providing Colombia all the assistance its government requests. The Group of Rio, for example, has a great experience in peace processes. If the role of mediator is to be performed by just one nation, Brazil would be the natural choice."

"Chavez's Authoritarianism"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's editorial (8/30) held: "It was on behalf of a fight against corruption and of a supposed founding of the country based on generic principles....that President Hugo Chavez convened the constitutional assembly.... The constitutional assembly, i.e., Chavez, gained unlimited powers, including those of government. No institution can oppose him. There is no state sector in which he cannot act. The next step is to neutralize the opposition--civilian associations. Who can assure that the multi-party system will be guaranteed in this leadership vacuum? When this 'dirt' is removed, the purge carried out by this messianic arbitrary centrist...of the future Bolivarianist Republic of Venezuela will be complete."

"Hugo Chavez Is Like A Don Quixote"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's correspondent in Caracas commented (8/29): "Hugo Chavez is honest, idealist, well-intentioned and repeats the most charmingly obvious things, such as: Savage neoliberalism is good for the rich but a disaster for poor Latin Americans; the state has to take care of the citizens, the infrastructure and the competitiveness of the national industry, that generates money and jobs; the institutions must be cleansed. It is already sufficient to show that Hugo Chavez is like a Don Quixote, who some imagine confronting the United States, for example, and the elites.... The problem is that Don Quixote does not guarantee to anyone a monopoly of truth or the final victory.... Chavez might even be a beautiful project, but difficult to make work. After all, the world is not a fiction nor is it managed by good little boys, but by clever and smart politicians, and that he is not."

"Problem At The Border"

Brasilia's center-left Correio Braziliense had this editorial (8/24): "The USG is showing all signs of its desire to intervene in the region. It has its reasons. By the end of the year the Panama Canal will be returned to the Panamanians. The famous Southern Command located in the canal zone will

be progressively deactivated. There is a concern that an eventual victory of the guerrillas in Colombia, allied with the narcotraffickers, will turn Central America into a drug corridor. General Barry McCaffrey, the U.S. strongman against drugs, is in Brazil to discuss the Colombian problem with Brazilian authorities. This will be the first formal contact between Brazilians and Americans to discuss the crisis in the neighboring country. Brazil follows the tradition of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, but it has not experienced a problem of this magnitude since the Paraguay war in the last century. The conflict and its foreseeable consequences for Brazil suggest careful but urgent measures. It is necessary to reinforce the border's defense, gather better and additional information about what is really going on in Colombia, and to give wide dissemination to all this. Brazil cannot and must not be left at the mercy of the American propaganda machine. The Brazilian agenda must be prepared in Brasilia. Not in Washington."

"The Drugs Of Life"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo said (8/23): "President Clinton's mandate is coming to an end...and the fight against drugs is one of the few failures of the administration. The choice of a general to head the anti-drugs action is symptomatic of the warlike character that is given to the issue in the United States. The emphasis is on punishment for the use of drugs, although McCaffrey is a sensitive person and he allocated considerable resources for prevention and education programs. It's just that the crux of the problem is beyond what McCaffrey or Clinton can see, or at least admit to. It can be said that there was never civilization without drugs, and especially in civilizations which, like the American, stress futile material consumption and forget to cultivate deep philosophical values. If the United States looks at the possibility of legalizing the use of some drugs and concentrated on reviewing the principles of its existence as a society, perhaps they would have fewer problems with drugs."

"Anti-Drugs Czar Arrives In Brazil At Difficult Moment"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo's Washington correspondent said (8/23): "With the crisis in Colombia as a backdrop, General Barry McCaffrey begins a tour in Brazil today to four South American nations that runs a great risk of generating misunderstandings and nourishing speculations on the U.S. interest in a regional military solution to the Colombian problem. The Clinton administration has helped to unleash such rumors with official statements raising the Colombian crisis to the condition of a threat against U.S. national security.... McCaffrey arrives in South America armed with statistical data on a significant reduction in drug consumption among U.S. youth, and he will certainly use this material to demonstrate that the United States is doing its part.... McCaffrey's caution to emphasize Brazil's efforts and cooperation is not just a diplomatic gesture. Before starting the tour, McCaffrey was alerted by the government of Brazil that he would be invited to clarify the statements he made in early August, on activities by the Colombian guerrilla near or within Brazilian territory. In addition, McCaffrey knows that his visit will serve to normalize the relations in the fight against drug-trafficking."

"Wait For Peace"

Center-right, national O Globo asserted (8/18): "It would be dangerous for Brazil to ignore the seriousness of the situation in Colombia, with whom it shares a badly patrolled border. It is evident that if the Colombian government continues losing ground to the guerrilla/traffickers.... Brazilian interests could be harmed in the region. For the moment...the problem is eminently Colombian.... It is not difficult to understand the U.S. interest in stability in Colombia, certainly as great as that of its immediate neighbors. The strategically important Panama Canal Zone...is dangerously close to the Colombian border and thus vulnerable to the combined action of traffickers, guerrillas and rogue politicians.... Brazil's best move is to redouble its border surveillance...while participation in an international peacekeeping force should not be ruled out. And yet, peacekeeping forces are mobilized only after stability is in place...a remote possibility at this point in time."

"The Drug Pretext"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo (8/18) said: "It is necessary to ponder that the United States doesn't have diplomacy, given the scale of its lack of sophistication and vocational predisposition to use physical force. Colombian cocaine, or from any other source, can only be a problem to the American life (supposing that some authorities think this way) because the distribution networks of drugs in the United States are not bothered at all. Colombia is close to Panama, right below it. An ideal location to be a threat to the strategic and commercial aspects of the canal, a threat that grows with the fantasy of guerrillas and drug-traffickers taking over total control of Colombia and then opening the south and central American doors to the Chinese."

BOLIVIA: "U.S. Conscious Of Bolivian Efforts Against Drug-Trafficking"

Centrist El Diario had this editorial (8/25): "Undoubtedly, McCaffrey's visit is extremely important for the improvement of Bolivian-American relations.... We Bolivians should also feel proud of the achieved results, which under no circumstance are in the American interest only, but in the national interest.... The American support and cooperation and the political will of the current government should also be an example for the international community."

"The Czar And The Battle Against Drug-Trafficking"

Centrist Ultima Hora had this editorial (8/25): "It must remain clear that the battle against drug trafficking is not only the Bolivian state's responsibility. A high sacrifice is demanded from us, but it should be a shared responsibility."

"The Visit Of The 'Anti-Drug Czar'"

Centrist La Prensa carried this editorial (8/25): "Bolivia is interested in contributing its share to the global battle against drug-trafficking, in order to preserve the health of its inhabitants, as well as to help to conserve of the species, free of the trouble that drug consumption causes."

"The Other Front In The Battle Against Drugs"

Catholic-church owned, left-leaning Presencia carried this editorial (8/24): "It is a fact that the large rings of drug commerce are not based in Latin America, but are concentrated in the large markets of consumption in the developed nations.... It would be good if the country formed a front to get the developed countries to fulfill their domestic part in the battle."

"To Clarify Penetration Of Drug-Trafficking"

Conservative El Diario maintained (8/24): "The president's statements about the penetration of drug-trafficking in political parties, justice, the police and the armed forces are serious and alarming.... This creates sensitivity at a regional level, while there are increasing rumors about a possible American intervention in Colombia due to the growing attacks of the guerrillas allied with drug-trafficking, which in the Bolivian case, and given the president's remarks, would make this country more vulnerable to a similar action.... It could be that the (president's) statements were caused by the visit of the anti-drug 'czar,' so that he does not underestimate drug-trafficking's power in our country, and that, instead, the United States supports in an appropriate way the government's efforts against this scourge."

"The Empire Exists"

Centrist La Prensa held (8/24): "The empire still lives, although now in its perfected form...[and] has been put into practice by the United States after WWII and, especially since the fall of the Berlin Wall.... Instead of intervening directly in each country, what the contemporary empire does is mark the territory in which each nation can move with sovereignty.... From time to time, this situation is more evident, as will undoubtedly happen on the occasion of General McCaffrey's arrival to Bolivia, along with all the paraphernalia that comes with him."

CHILE: "The United States And Colombia"

Conservative, influential El Mercurio (8/19) ran this editorial: "U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that Colombia's internal problem is a threat to regional security.... This dangerous phenomenon cannot be addressed by Pastrana's government alone.... Cooperation from abroad is necessary to stop narcoterrorism.... Colombia's problems...must be resolved by its people, but the situation is different if there is no efficiency to resolve these problems."

Rhetoric has no positive effects. What Colombia needs are concrete contributions in terms of financial resources and military advice in the strategic arena. However, specific action must be left to the Colombians."

ECUADOR: "The Continental Advance"

Centrist El Comercio had this by Franklin Barriga Lopez (8/20): "Gen. Barry McCaffrey's visit to Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela reminded us of

the vulnerable situation prevailing in these countries due to the increasing and active presence of neighboring drug related subversion.... It would be totally foolish to underestimate the risk these rebels pose especially for Venezuela, Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. These are very dangerous enemies.... The frontal and permanent fight against drug-trafficking is a good strategy in conjunction and with the help of other governments in compliance with international commitments signed for the defense of peace and prosperity in the continent."

MEXICO: "U.S. Could Use Conflicts As An Excuse To Intervene"

Columnist Manuel Becerra Ramirez wrote in moderate Novedades (9/3): "Venezuela continues to be the second oil exporter to the U.S., and whatever happens in that country is of great interest to the U.S. Recent measures by the Venezuelan constitutional assembly...are causing a dangerous crisis in the region. And this situation is to be seen in the context of the crisis in Colombia and of the withdrawal of the U.S. military from Panama. During his recent trip to the region, ONDCP Director McCaffrey insisted that the Colombian guerrillas, particularly the FARC use drug trafficking to finance their activities. This could be the prelude of an armed intervention because drug trafficking was also used as an excuse in 1989 to arrest Panamanian President Noriega and bring him to trial in the U.S. On top of this, the U.S. also needs a foothold in the region.... The U.S. could use the conflicts in the region as an excuse to intervene. The move to replace the drug certification process by a multilateral assessment instrument under the aegis of the United States could lead to legalizing a possible U.S. intervention."

"Chavez Is Using Language Of Every Dictator"

Politician and former opposition presidential candidate Cecilia Soto wrote in independent Reforma (9/1): "Hugo Chavez and his followers continue to shout to the world that they are not on the verge of becoming a dictatorship; on the contrary, they are about to inaugurate a path of happiness, progress and freedom for the Venezuelan people. Nevertheless, things have to work out in the manner and with the speed that the new leader wants to, otherwise everyone else should pay the consequences. Chavez is using the language of every dictator in this century."

"Chavez's Mistakes"

A column in nationalist, pro-government Excelsior said (8/30): "The disturbances that took place in Caracas last Friday indicate that the revolutionary process which President Chavez has started will not evolve without obstacles.... However, Chavez is making mistakes that could endanger his national transformation project. The first mistake is to try to address the issues of judicial and legislative legality before providing for the economic needs of the people.... The second, is trying to solve everything at once.... The worst development last week was the first statement by the Clinton administration against 'Chavez-ismo.' It's natural for Washington to be uneasy about anything having to do with a revolution; however, up to this point Washington had remained silent, indicating maturity in Foggy Bottom. But Friday's developments broke the State Department's fragile patience and gave the signal for U.S. attacks on

the Venezuelan government. Twenty-four hours later, the DEA accused Chavez of being a drug-trafficker. On top of this, Chavez has also begun to have conflicts with neighboring countries, particularly

Colombia. A revolution cannot have that many fronts, but should solve one problem at the time. If Chavez continues to make mistakes, his lack of maturity will bring failure to his project."

"Venezuela: Disquieting Signals"

Left-of-center La Jornada had this comment (8/30): "In the face of the number of measures he has undertaken, President Chavez has stated that he has no dictatorial desires. However, there are a number of developments that are worth paying attention to: the excessive concentration of power in the National Constitutional Assembly, the strengthening of the Venezuelan army throughout the country, and the reinstallation of several military officers who had been previously expelled because of their participation in Chavez's failed coup in 1992. The electoral victory of the Patriotic Front in Venezuela should teach a lesson to regional countries: Democracy should not only offer clean elections, but it should also promote the people's well-being.... Despair and skepticism are not good advisors. Our (regional) democracies have little time to respond and give results. It is not sufficient only to manage the crises; one needs to solve them."

"Venezuela"

An editorial in conservative El Heraldo De Mexico said (8/27): "Just when everyone thought that Latin American nations have found the road towards peace and democracy, recent developments in Venezuela have led to fears that another form of dictatorship is in the works.... The international community and particularly Latin American countries cannot remain passive regarding the danger that chaos could prevail in Venezuela, especially because whatever happens in any given country has repercussions in others."

"The Venezuelan State Disappears"

An editorial in nationalist La Cronica stated (8/27): "The Venezuelan constitutional assembly's blow against the legislative and judicial branches has practically become the tomb of the rule of law in that country.... Fired up by his protagonist behavior, the Venezuelan president has also jumped across the borders, and has entered into a verbal conflict with neighboring Colombia, and at the same time he is demonstrating that he is closer to the guerrilla organizations than to a democratic government. If Chavez continues to act in this manner, he will increasingly become the reflection of a Latin America we no longer want."

"Colombia, An Uncomfortable Neighborhood"

An editorial in left-of-center La Jornada (8/25) stated: "The increasingly critical situation in economically and politically unstable Colombia is becoming a matter of multilateral interest and concern. The most important aspects of this internationalization of Colombia's domestic problems are the concern over a possible U.S. intervention--a possibility that is seen

nearer as there are greater efforts in Washington to deny it--and the increasing involvement of Venezuelan authorities in the Colombian conflict and in the efforts to solve it. The trip to the region by U.S. anti-drug Czar Barry McCaffrey can be interpreted as Washington's effort to coordinate an isolation operation among the nations which border Colombia to prevent political and criminal violence from spreading through the region.... The triple challenge for Latin American countries, particularly those in the Andean region, is to preserve their own security, to effectively support Colombia and, at the same time, to scrupulously respect and defend the sovereignty of that sister nation."

"How Colombia is Seen (From Afar)"

From an opinion piece by U.S.-based Univision correspondent Jorge Ramos Avalos in Guadalajara's independent Publico (8/17): "It is very difficult to think that the U.S. could militarily intervene in Colombia on a large scale, neither the Americans want to nor would the [Colombian] President, Andres Pastrana, allow it. It would be his political death."

"The War Threatens To Grow"

Gabriel Moreno said in Guadalajara's independent Publico (8/15): "The risk that the Colombian war could expand is real. The United States is worried. Its double talk, diplomatic and military, doesn't indicate whether it will keep to economic assistance. However that may be, the country could avoid the political cost of direct intervention in Colombia by promoting, for example, the formation of an Inter-American alliance to assume the responsibility. Colombia is bleeding. It is sinking, and cannot see the surface. That is why national sovereignty has little importance."

PERU: "Colombia: War And Negotiation"

Santiago Pedraglio in his column in reliable, business-oriented Gestion argued (8/27): "There may be Latin American leaders who want to profit from their respective internal situations. Therefore, the public support of U.S. officials to President Pastrana's peace strategy, is not without strings. Their declarations appear to be in favor of the Colombian president, nevertheless, there are still rumors about the preparation of war plans. The visit of U.S. General Barry McCaffrey to Peru has the same ambiguity: he has come for the sole reason of discussing drugs, but it is known that the current regional problem is Colombia. In this wider view, the game of President Fujimori or his advisor Montesinos is subordinated to supranational interests, and some of their declarations are more for internal consumption."

"What Is McCaffrey Coming For?"

Santiago Pedraglio wrote in reliable, business-oriented Gestion (8/25): "The visit of U.S. 'anti-drug czar,' General Barry McCaffrey, occurs under

the horizon of the U.S. presidential elections in November 2000 and the worsening of the Colombian crisis. The successes and failures of the anti-drug fight in Peru are subordinate to the above scene. The Republicans have stepped up their criticism of the Democrats with regard to the anti-drug fight, and want to transform the failures of this policy into one of the flags of their electoral fight. In view of this panorama, it is no exaggeration to affirm that there may be some in the United States who think that by preparing an intervention in Colombia--possible scapegoat for the failure of U.S. anti-drug policy--they gain points for the 2000 elections."

"A Low Cost Strategy Is Being Prepared"

Political analyst Roman Ortiz wrote in straightforward, respected El Comercio (8/23): "There is no urgent reason for the White House to take such a risky decision as sending troops to Colombia. So then, why has the United States raised the possibility of a joint intervention with its Latin American partners? Probably because it needs to obtain other concessions from them, such as their commitment to intensify border surveillance in order to stop the flow of supplies to the Colombian guerrillas. But from there to sponsoring a large-scale military intervention, lies a chasm that Washington does not seem ready to cross."

##

- daily.wp5===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

WPC

2BPV`Courier 10cpil|x?xxx,kx6X@8;X@ 3'

3' 3' X' hp x X XX 3'
3' 3' 3'

XX Xp x (##Xx\ P6QyXP#
X' hp x (#%O
ddx
XxX<O
X{ -X' hp x (# #:x2PkCXP#

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

X{ #:,2PkCP#DAILY DIGEST #XX\ P6QyP#USIA #:Z2PkCP#U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY,
WA

SHINGTON DC 20547 OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTIONOO

XX X' hp x (#%#XP\ P6QyP#Bill Richey, Branch Chief Media Reaction, (202) 619

6511 Ann Pincus, Director

Archived at: ww

w.usia.gov/products/medreac.htm

X' hp x (##Xn\ P6Qy&P#Thursday, September 2, 1999

X' hp x (#%

LATIN AMERICAN WORRIES: COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA

X' hp x (#Last week's visit to the region by ONDCP Director Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the continuing crisis in Colombia and changes in Venezuela's government by President Hugo Chavez sparked continued speculation among Latin American editor ialists about U.S. policy toward the region, concern about Colombia's continuin g "implosion," and new worries about an antidemocratic trend in Venezuelan poli tics. No sudden increase or diminution of U.S. assistance to the Colombian milit ary was foreseen. Main editorial themes follow:

LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS ON U.S. 'INTERVENTION' AND THE COLOMBIAN 'THREAT' : Whil

e some commentators saw Gen. McCaffrey's trip as possibly laying the groundwork for regional cooperation on a future military intervention in Colombia, no ana lyst predicted a sudden increase and certainly no diminution in the current tempo of U.S. involvement in assisting the Colombian military. Many analysts saw th e Colombian crisis as intractable and U.S. security concerns likely to persist.

A few pundits in Mexico and Venezuela saw a likelihood for a much greater U.S . "intervention" in the future and warned of the conflict's potential "Vietnami zation." Some observers saw as factors affecting U.S. policy on Colombia the wrangling over drug policy prior to the U.S. presidential elections, and U.S. c oncerns that Colombian instability could affect the Panama Canal. Pundits in A rgentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela feared that a "sinking" Colombia might t hreaten the region, and there were scattered calls for greater "hemispheric sol idarity." Brazil's centerright O Globo asserted that "it would be dangerous fo r Brazil to ignore the seriousness of the situation in Colombia" and said "Braz il's best move is to redouble its border surveillance...while participation in an international peacekeeping force should not be ruled out." Buenos Aires' le ading Clarin noted the "direct consequences in the region" of the Colombian "c

risis" and said "this situation poses the need for governments with Colombia's..initiative to make efforts aimed at elaborating joint initiatives to treat a problem of mutual interest, recovering leadership in regional negotiations."

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S 'RED BERET DEMOCRACY' : Commentators in Argentina

na, Brazil and Mexico worried that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his supporters in the new national constituent assembly were making changes that would

damage the country's democratic institutions and frighten foreign investors.

Looking at Venezuela's impact on the region, center-right O Estado de Sao Paulo

headlined "Dictatorships Are Highly Contagious Regimes" and stressed that "it will be disastrous if any Latin American nation yields completely to the authoritarian temptation." Mexican editorialists were strongly critical of Mr. Chavez

. Conservative El Heraldo De Mexico lamented that "just when everyone thought that Latin American nations have found the road towards...democracy, recent developments in Venezuela have led to fears that another form of dictatorship is in the works." A Buenos Aires daily

said, "Chavez certainly recalls previous failed military folk" and acknowledged that his "reforms" could damage Venezuela's democracy, but

added, "It is still hard to deny that Chavez...could provide the political direction to alter" that country's "totally corrupted, perpetually

self-serving elites."

EDITOR: Bill Richey

Editor's Note: This survey is based on 70 reports from 9 countries, Aug. 15-Sep

t.3.

COLOMBIA: "On The Edge Of Chaos; If Not Pastrana, Who?"

Leading El Tiempo had this opinion piece by Rudolf Hommes (8/28): "The establishment and media in the United States believe that that country is the world's policeman.... The theme of the majority of articles and publications that appear in the U.S. about Colombia is that here the government is not

competent enough to warrant confidence.... The conclusion of these analyses is that if the Colombians are incapable of restoring order, others will have to intervene to do it.... We Colombians...are committing a major historical mistake in buying this story.... Doesn't anyone realize that the worst thing for the country would be to become a U.S. protectorate, or even worse, a Venezuelan satellite?...

If Pastrana is not to be the leader, who is?... Pastrana has to face the problem and put Tirofijo, Chavez, Castro, Fujimori and Madame Albright in their places, even if it is too late. If he does it, the country will support him, but the country will not support him if he continues acting as if nothing were happening."

X' hp x (# VENEZUELA: "Venezuela, Cuba, The FARC And The U.S."

X' hp x (#

Centrist El Globo carried this oped piece by Jesus Paz Galarraga (9/2):

"The title alone indicates that we are going to refer to the statements by U.S. State Department spokesman James Foley. Once again, our northern neighbor displays its pattern of interventionist behavior in dependent and underdeveloped countries. This is not some isolated occurrence; were it so, Mr. Foley's 'warning' that dovetails nicely with the international media campaign against President Chavez would be quite a coincidence....

"Arising from the drug issue are other political proposals which cannot be ignored by even the clumsiest observer. Such is the case for Venezuelan-Colombian affairs; our country is the most interested one in reaching a peace. One-third of Colombian territory is occupied by the guerrillas, and Venezuela is and has been the target of abductions, kidnappings, lost airplanes, etc.; President Chavez, logically, is willing to take on an active role through direct contact with the guerrillas, be it in Venezuela or in Colombia (with President Pastrana's consent, of course). Chavez, Fidel Castro and other leaders have been mentioned as potential

mediators. This has led to another political misrepresentation. The Colombian press has stated that Bogota and Washington fear a possible

'politicalmilitary axis' composed of Cuba, Venezuela and the FARC guerrilla. It has also claimed that Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez and FARC would try to 'create political instability in the region, form an axis against Washington to confront potential military aggression, and control strategic territory in the hemisphere.' What do you think of that?...

"All of this does not mean we suffer a pathological phobia of U.S. governments, much less the American people. We simply think that understanding based on common respect should not be a mere diplomatic phrase, but a fact.... Without demagoguery, but with firmness, doctrine, consistency and courage, we would like to maintain the best relations with the USA and every nation in the world."

X` hp x (#
"Calm And Good Sense"

X` hp x (#
Leading, liberal El Nacional published this editorial (8/25): "Drug czar, General Barry McCaffrey, is on one of his frequent trips to the Southern Hemisphere, this time visiting Buenos Aires and Brasilia. The topic is no secret. It is

Colombia: what to do about the Colombia crisis, narcotics trafficking and, we suppose, the guerrilla. One topic McCaffrey has made no attempt to hide is Latin American participation in a probable intervention.... As is evident, the international press is full of news and accounts, some legitimate, some probably trial balloons. They are contradictory and misleading, but it is difficult to believe they are not a serious sign that something is going on fast regarding the Colombian conflict.... It's difficult to see

how the Colombia conflict will develop. It's no easier to imagine the role to be played by Venezuela. President Chavez has said that he does 'not want to intervene in Colombian affairs,' and he is also 'opposed to intervention

by other countries.' This is a position consistent with Venezuela's permanent interest
s: nonintervention and not supporting any intervention.
This is an intelligent position that undoubtedly will be supported by the whole nation."

"Colombia's Troubles Grow More Complicated"

Popular El Mundo carried this comment (8/25) by Moises Moleiro: "Based on some strange movements lately, and, as always, on the pressure exerted by the Republic of Colombia, the United States seems to have dark intentions regarding Colombia. Or so can be inferred from the attempts in the U.S. media to discredit President Pastrana...this from a country with almost 50 million drug users.... If these [intervention] plans are true, it will be not only a crime against what is right, but an inexcusable political mistake.... A U.S. military intervention would not relieve any of Colombia's troubles, but would exacerbate all of them. The United States does not even have the necessary political pretext; this would be the first time in human history that another country were invaded simply because drugs are grown there.... What's more, any possible intervention would provoke a wave of Latin American outrage."

"A Little Vietnam, Or A Big One?"

Popular tabloid Ultimas Noticias (8/25) carried this op-ed by Domingo Alberto Rangel: "An event similar [to U.S. involvement in Vietnam] will take place or is taking place already in Colombia. The United States has deployed a number of 'advisors' in Colombia.... But this U.S. interference will not stop the guerrilla's rise. More weapons and advisors will be needed in Colombia. That won't work either. Then the United States will face a dilemma. Either it undertakes a new intervention even larger than the one in Vietnam, or it gives up its incursions in Colombia.... In the end, Colombia will win. It will win because it is a just cause. It will be a nation

defending its sovereign rights. The current war will turn into one of national liberation [against the United States]. And Colombia will not be alone; twenty other Latin American nations are obliged to show solidarity with it."

"Madeleine's Muse"

Caracas's leading, liberal El Nacional ran an oped (8/24) by editorial board member Beatriz de Majo: "Anyone who disbelieves that the United States will do its utmost Albright declares in her famous article to strengthen the Colombian Army so that it can confront and attack the narcoguerrilla, is also naive....

What is not yet clear is how the cooperation and agreement commonly promised to our neighbors is going to happen. Albright states very clearly that all cooperation should go beyond a simple fight against drugs.... The time has come to highlight hemispheric solidarity and the adherence to democracy and justice claimed as Bolivar's heritage, and join Colombia in an enthusiastic and committed way in the fight for national peace, which is, concurrently, the fight for rights and the eradication of the drug culture. Such action will eventually lead to more peace on our borders, more security for our citizens, and fewer drugs in our environment."

X hp x (#

X hp x (# "Who Wants To Be Laos Or Cambodia?"

Popular El Mundo carried this oped by Felipe Mujica (8/21): "The presence of almost 1,000 'advisors' in Colombia puts the conflict on the brink of tremendous change. The State Department's 'reassuring' remarks that these advisors are not on the front line only offend our intelligence.... Such circumstances open the door to what President Chavez has rightly labeled the 'Vietnamization' of the Colombian conflict. Backed by a multilateral intervention, the military solution the same strategy that has failed for more than 50 years would be imposed again, this time with U.S. choppers and joined by uniformed Latin Americans. La

mentably, some

foreign ministries in the hemisphere have been touched by this choice. And this

is because some of them think that a solution to Colombia's plight without the

guerrilla's complete defeat could spark underlying violence in their own societies.

Others view the 'NATOization' of the Colombian conflict as an opportunity to curry favor with the hemispheric superpower.

Both of them are wrong. The 'domino effect' of the Colombian war's internationalization would sweep the entire region away.... If Colombia

becomes a Vietnam, we will have the dubious honor of emulating Laos and Cambodia as 'relievers,' 'sanctuaries,' and areas for the conflict's spread."

"A Threat To The Whole Region"

Centrist El Globo ran this oped by Franklin Barriga Lopez (8/20):

"Preemptive

measures fundamentally, strengthening the military presence along borders are necessary and timely. Since it is an internal conflict,

and in accordance with most Colombians' desire (based on recent surveys),

Pastrana's government should openly ask the international community for help

in order to preserve legitimate rule and to stop, once and for all, the ongoing narcosubversion."

"Colombia's On Fire, And Its Neighbor Is No Fireman"

Business-oriented Economia Hoy (8/20) carried this opinion piece by regular writer Jesus Sanoja Rodriguez:

"Because if the United States views us as a bridge and, along the way, an obstacle to the global fight against drug trafficking, then the United States is free to 'decertify' us or demand help that [infringes upon] our sovereignty, such as using our air space. Let him who has eyes see: It is very clear that in the U.S. fight against drug trafficking in Colombia, Washington and the DEA will seek to involve us as suits their national interests..

.. Venezuela will be the one harmed; because of its shared border with Colombia and bilateral agreements and

disagreements, our neighbor status and our relations will turn dangerous."

"Coded Messages"

Leading, liberal El Nacional said (8/18): "Republicans attack President Clinton and his administration for the unflattering results of its antinarcotics policies. Probably for this reason, General Barry McCaffrey's perspective has radicalized. He kept repeating in Caracas that Venezuela 'could face severe problems with narcotrafficking.' He referred to the Venezuelan position of not permitting overflights of U.S. planes based in the Antilles.... The Colombia issue affects us profoundly, so we must address all of its dimensions. It is not a problem exclusive to the government; it must receive a wider and more considered analysis."

"Colombia: A Fatal Optimism"

Ramon Pinango, political scientist gave this view in liberal, leading El Nacional (8/19): "What can Venezuela do?... Only a strategy based on a harsh realism, which some might label pessimistic exaggeration, can allow us to look for solutions, such as requesting the intervention of international organizations to try to avoid Colombia's drama from spreading to our country."

"Washington: With What Authority?"

Freddy Yopez penned an oped in Caracas' centrist El Globo (8/19): "Throughout the world there is talk about a possible U.S. intervention in the Colombian armed conflict, as if the United States has the right.... But this article deals with the arrogance and disrespect shown by U.S. authorities in trying to impose conditions on President Hugo Chavez concerning his vision and management of Venezuelan diplomacy regarding Colombia's armed conflict.... I have no doubt that a U.S. armed intervention in Colombia brings with it the idea of creating an adverse situation in Venezuela in search of President Chavez's fall."

ARGENTINA: "Chavez's Steps Forward And Steps Back"

Jorge Elias, dailyofrecord La Nacion's international analyst on special assignment in Caracas, commented (9/3): "The (Venezuelan) economy, overwhelmed by recession, received the impact of the measures adopted by the assembly, where Chavistas represent 92 percent of the seats.... Markets have accumulated losses for over 5 percent, August inflation with consumption being adjusted to the crisis has been 1.5 percent...and unemployment is around 16 and 20 percent. The political crisis impacts on private analysts' reports who consider Chavez's excessive accumulation of power as dangerous."

"Mercosur Or 'Narcosur'?"

Historian Armando Alonso Piñeiro wrote an opinion piece for progovernment La Prensa (9/3): "Before leaving (Argentina) for Washington, the so-called antidrug czar publicly expressed his concern about the increase in Argentine consumption and drugtrafficking. Without any purpose of underestimating this fact, it calls our attention to the fact that (McCaffrey) does not show the same concern about the greatest consumer market in the world...precisely the United States. Although in recent years the U.S. drug consumption must have been reduced, the money circulating within the country because of drugtrafficking has considerably increased."

" Does There Have To Be An Intervention In Colombia?"

Vicente Gonzalo Massot, executive director of La Nueva Provincia from Bahia Blanca, who is a former secretary of defense, wrote an opinion piece for dailyofrecord La Nacion (9/3): "An Xray of the Colombian case would show us that for the time being, the internationalization of the conflict has transformed it into a hemispheric security problem for Washington. This has triggered a U.S. hidden intervention...expecting the results which could be obtained by President Pa

strana in his negotiation with guerrillas. If such a negotiation failed and it is difficult to imagine how it could be successful' the right to humanitarian meddling' would cover the formalities demanded by the postCold War to justify a full intervention. Then the consensus of Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries would be missing. In the middle of an extraordinary event in Latin America, would it be so difficult for Washington if determined to do it to gain consensus among its near and remote neighbors South of the Rio Grande?"

"Initiatives For The Colombian Crisis"

An editorial in leading Clarin read (9/2): "The OAS has not played the role it should have during a crisis like the Colombian one, which has direct consequences in the region and, particularly, on those countries which border the area occupied by the guerrillas. Therefore, this situation poses the need for governments with Colombia's priority initiative to make efforts aimed at elaborating joint initiatives to treat a problem of mutual interest, recovering leadership in regional negotiations."

"Combat Readiness In Venezuelan Congress"

Jorge Elias, daily record La Nacion's international analyst on special assignment in Caracas, commented (9/1): "Decisions made by Chavez now in replacement of the (Venezuelan) congress may turn out null if the Bolivar constitution is defeated in elections. In the meantime, the whole situation has an economic impact which cannot be disregarded. Inflation is controlled by lack of consumption and the balance of payments is stabilized by the increase in oil prices, but the government does not have a concrete plan and there is a negative perception which affects the country risk and drives investors away."

"Venezuela's Red Beret Democracy"

Ivan Briscoe, the independent, Englishlanguage Buenos Aires Herald's international and political columnist, opined (8/31): "The fault of a military reformer lies not so much in the message, but in the message's bearer.... Yet it is still hard to deny that Chavez, and only someone like Chavez, could provide the political direction to alter the totally corrupted, perpetually selfserving elite which happened to preside over Venezuela, and had done so for nearly fifty years.... Chavez certainly recalls previous failed military folk...and his reforms...could do much to destroy confidence and stability in the country's institutions for years, but at the same time, the red beret has a point: A temple turned sour and mercantilist is not really a temple."

X hp x (#
X hp x (# "Colombia's Problems"

An editorial in the independent, Englishlanguage Buenos Aires Herald read (8/31): "Colombia's problems, and Colombia as a problem, are half a century old, and the terrifying fact is that the only solution offered is the longterm view of General McCaffrey. There is nothing for the immediate future."

"McCaffrey Prepares A Summit"

Maria O'Donnell, dailyof record La Nacion's Washingtonbased correspondent, wrote (8/31) "U.S. antidrug 'Czar' Barry McCaffrey will continue to push forward the idea of a regional response to Colombia's problem: After his Latin American tour, he is now organizing a summit with his hemispheric counterparts. One of the most urgent problems he wants to solve results from the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama.... In order to compensate the loss of Howard Air Force Base...the United States is in search of a fourth location in Central America."

"Do You Know Who Stopped By?"

Raimundo Orlando, editorinchief for progovernment La Prensa, commented (8/31):

"McCaffrey admits that the Colombian collapse needs therapy, but an appropriate and slow one. This is why he toured America like a doctor in a clinic, feeling, in each country, the pulse of its present and future leaders. Because Clinton is already walking the last portion of his administration and he (faces) election times, and he knows that his erroneous decision in foreign policy today will tomorrow become a dangerous national legacy for his successor. Now he knows this better. The humanist, or the czar or the hardliner who visited us told him so."

"The U.S. Set Its Eyes On Salta"

In its "Zona" supplement, leading Clarin (8/29) had this by its international analyst Oscar Cardoso: "The project being discussed between Washington and Buenos Aires has two possible scenarios...Salta and Misiones, and its origin is linked both with the fight against drugtrafficking and with the military control of the world that the Pentagon is redesigning to make up for the loss of its historical presence in Panama.... President Menem seems to have thought that an advance in the granting of those facilities would demonstrate not only the seriousness of Argentina's desire to become part of NATO, but also his willingness to commit himself beyond formalities and even beyond the few remaining months of his term of office."

"Always The Vietnam Ghost"

Leftofcenter Pagina 12's international analyst Claudio Uriarte said (8/29):

"The interventionist prospect in Colombia is blocked by the regional rejection..

.. Which leaves one with a halfway prospect the intervention already being practiced, with the reconstruction and reinforcement of the Colombian army, combined with a blockade of bordering supply routes to the FARC. What

is already happening, what does have regional support as did not happen in Vietnam. It is a sort of 'gray intervention.'"

"Washington's Strategy Arrives Late"

Business/financial El Cronista's international analyst Guillermo Ortiz wrote (8/29): "The Colombian crisis is not exclusively military, but it has features resulting from an implosion of the government, deepening of the domestic conflict and increase in violence.... McCaffrey said that the Colombian situation is 'complex, dangerous and changing,' and no one ignores that it is a disintegrating nation of almost 40 million inhabitants, less than three hours away from Miami by plane."

"A General Having A Political Pulse"

Dailyofrecord La Nacion's (8/30) international analyst Jorge Elias held: "McCaffrey is looking for a balance between Clinton's formal trust in Pastrana's peace strategy and the distrust of the members of the U.S. Congress and Pentagon hardliners about the region of 42,000 square kilometers granted by Pastrana to the FARC as a truce which was never achieved."

"Other Messengers On Intervention"

X hp x (#) Leading Clarin's political columnist Daniel Santoro wrote (8/27): "Even though McCaffrey, during his entire Latin American tour, denied the possibility of a U.S. military intervention, other messengers from Washington have already made informal consultations with the government, the opposition and the armed forces regarding this maximum level hypothesis for the medium term."

"AntiDrug Czar, With Menem And Favorite (Candidates) To Succeed Him"

Dailyofrecord La Nacion said (8/27): "The commitment which the general, known as the antidrug czar, wants to obtain is a long term and political one: not for an immediate intervention in Colombia, an action which the White House publicly rules out, but to gather confirmed regional support which will, of course, strengthen a future decision in any sense."

"The AntiDrug 'Czar' In Argentina"

Gerardo Young, leading Clarin's political columnist, wrote (8/24):
"Convinced
that the conflict in Colombia is a longlasting one...Barry
McCaffrey will meet
this Friday with Fernando de la Rúa and Eduardo Duhalde,
the two candidates to
succeed Carlos Menem in the presidency.... With the
idea of increasing its p
olitical or even military influence in Colombia, the
United States needs suppor
t from countries in the region, not only now, but
also for the upcoming months
or years."

"The President Of Bogota"

Claudio Uriarte, leftofcenter Pagina 12's international analyst, opined
(8/23)
: "The [Colombian] state's monopoly of force is being questioned....
What is
sad about all this is that Pastrana does not have much of a choice,
because his
army is weak and corrupt and the situation has been uncontrolled
for decades.
At this moment, the president is losing even more powersome
300 U.S. advisors h
ave 'de facto' intervened in the armed forces, while the
U.S. thesis of a cordo
n sanitaire to prevent guerrillas from entering
bordering countries has already
caused the shifting of Peruvian troops and
the beginning of river and road int
erdiction operations of Brazilian
supplies.... Colombia is a target of consta
nt U.S. surveillance
overflights.... And the Colombian government is an incre
asingly formal
fiction."

"The U.S. Will Not Send Troops To Colombia"

Joaquin Morales Sola, dailyofrecord La Nacion's international issues
analyst,
opined (8/20): "The first moments of confusion seem to belong to
the past for
the Washington government regarding the domestic crisis in
Colombia.... Since
the tragic experience in Vietnam, Washington may not
send troops to die over
as without being sure that its government will then

suffer a strong lack of popularity.... However, the Colombian internal war is a top priority conflict for the White House. Colombia has become the third country in the world in terms of the military help it receives from the United States."

X hp x (#
"Colombia And Vietnam"

Raimundo Orlando, progovernment La Prensa's managing editor and drug specialist, commented (8/17): "Wanting to end drugtrafficking in Colombia is like wanting to cut down all the trees in the Amazon, and trying to eliminate Colombian guerrillas is a longlasting and bloody challenge.... America must not be a hypocrite. The double front which the United States would encounter would not lead to a final solution either. But nobody can seriously believe that Colombia may fix its many and tough problems on its own."

X hp x (# BRAZIL: "The Agony Of A Democracy"

Centerright O Estado de S. Paulo's editorial (9/3) said: "Democracy in Venezuela is just waiting for the mercy shot.... There is no longer harmony or balance between the three branches [of government]. Actually, there is only one power, since the constitutional assembly is nothing but the faithful executor of President Hugo Chavez's will.... In order to fight corruption and inefficiency, which have indeed permeated the judiciary and the legislative branches, Colonel Chavez is killing those institutions.... Chavez's popularity, however, will be as ephemeral as that of almost all national populist caudillos, and social reactions will soon emerge to force the colonel to take off his sheep's skin.... The same way that only the Germans who had not read or taken Mein Kampf seriously deluded themselves with Hitler's intentions, only those who have not paid attention to the 'Bolivarianist' program will become surprised with Chavez.... [During his visit to Brazil tomorrow] Colonel Chavez is not expected to obtain the government of Brazil's support for his attempt to mediate the situation in

Colombian initiative that more disturbs than calms the local processor for the course he is setting for Venezuela. Undoubtedly that nation needs reforms capable of recovering the institutions and of fostering economic growth. But such reforms must be carried out within democratic limits, which are limits that Mr. Chavez apparently ignores."

"Poverty And Frustration Led Venezuelans To Support Radical Change"

An op-ed page byliner in centerright O Estado de S. Paulo by Venezuelan Ambassador to Brazil Milos Alcalay said (9/3): "The building of a new democracy is the challenge Venezuela is facing in order to arrive at the changes for a new republic.... The sudden deterioration suffered by the Venezuelan democratic system is to a certain extent similar to the collapse of institutions in Eastern Europe. The constitutional assembly had to declare an emergency to prevent an institutional collapse.... Poverty, frustration and desperation have led the Venezuelan people to support a radical change in democracy.... Chavez proposes a participatory democracy capable of guaranteeing an ethical change, a radical transformation, but within democracy, and this model does not satisfy everyone. Change has its enemies. But most of the Venezuelans have opted for it. It is perfectly acceptable that one criticizes the current Venezuelan model, because democracy demands it. But what is unacceptable is that one intends to compare Venezuela's democracy with the disastrous Nazi era."

"Threats Over Colombia"

Centerright O Estado de S. Paulo (9/2) observed: "It would sound strange if the U.S. government...were just a mere spectator of the efforts being made to transform Latin America's third most populated nation into a narcostate misgoverned by the guerrilla. Such a hypothesis would cause a civil war in addition to

raising the hostility of the region's nations.... Washington might even tolerate the repetition of the Castroist phenomenon in Colombia, but would remove any regime of the kind that dared to aggravate its original sins by sponsoring drug trafficking. The U.S. assistance to Colombia to eradicate coca plants and drug refineries, and to fight organized crime, constitutes a legitimate and opportune activity. The use of military force must be avoided."

"Government Of Brazil Beginning To Admit Concerns About Venezuela"

A political analysis in liberal Folha de S. Paulo's international section said

(9/1): "The government of Brazil is beginning to admit its concerns visavis t

he political process established by President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. In the meeting he will have with Chavez this Saturday in Manaus, Brazilian President

Cardoso will pass him all the messages.... Cardoso will alert him to the impor

tance of the recently reintroduced democracy on the continent, as well as defending the free functioning of institutions and the respect for international tre

aties. All of this is already part of Chavez's speech, but the constitutional

assembly in Caracas is in reality dissolving the congress and intervening in th

e judiciary.... In addition to the

geopolitical rhetoric that pleases Brazil,

there is mutual interest in

enlarging the weak bilateral trade at a moment whe

n both nations suffer the

consequences of domestic recession and the retraction of global investments."

X hp x (# "Dictatorships Are Highly Contagious Regimes"

Centerright O Estado de S. Paulo's political and economic analyst, Antonio Carl

os Pereira, commented (8/31) on the sudden change of view by foreign investors

in Latin America: "What concerns them are indications that there may be a poli

tical retrogression in the region.... Democracy is in the process of consolid

ation in several nations of the region. But in others the

temptation of arbitr

ary behavior has once again become evident.... The worst

signs come from Venezuela, where the constitutional assembly is not a legislative entity responsible for drafting a constitution. It is a committee that assumes absolute executive powers.... When this committee concludes its mission, Colonel Hugo Chavez will be able to rule without mediators. It will be disastrous if any Latin American nation yields completely to the authoritarian temptation. Dictatorships are highly contagious regimes.... This is not good for Brazil, which must have a

democratic landscape around it that is propitious not only to the consolidation of civil liberties but to the realization of the regional trade and economic integration projects."

X` hp x (# "ANC Rules, And ANC Is Chavez"

A political analysis in liberal Folha de S. Paulo's international section said (8/31): "It is evident that the ANC (National Constitutional Assembly) is the legal instrument for Chavez's 'peaceful revolution' or 'Venezuela's resurrection.'... In other words, the ANC rules, and the ANC is Chavez."

"The Colombian Balkanization"

Independent Jornal da Tarde's oped page (8/30) said: "The most recent stage of the civil war being faced by the Colombians for 30 years consists in the Balkanization of that nation.... In the midst of the crossfire are the 40 million Colombians who massively reject with demonstrations the violence carried out by armed groups, and are the unarmed victims of this brutality."

"No One Invited The Colonel"

Centerright O Estado de S. Paulo's editorial (8/29) said: "What disqualifies President Hugo Chavez for the role he has not been invited to perform [to media] is his disastrous style. The colonel does not inspire confidence.... Under the pretext of overcoming the political, economic and moral crisis that affects Venezuela, he is accumulating discretionary powers, the pr

actice of which usually victimizes
democracy.... Nothing, therefore, recommend
s that the nations of the region
recognize Venezuela's president as the 'peace
sponsor' and mediator of the
Colombian conflict. The nations of the region hav
e institutional mechanisms
capable of providing Colombia all the assistance its
government requests.
The Group of Rio, for example, has a great experience in
peace processes. If
the role of mediator is to be performed by just one natio
n, Brazil would be
the natural choice."

"Chavez's Authoritarianism"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's editorial (8/30) held: "It was on behalf of a
figh
t against corruption and of a supposed founding of the country based on
generic
principles...that President Hugo Chavez convened the constitutional
assembly..
.. The constitutional assembly, i.e., Chavez, gained unlimited
powers, includi
ng those of government. No institution can oppose him. There
is no state sect
or in which he cannot act. The next step is to neutralize
the oppositioncivili
an associations. Who can assure that the multiparty
system will be guaranteed
in this leadership vacuum? When this 'dirt' is
removed, the purge carried out
by this messianic arbitrary centrist...of the
future Bolivarianist Republic of
Venezuela will be complete."

"Hugo Chavez Is Like A Don Quixote"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's correspondent in Caracas commented (8/29): "Hugo
Chavez is honest, idealist, wellintentioned and repeats the most charmingly
obv
ious things, such as: Savage neoliberalism is good for the rich but a
disaster
for poor Latin Americans; the state has to take care of the
citizens, the infr
astructure and the competitiveness of the national
industry, that generates mon
ey and jobs; the institutions must be cleansed.
It is already sufficient to sh
ow that Hugo Chavez is like a Don Quixote, who
some imagine confronting the Uni
ted States, for example, and the elites....
The problem is that Don Quixote do

es not guarantee to anyone a monopoly of truth or the final victory.... Chavez might even be a beautiful project, but difficult to make work. After all, the world is not a fiction nor is it managed by good little boys, but by clever and smart politicians, and that he is not."

"Problem At The Border"

Brasilia's centerleft Correio Braziliense had this editorial (8/24): "The USG is showing all signs of its desire to intervene in the region. It has its reason. By the end of the year the Panama Canal will be returned to the Panamanians.

The famous Southern Command located in the canal zone will be progressively de-activated. There is a concern that an eventual victory of the guerrillas in Colombia, allied with the narcotraffickers, will turn Central America into a drug corridor. General Barry McCaffrey, the U.S. strongman against drugs, is in Brazil to discuss the Colombian problem with Brazilian authorities. This will be the first formal contact between Brazilians and Americans to discuss the crisis in the neighboring country. Brazil follows the tradition of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries, but it has not experienced a problem of this magnitude since the Paraguay war in the last century. The conflict and its foreseeable consequences for Brazil suggest careful but urgent measures. It is necessary to reinforce the border's defense, gather better and additional information about what is really going on in Colombia, and to give wide dissemination to all this. Brazil cannot and must not be left at the mercy of the American propaganda machine. The Brazilian agenda must be prepared in Brasilia. Not in Washington."

X hp x (#

X hp x (#

"The Drugs Of Life"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo said (8/23): "President Clinton's mandate is coming to an end...and the fight against drugs is one of the few failures of

the administration. The choice of a general to head the antidrug action is symptomatic of the warlike character that is given to the issue in the United States. The emphasis is on punishment for the use of drugs, although McCaffrey is a sensitive person and he allocated considerable resources for prevention and education programs. It's just that the crux of the problem is beyond what McCaffrey or Clinton can see, or at least admit to. It can be said that there was never civilization without drugs, and especially in civilizations which, like the Americans, stress futile material consumption and forget to cultivate deep philosophical values. If the United States looks at the possibility of legalizing the use of some drugs and concentrated on reviewing the principles of its existence as a society, perhaps they would have fewer problems with drugs."

"AntiDrugs Czar Arrives In Brazil At Difficult Moment"

Centerright O Estado de S. Paulo's Washington correspondent said (8/23): "With the crisis in Colombia as a backdrop, General Barry McCaffrey begins a tour in Brazil today to four South American nations that runs a great risk of generating misunderstandings and nourishing speculations on the U.S. interest in a regional military solution to the Colombian problem. The Clinton administration has helped to unleash such rumors with official statements raising the Colombian crisis to the condition of a threat against U.S. national security.... McCaffrey arrives in South America armed with statistical data on a significant reduction in drug consumption among U.S. youth, and he will certainly use this material to demonstrate that the United States is doing its part.... McCaffrey's caution to emphasize Brazil's efforts and cooperation is not just a diplomatic gesture. Before starting the tour, McCaffrey was alerted by the government of Brazil that he would be invited to clarify the statements he made in early August, on activities by the Colombian guerrilla near or within Brazilian territory.

In addition,
McCaffrey knows that his visit will serve to normalize the relations in the
fight against drugtrafficking."

X` hp x (# "Wait For Peace"

Centerright, national O Globo asserted (8/18): "It would be dangerous for
Braz
il to ignore the seriousness of the situation in Colombia, with whom it
shares
a badly patrolled border. It is evident that if the Colombian
government conti
nues losing ground to the guerrilla/traffickers....
Brazilian interests could
be harmed in the region. For the moment...the
problem is eminently Colombian..
.. It is not difficult to understand the
U.S. interest in stability in Colombi
a, certainly as great as that of its
immediate neighbors. The strategically im
portant Panama Canal Zone...is
dangerously close to the Colombian border and th
us vulnerable to the combined
action of traffickers, guerrillas and rogue polit
icians.... Brazil's best
move is to redouble its border surveillance...while p
articipation in an
international peacekeeping force should not be ruled out. A
nd yet,
peacekeeping forces are mobilized only after stability is in place...a
remote
possibility at this point in time."

X` hp x (#
"The Drug Pretext"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo (8/18) said: "It is necessary to ponder that the
U
nited States doesn't have diplomacy, given the scale of its lack of
sophisticat
ion and vocational predisposition to use physical force.
Colombian cocaine, or
from any other source, can only be a problem to the
American life (supposing t
hat some authorities think this way) because the
distribution networks of drugs
in the United States are not bothered at all.
Colombia is close to Panama, ri
ght below it. An ideal location to be a
threat to the strategic and commercial
aspects of the canal, a threat that
grows with the fantasy of guerrillas and d
rugtraffickers taking over total
control of Colombia and then opening the south

and central American doors to the Chinese."

BOLIVIA: "U.S. Conscious Of Bolivian Efforts Against Drug Trafficking"

Centrist El Diario had this editorial (8/25): "Undoubtedly, McCaffrey's visit is extremely important for the improvement of Bolivian-American relations....

We Bolivians should also feel proud of the achieved results, which under no circumstance are in the American interest only, but in the national interest....

The American support and cooperation and the political will of the current government should also be an example for the international community."

"The Czar And The Battle Against Drug Trafficking"

Centrist Ultima Hora had this editorial (8/25): "It must remain clear that the battle against drug trafficking is not only the Bolivian state's responsibility. A high sacrifice is demanded from us, but it should be a shared responsibility."

X' hp x (# "The Visit Of The 'AntiDrug Czar'"

X' hp x (#Centrist La Prensa carried this editorial (8/25): "Bolivia is interested in contributing its share to the global battle against drug trafficking, in order to preserve the health of its inhabitants, as well as to help to conserve the species, free of the trouble that drug consumption causes."

"The Other Front In The Battle Against Drugs"

Catholic church owned, left-leaning Presencia carried this editorial (8/24): "It is a fact that the large rings of drug commerce are not based in Latin America, but are concentrated in the large markets of consumption in the developed nations.... It would be good if the country formed a front to get the developed countries to fulfill their domestic part in the battle."

"To Clarify Penetration Of Drug Trafficking"

Conservative El Diario maintained (8/24): "The president's statements about the

the penetration of drugtrafficking in political parties, justice, the police and the armed forces are serious and alarming.... This creates sensitivity at a regional level, while there are increasing rumors about a possible American intervention in Colombia due to the growing attacks of the guerrillas allied with drugtrafficking, which in the Bolivian case, and given the president's remarks, would make this country more vulnerable to a similar action.... It could be that the (president's) statements were caused by the visit of the antidrug 'czar,' so that he does not underestimate drugtrafficking's power in our country, and that, instead, the United States supports in an appropriate way the government's efforts against this scourge."

"The Empire Exists"

Centrist La Prensa held (8/24): "The empire still lives, although now in its perfected form...[and] has been put into practice by the United States after WW II and, especially since the fall of the Berlin Wall.... Instead of intervening directly in each country, what the contemporary empire does is mark the territory in which each nation can move with sovereignty.... From time to time, this situation is more evident, as will undoubtedly happen on the occasion of General McCaffrey's arrival to Bolivia, along with all the paraphernalia that comes with him."

CHILE: "The United States And Colombia"

Conservative, influential El Mercurio (8/19) ran this editorial: "U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that Colombia's internal problem is a threat to regional security.... This dangerous phenomenon cannot be addressed by Pinostrana's government alone.... Cooperation from abroad is necessary to stop narcotics terrorism.... Colombia's problems...must be resolved by its people, but the situation is different if there is no efficiency to resolve these problems.

Rhetoric has no positive effects. What Colombia needs are concrete

contribution
ns in terms of financial resources and military advice in the
strategic arena.
However, specific action must be left to the Colombians."

ECUADOR: "The Continental Advance"

Centrist El Comercio had this by Franklin Barriga Lopez (8/20): "Gen. Barry
McCaffrey's visit to Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela reminded us of the
vulnerable
situation prevailing in these countries due to the increasing and
active presence of neighboring drug related subversion.... It would be
totally foolish to underestimate the risk these rebels pose especially for
Venezuela, Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. These are very dangerous
enemies.... The frontal and
permanent fight against drugtrafficking is a
good strategy in conjunction and with the help of other governments in
compliance with international commitments
signed for the defense of peace and
prosperity in the continent."

MEXICO: "U.S. Could Use Conflicts As An Excuse To Intervene"

Columnist Manuel Becerra Ramirez wrote in moderate Novedades (9/3):
"Venezuela
continues to be the second oil exporter to the U.S., and whatever
happens in that country is of great interest to the U.S. Recent measures by
the Venezuela
national constitutional assembly...are causing a dangerous crisis in
the region. And
this situation is to be seen in the context of the crisis in
Colombia and of the
withdrawal of the U.S. military from Panama. During his
recent trip to the region, ONDCP Director McCaffrey insisted that the
Colombian guerrillas, particularly the FARC use drug trafficking to finance
their activities. This could be
the prelude of an armed intervention because
drug trafficking was also used as
an excuse in 1989 to arrest Panamanian
President Noriega and bring him to trial in the U.S. On top of this, the
U.S. also needs a foothold in the region....

The U.S. could use the
conflicts in the region as an excuse to intervene. The
move to replace the
drug certification process by a multilateral assessment i

instrument under the
aegis of the United States could lead to legalizing a possible U.S.
intervention."

"Chavez Is Using Language Of Every Dictator"

Politician and former opposition presidential candidate Cecilia Soto wrote in independent Reforma (9/1): "Hugo Chavez and his followers continue to shout to the world that they are not on the verge of becoming a dictatorship; on the contrary, they are about to inaugurate a path of happiness, progress and freedom for the Venezuelan people. Nevertheless, things have to work out in the manner and with the speed that the new leader wants to, otherwise everyone else should pay the consequences. Chavez is using the language of every dictator in this century."

"Chavez's Mistakes"

A column in nationalist, progovernment Excelsior said (8/30): "The disturbance that took place in Caracas last Friday indicates that the revolutionary process which President Chavez has started will not evolve without obstacles.... However, Chavez is making mistakes that could endanger his national transformation project. The first mistake is to try to address the issues of judicial and legislative legality before providing for the economic needs of the people.... The second, is trying to solve everything at once.... The worst development last week was the first statement by the Clinton administration against 'Chavezism'.... It's natural for Washington to be uneasy about anything having to do with a revolution; however, up to this point Washington had remained silent, indicating maturity in Foggy Bottom. But Friday's developments broke the State Department's fragile patience and gave the signal for U.S. attacks on the Venezuelan government. Twenty-four hours later, the DEA accused Chavez of being a drug trafficker. On top of this, Chavez has also begun to have conflicts with neighboring countries, particularly

Colombia. A revolution cannot have that many fronts, but should solve one problem at the time. If Chavez continues to make mistakes, his lack of maturity will bring failure to his project."

"Venezuela: Disquieting Signals"

Leftofcenter La Jornada had this comment (8/30): "In the face of the number of measures he has undertaken, President Chavez has stated that he has no dictatorial desires. However, there are a number of developments that are worth paying attention to: the excessive concentration of power in the National Constituent Assembly, the strengthening of the Venezuelan army throughout the country, and the reinstallation of several military officers who had been previously expelled because of their participation in Chavez's failed coup in 1992. The electoral victory of the Patriotic Front in Venezuela should teach a lesson to regional countries: Democracy should not only offer clean elections, but it should also promote the people's wellbeing.... Despair and skepticism are not good advisors. Our (regional) democracies have little time to respond and give results. It is not sufficient only to manage the crises; one needs to solve them."

"Venezuela"

An editorial in conservative El Heraldillo De Mexico said (8/27): "Just when everyone thought that Latin American nations have found the road towards peace and democracy, recent developments in Venezuela have led to fears that another form of dictatorship is in the works.... The international community and particularly Latin American countries cannot remain passive regarding the danger that chaos could prevail in Venezuela, especially because whatever happens in any given country has repercussions in others."

"The Venezuelan State Disappears"

An editorial in nationalist La Cronica stated (8/27): "The Venezuelan

constit
utional assembly's blow against the legislative and judicial branches
has pract
ically become the tomb of the rule of law in that country.... Fired
up by his
protagonist behavior, the Venezuelan president has also jumped
across the borde
rs, and has entered into a verbal conflict with neighboring
Colombia, and at th
e same time he is demonstrating that he is closer to the
guerrilla organization
s than to a democratic government. If Chavez continues
to act in this manner,
he will increasingly become the reflection of a Latin
America we no longer want
."

"Colombia, An Uncomfortable Neighborhood"

An editorial in leftofcenter La Jornada (8/25) stated: "The increasingly
crit
ical situation in economically and politically unstable Colombia is
becoming a
matter of multilateral interest and concern. The most important
aspects of thi
s internationalization of Colombia's domestic problems are the
concern over a p
ossible U.S. interventiona possibility that is seen nearer
as there are greater
efforts in Washington to deny itand the increasing
involvement of Venezuelan a
uthorities in the Colombian conflict and in the
efforts to solve it. The trip
to the region by U.S. antidrug Czar Barry
McCaffrey can be interpreted as Washi
ngton's effort to coordinate an
isolation operation among the nations which bor
der Colombia to prevent
political and criminal violence from spreading through
the region.... The
triple challenge for Latin American countries, particularly
those in the
Andean region, is to preserve their own security, to effectively
support
Colombia and, at the same time, to scrupulously respect and defend the
sovereignty of that sister nation."

"How Colombia is Seen (From Afar)"

From an opinion piece by U.S.-based Univision correspondent Jorge Ramos Avalos in Guadalajara's independent *Publico* (8/17): "It is very difficult to think that the U.S. could militarily intervene in Colombia on a large scale, neither that the Americans want to nor would the [Colombian] President, Andres Pastrana, allow it. It would be his political death."
X` hp x (#
X` hp x (# "The War Threatens To Grow"

Gabriel Moreno said in Guadalajara's independent *Publico* (8/15): "The risk that the Colombian war could expand is real. The United States is worried. Its double talk, diplomatic and military, doesn't indicate whether it will keep to economic assistance. However that may be, the country could avoid the political cost of direct intervention in Colombia by promoting, for example, the formation of an InterAmerican alliance to assume the responsibility. Colombia is bleeding. It is sinking, and cannot see the surface. That is why national sovereignty has little importance."
X` hp x (#
PERU: "Colombia: War And Negotiation"

Santiago Pedraglio in his column in reliable, business-oriented *Gestion* argued (8/27): "There may be Latin American leaders who want to profit from their respective internal situations. Therefore, the public support of U.S. officials to President Pastrana's peace strategy, is not without strings. Their declarations appear to be in favor of the Colombian president, nevertheless, there are still rumors about the preparation of war plans. The visit of U.S. General Barry McCaffrey to Peru has the same ambiguity: he has come for the sole reason of discussing drugs, but it is known that the current regional problem is Colombia. In this wider view, the game of President Fujimori or his advisor Montesinos is subordinated to supranational interests, and some of their declarations are more for internal consumption."
X` hp x (#
X` hp x (# "What Is McCaffrey Coming For?"

X' hp x (#Santiago Pedraglio wrote in reliable, businessoriented Gestion (8/25): "The visit of U.S. 'antidrug czar,' General Barry McCaffrey, occurs under the horizon of the U.S. presidential elections in November 2000 and the worsening of the Colombian crisis. The successes and failures of the antidrug fight in Peru are subordinate to the above scene. The Republicans have stepped up their criticism of the Democrats with regard to the antidrug fight, and want to transform the failures of this policy into one of the flags of their electoral fight. In view of this panorama, it is no exaggeration to affirm that there may be some in the United States who think that by preparing an intervention in Colombia a possible scapegoat for the failure of U.S. antidrug policy they gain points for the 2000 elections."

"A Low Cost Strategy Is Being Prepared"

Political analyst Roman Ortiz wrote in straightforward, respected El Comercio (8/23): "There is no urgent reason for the White House to take such a risky decision as sending troops to Colombia. So then, why has the United States raised the possibility of a joint intervention with its Latin American partners? Probably because it needs to obtain other concessions from them, such as their commitment to intensify border surveillance in order to stop the flow of supplies to the Colombian guerrillas. But from there to sponsoring a large-scale military intervention, lies a chasm that Washington does not seem ready to cross."

##

X' hp x (##Xx\ P6QyXP#

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Slate Magazine <delivery_morning@slate.com> (Slate Magazine <delivery_morning@slate.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:25-OCT-1999 07:35:12.00

SUBJECT: SLATE NEWS: Mon., Oct. 25, 1999

TO: Paul D. Glastris (CN=Paul D. Glastris/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
SLATE NEWS: Mon., Oct. 25, 1999

--today's papers: Don't Cry for Menem, Argentina

--pundit central: Unlucky Lady Liddy

today's papers

Don't Cry for Menem, Argentina

By Andrew Nieland

Analyses of budget and spending battles lead at the New York Times, the Washington Post, and USA Today. The NYT highlights a fringe benefit to the current spending impasse: national debt repayment. The WP notes the rise of "earmarking," a popular form of pork barreling, in this round of the spending fracas. USAT focuses on the GOP's proposed across-the-board spending cuts, which the other papers covered on Saturday. The cuts are depicted as a measure designed to leave Social Security untouched and placate seniors. According to another story on the USAT front, this is because seniors are the swing voters of the 2000 elections. The Los Angeles Times leads with massive demonstrations in Colombia, where over 10 million people took to the streets urging a swift peace between the ruling government and leftist insurgents.

The NYT paints the debt reduction measures as a major policy event brought about by default. Since Congress and the White House can't agree on how to spend budget surpluses, most of the money will likely go to pay off the nation's debt, including \$3.6 trillion in public-owned Treasury bonds. This component of the debt could be paid off in 10-15 years, putting downward pressure on interest rates and freeing up capital.

Earmarking, the process of tacking pork-heavy provisions to spending bills, is on the rise in Washington, according to the Post. Though most politicians say such measures benefit the

majority, and help speed bills through the House and Senate, critics feel that earmarking undermines the executive branch: by the time administrators get ahold of discretionary funds, most of the money has already been allocated, rendering the administrators nearly powerless.

Colombia's government and representatives of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) will try to hammer out agreements on such topics as judicial reform, human rights, drug trafficking, and agricultural policy. The conciliatory overtures began early this year, after nearly four decades of violence, when the government removed security forces from a large FARC-controlled territory, but stalled when officials requested that an international verification committee monitor the zone. Talks began again on Sunday, after the government withdrew this request.

Buenos Aires mayor Fernando de la Rúa's Argentinian presidential win is a setback for the ruling Judicialist/Peronist party, but a victory, according to the Wall Street Journal, for democratic capitalism. The election marks the first time the Peronist party has lost power by popular mandate (as opposed to a coup). A NYT below-the-fold article quotes an observer who claims that the election signals the "end of the era of the caudillo (strongman)." De la Rúa has pledged to maintain the fiscal successes of his predecessor, included a fiscal policy that helped stem the nation's hyperinflation. He also pledges to combat the corruption and tax evasion that have plagued previous administrations, an angle emphasized inside the WP. Carlos Menem, the current president, did not seek re-election, but is expected to remain a formidable force in Argentine politics.

Two related WP fronts discuss Bill Bradley's campaign. One paints him as a reluctant but incredibly effective fundraiser, whose outsider image, basketball superstardom, and Senate Finance committee background have activated a network of super-rich, generally apolitical supporters, including Warren Buffett and Rupert Murdoch. The other discusses how his commitment to old-guard liberal issues like child poverty and health care woes have helped distance him from Al Gore's more centrist policies. The biggest problem with these passions? There's little evidence of them in Bradley's extensive political past.

Not exactly Ossi and Harriet:

The NYT runs a front page story that is nearly a decade old: the continued economic and attitudinal rift between Western and Eastern Germans (known as Wessies and Ossies). The controversy reemerged this summer with a book written by a Wessi woman, relocated to the east, who is very critical of her Ossi neighbors. Aside from lots of Ossi/Wessi name-calling (a phenomenon much older than the German republic), the NYT offers no evidence for its portentous claim that nostalgia for the old Eastern Germany is spreading. Despite this mildly alarmist tone, the NYT is quick to remind us that "There is nothing inherently sinister about a unified Germany." One can

almost hear Poland and France sighing with relief.

Stale gender roles:

In one of its twin Bradley articles, the WP notes an interesting gender split in a poll of New York voters: gentlemen preferred Bill 56% to 33%, while women favored Gore 48% to 29%. Why? Maybe, the Post suggests, because Bradley is a former pro ballplayer. It's an interesting assertion, but one that should be supported by more than the reader's own sexist preconceptions. Without facts to support their analysis, the WP may as well argue that women preferred Gore because of his sculpted jaw and tight buns.

Click here to share your opinion of this article and see what others have said:

<http://bbs.slate.com/bbs/slate-todayspapers/index.asp>

For a glossary of newspaper terms used in Today's Papers, click here:

<http://www.slate.com/code/Explainer/Explainer.asp?Show=9/7/99&idMessage=3564>

Also in today's Slate <http://www.slate.com>

Martha Stewart's New Project: Launch \$1.2 billion IPO
<http://www.slate.com/Assessment/99-10-22/Assessment.asp>

Bradley and Gore Wrestle Over Poor People
<http://www.slate.com/code/BallotBox/BallotBox.asp?Show=10/21/99&idMessage=3866>

Meet Our Favorite Congressman
<http://www.slate.com/Features/Foghorn/default.asp>

pundit central

Unlucky Lady Liddy

By Michael Brus

Issue 1 is the presidential race, including Elizabeth Dole's decision to call it quits. Issue 2 is the GOP's looming budget face-off with President Clinton.

Most pundits are skeptical of Dole's claim that she simply couldn't

raise enough money to compete with George W. Bush. She had "no message," repeat a score of opinion makers--Fred Barnes (Fox News Sunday), Bob Novak and Al Hunt (CNN's Capital Gang), Susan Page and

Tucker Carlson (CNN's Late Edition), and George Stephanopoulos (ABC's This Week). (The first woman president will, like Golda Meir and Margaret Thatcher, make no mention of gender, argues Capital Gang's Kate O'Beirne.) On Fox, the panelists agree that most of Dole's supporters went to Bush and note that nationally Bush leads his challengers by 60 points. But Bill Kristol (This Week) and Hunt think John McCain could be competitive: The latest New Hampshire poll puts him only 12 points behind Bush.

Paul Gigot (PBS's NewsHour with Jim Lehrer) and George F. Will (This Week) think Dole could have stayed in the race had she not been limited to the \$1,000-per-head contribution limit imposed by the quarter-century-old campaign-finance laws. Some pundits think Dole may get the vice-presidential nomination; Steve Roberts (Late Edition) notes that whatever money problems she may have had, she was the GOP's best weapon against the 26-point gender gap between Bush and Gore (Bush has a 21-point lead among men, Gore a 5-point lead among women). On the Democratic front, Gloria Borger (PBS's Washington Week in Review) observes a focus group of Maryland Democrats--one third of those selected were Gore supporters, one third Bradley supporters, and one third undecided. By the end of the focus-group discussion, Borger reveals, nearly everyone had come around to Bradley.

Two un-telegenic GOP leaders, House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Whip Tom Delay, make the talk-show rounds to support their party's budget strategy--a 1.4% across-the-board spending cut to avoid using the Social Security surplus to balance the budget. Many pundits--such as Carlson, Novak, and Hunt--think Clinton, as usual, has the upper hand, while some--like Page--think the GOP's across-the-board cut will win over the public. (A bitter-sounding Novak says the "real, dirty little secret is that the non-Social Security surplus has been spent for this year and there is no tax cut and the Republicans should be ashamed of themselves.")

Appearing on NBC's Meet the Press, Donald Trump announces he will join the Reform Party Monday and says there is "a very great possibility that I will run" for the party nomination for president. "It's something I'm very serious about," Trump adds, "and I wouldn't do it unless I thought I could win" both the nomination and the presidency. Tim Russert grills him on the issues: Trump advocates a pre-emptive strike on North Korean nuclear facilities and declares nuclear proliferation his highest priority. He wants a "substantial tax cut in line with the top Republican numbers" and says he's opposed to NAFTA. Would he support gay marriage and gays in the military? His instinct is yes, he says, but since he's spent most of his life in Manhattan, he'd want to listen to Americans in the heartland and to military advisors to get their view. He claims that his life has been "a

very, very open book"--both his personal life (which is always under media scrutiny) and his financial life (the casino and real-estate industries are heavily regulated). The pundits mostly snicker and scoff; Roberts calls Trump a celebrity airhead without ideas.

Also on Meet the Press, Ken Starr concludes that, in retrospect, a different independent counsel should have been appointed to look into Flytrap. The broad scope of his office saved the taxpayers the cost of another investigator, he notes, but it hurt public confidence in his impartiality. He also thinks that it was a mistake for him to continue to practice law while serving as independent counsel; he speculates that, had he not allowed himself to practice privately from the start, he might not have been able to accept his appointment as independent counsel.

Pensive Poppy

Fox conducts a charming interview with a reflective, avuncular former President George Bush. He expresses regret that as president he couldn't communicate his sense of humor, his empathy, and his religious faith as well as his predecessor, President Reagan. He thinks there is no place for a third party in American politics; when asked whether Ross Perot sunk his re-election campaign, he says, "Yeah, yeah. Am I bitter about it? Not anymore. I didn't like it [chuckling]." He claims "no animosity toward Pat [Buchanan]"--"you can't help but like the guy"--and threatens to sue Fortune Son author J.H. Hatfield for his "slandorous" charge that Bush bribed a judge to expunge his son's putative drug record.

He says the press has gone overboard in its investigation of President Clinton's personal life--although Clinton's lies in Flytrap have only justified the media's rapaciousness, he laments. He plans to parachute from a plane again on his 80th birthday; his first jump "said to old people, 'Hey, you can still do stuff--no matter what the stuff is.'" Interviewer (and former Bush Administration employee) Tony Snow praises him for his "superhuman humility."

Last Word

From Fox's interview with former President Bush:

"I had led a very sheltered life and my closest friend [upon joining the Navy] was my mother. ... I think we lost 9 pilots out of 15 original pilots in our squadron. ... So it was traumatic. And then I saw, right in front of my eyes, on the deck of the carrier, a chief petty officer sliced into three parts by a propeller blade. ... Boy, it woke me up in a hurry."

"In our family we have two sons in public life. Both of them can interact with people better than I did. ... I felt [empathy] in my

heart [as president], but I didn't do it as well--outreach, showing compassion and concern--as well as our sons did."

Click here to share your opinion of this article and see what others have said:

<http://bbs.slate.com/bbs/slate-punditcentral/index.asp>

The Internet's informed look at politics and culture -- SLATE. What Matters. (<http://www.slate.com>)

SLATE offers a variety of e-mail delivery services that enable you to get your favorite SLATE articles delivered right to your in-box.

Go to <http://www.slate.com/Code/Reg3/emailservices.asp> and see what's available to both SLATE subscribers and non-subscribers.

For additional information about SLATE, go to <http://www.slate.com/code/reg3/memberservices.asp> for SLATE Reader Services.

This delivery powered by Exactis.com <http://www.exactis.com>

Copyright (c) 1999 Microsoft and/or its suppliers. All rights reserved.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: STATE_Media_Reaction@notesmail1.usia.gov (STATE_Media_Reaction@notesmail1.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:26-OCT-1999 08:23:05.00

SUBJECT: Early Report: RUSSIA/MILLENNIUM ROUND

TO: morrellst@state.gov (morrellst@state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: walitskys@panet.us-state.gov (walitskys@panet.us-state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: shodgson@ibb.gov (shodgson@ibb.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: RJOHNSON@IBB.GOV (RJOHNSON@IBB.GOV [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: paopi2@hq.c5.army.mil (paopi2@hq.c5.army.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: schwartz_l@A1.EOP.GOV (schwartz_l@A1.EOP.GOV [UNKNOWN]) (WHO)
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: infousis@usia.gov (infousis@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: jppeelen@usia.gov (jppeelen@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: iarezina@voa.gov (iarezina@voa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: gwen.williams@ndf.org (gwen.williams@ndf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Elizabeth R. Newman (CN=Elizabeth R. Newman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: swallace@pagate.pa.osd.mil (swallace@pagate.pa.osd.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: PugetS@amb-usa.fr (PugetS@amb-usa.fr [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: berstein@hq.nato.int (berstein@hq.nato.int [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: rebekka_bonner@foreign-rel.senate.gov (rebekka_bonner@foreign-rel.senate.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: LOVELILL@ibb.gov (LOVELILL@ibb.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: starr@usia.gov (starr@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: jkidd@usia.gov (jkidd@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: ikuhar@voa.gov (ikuhar@voa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: tiina@usis-tallinn.usislib.ee (tiina@usis-tallinn.usislib.ee [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: elizabeth.o'malley@em.doe.gov (elizabeth.o'malley@em.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: deirdre_woodbyrne@hagel.senate.gov (deirdre_woodbyrne@hagel.senate.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

European commentators continued to monitor the situation in Chechnya, with papers from Britain, Italy, Belgium, Finland and elsewhere once again expressing dismay and concern that Russia has not yet learned that the "Caucasus cannot be subjugated with force." Russian papers, by contrast, once again voiced support for their government's operation in the breakaway republic. Reformist Izvestiya captured the patriotic tone of the comment: "It is good to see Russia determined at last, after three years of fully conniving in building a Chechen gangland.... One can't help but admire our brave soldiers...and their resolve to finish what they were not allowed to finish in the previous campaign. Now they have the opportunity to do that." The paper, however, added the caveat that "use of force alone spells a long war or unacceptable casualties" and advised that "we should use political means as well." Noting that "you can't force the Chechens into talks," another chided the West for being "against any use of force, whether in a noble cause or not." Outside of Russia, papers in Finland and The Netherlands acknowledged that "the fact that Russia wants to restore order in the Caucasus is fine" and that "the EU has no material interests in Chechnya while Russia is an important partner." At the same time, these papers underscored that "Russia's actions make it impossible to support or even to understand it" and urged "international forums to take action." Observing that Prime Minister Putin's political fortunes now "depend on a successful war," something he is "unlikely to achieve unless he occupies the whole of Chechnya," a British paper contended, however, that "it is doubtful if Russia has the military forces for such a prolonged struggle."

MILLENNIUM ROUND IN SEATTLE: 'MORE THAN JUST AGRICULTURE'

A handful of editors overseas discussed a plethora of trade issues in the run-up to the WTO "Millennium Round" summit to be held in Seattle next month, with nearly all agreeing that the talks would be fraught with difficulties. Most writers filing--particularly observers in France,

Belgium, Thailand and Brazil--focused on matters of domestic concern in their own countries. French commentators, for example, spoke of the "battle for cultural diversity" in the audio-visual field and wondered how such diversity could be applied to the Internet "without unplugging half a billion computers worldwide." In Brazil, a center-right paper spoke of the "protectionist" barriers facing Brazilian exports to the U.S., EU and Japan, while a Thai pundit spoke on behalf of "poorer nations" who are "being coerced into accepting...new rules and regulations they consider unjust." A Czech commentator pursued a discussion of biotech products, and predicted that it was "very hard to tell" how long the EU and other countries "will be able to stand up to the new biotechnology and very tough U.S. competition." Milan's leading business Il Sole-24 Ore took a broader perspective, judging that "two different views of development" would confront each other in Seattle, namely, "America...dynamic and flexible, oriented towards innovation; [and] Europe...jealous of its own limits...stiff, with too little dynamism and much less innovation than its U.S. partner."

BRIEFS -- Climate Change Conference: World Must 'Wait For U.S. Elections'
-- Argentina Elections: De La Rúa Over Menem Ends Peronist

Era

EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Kathleen J. Brahney, Gail Hamer Burke

RUSSIA'S CHECHEN 'TRAP'

RUSSIA: "Chechens Refuse To Talk"

Maksim Yusin noted on page one of reformist Izvestiya (10/26): "Chechnya's top governing body, a national defense committee, has made a statement, virtually refusing to hold talks with Moscow. The Chechens have put forward obviously unacceptable demands. Many of those demands are downright absurd. Grozny's demarche makes things easier for Moscow in its dialogue with the West. It is completely unlike an innocent victim of an 'unprovoked aggression' to be so daring and provocative. How do you talk to someone who does not want to talk to you? You can force the Chechens into talks, of course, but what will the West say to that? The West is against the use of force, whether in a noble cause or not."

"Public Supports Army"

Vyacheslav Nikonov stressed in reformist Izvestiya (10/26): "It is good to see Russia determined at last, after three years of fully conniving in building a Chechen gangland before the whole wide world. One can't but admire our brave soldiers, from private to general, and their resolve to finish what they were not allowed to finish in the previous campaign. Now they have better opportunities to do that, with the Russian public, the main political forces, and the media strongly behind the use of force.... But the use of force alone spells a long war or unacceptable casualties. So we should use political means as well."

"Every Chechen Doesn't Like Terrorists"

Vera Alyokhina and Aleksandr Alf pointed out in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (10/26): "Not all Chechens like the leaders of international

terrorists who kill indiscriminately. The feds can find support among those who want to run Chechnya on their own, including as part of Russia."

BRITAIN: "Grozny Under Siege"

The centrist Independent remarked (10/26): "The problem for Mr. Putin is that his political career now depends on a successful war, but he is unlikely to achieve this unless he occupies the whole of Chechnya. It is doubtful if Russia has the military forces for such a prolonged struggle.... Many Chechens are disillusioned by three years of de facto independence, but any sympathy for Moscow is likely to be diminished by the bombing of towns and villages. Mr. Putin has so far closed the door to negotiations."

ITALY: "Inside the Trap Of Humanitarianism"

Lucio Caracciolo judged in left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (10/26): "The Grozny market is not worth the Sarajevo market. On August 28, 1995, tens of civilians were slaughtered in the market of the Bosnian capital...and forty-eight hours later NATO bombarded Mladic's troops.... Last October 21, some Russian rockets massacred people inside the Chechen capital's suk, but nobody even assumed there would be a military reprisal against Russia. Double standards? Yes, thank you.... Verbally, the West seems to have embraced a humanitarian ideology bordering on the dream of omnipotence. An absolute, abstract universal rhetoric, which does not know geopolitical priorities nor national interests.... This hypocritical, universal feeling may well become a boomerang against the West. (In fact) it produces a very concrete strategic problem: While war transforms itself into a crusade, it lacks a project scheme.... Thus, if only emotions and not a true sentiment for peace lead humanitarian interventions, then the latter will not be conclusive, and will engender new conflicts.... It would be better to lower the tone of humanitarian rhetoric and, in a lay manner, re-establish the principle of 'options:' here we can and must intervene militarily, there we cannot."

"Pre-Election Tricks"

Alberto Basile noted from Moscow in left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (10/26): "One month after the beginning of the offensive against the rebel republic (Chechnya), the Russian government still cannot say it is ahead. However, pre-election tricks currently play a more important role in Moscow than does the situation on the ground. In fact, to stop the rumors that Vladimir Putin is under a cloud, yesterday Boris Yeltsin received his prime minister, soon after he (Putin) had returned from his difficult mission in Helsinki, where Putin tried to convince Europe that Russia is fighting 'a just war' in the Caucasus.... The situation on the ground did not change much but for one point: the closing of the land corridor connecting Chechnya to Ingushetia.... That means an interruption to the only path that can be traveled relatively well by international humanitarian aid workers. It is not the case that the president of Ingushetia, Ruslan Aushev is a true ally of Moscow as well as an important link with Chechnya, as he, himself, has criticized the iron fist of Moscow."

BELGIUM: "Russians Have Learnt Their Lesson"

Paul De Bruyn observed in conservative Catholic Gazet van Antwerpen (10/26): "The Russians closely watched how NATO operated in Kosovo. Instead of deploying infantry and tanks rapidly, they wait until the right time came. The air force is to beat the enemy to pulp. In the meantime, troops are positioned and the supply routes of the enemy are cut off. Moscow believes in these tactics, but experts are not so certain. The 'terrorists' are well trained and armed, and they fight fanatically.... Add to that that they now have a weapon which they did not have before: money. Estimates are that they embezzled \$1 billion from credits for the recovery of Chechnya.... There is every indication that they are also supported by Islamic organizations abroad. With all those reserves, the rebels are capable of waging a long war. They have still another factor on their side: time. They can dig in first and spread afterwards to start a guerrilla war behind the Russian lines. The Russians do not have that time. They must achieve a victory before winter comes. If not, a new nightmare will be in the offing. At this moment, the war is popular with the Russians. They support Prime Minister Putin in his punitive expedition. However, they are wrong if they believe that, this time, they will be able to force the Chechens on their knees quickly. The second Chechen war is far from over."

CROATIA: "The Kosovo Grozny"

In semi-independent, Split-based Slobodna Dalmacija (10/26), Danko Plevnik drew parallels between Kosovo and Chechnya, writing: "What is currently happening in Chechnya is almost the same that occurred in Kosovo: Russia is defending its sovereignty, but NATO does not want to interfere in its internal affairs.... International relations do not offer a hand of solidarity to the Chechen people, but concede the interests of the Russian army, which demonstrated too much recklessness during its operations in Dagestan and Chechnya. Its goal is to impose a Pax Russiana over the entire Caucasus.... By fostering her influence in the Caucasus, Russia seeks to compensate for the weakening of her influence in the Balkans.... Concerning Chechnya, the only success for the 'Euro-Atlantic community' can be a potential deployment of 'international forces' to control the implementation of a future peace agreement."

DENMARK: "EU Must Maintain Pressure"

Center-left Politiken editorialized (10/25): "The EU must maintain and strengthen its pressure [on Russia over Chechnya] for the sake of the Union. The way the EU handles the Chechen question will not be all-encompassing for its foreign policy profile [but] it could clearly affect the EU's position on the international stage."

FINLAND: "Helsinki Summit Gives No Clarity To Russian Plans"

Independent Helsingin Sanomat's editorial said (10/24): "The Helsinki summit gave no good answer on what the real Russian goals are in the Chechnya war. Quite the opposite, in fact. Events during the meeting force one to ask if the right hand in Russia knows what the left hand is doing."

Putin could hardly have been more forceful when he said in Helsinki that Russian military forces had nothing to do with the strikes in Grozny.... At the same time in Moscow, military sources said something quite different. In its relations with Russia, the EU is in a difficult position. The EU has no material interests in Chechnya while Russia is an important partner in many respects. Increased disunity and stronger Islamic fundamentalism, not to mention terrorism in the Caucasus, serve nobody's interests. But Russia's actions make it impossible to support or even to understand it. Putin stated that...Russia would only agree to negotiate with those 'who do not have blood on their hands.' This position would be understandable if Russia's operations in Chechnya were directed against separate terrorist or criminal groups, but in reality the Chechen population is indiscriminately affected. The operation looks more and more like a war of conquest. The EU has no reason to support a policy like that."

THE NETHERLANDS: "What To Do"

Influential, independent NRC Handelsblad commented (10/23): "The battle in the Caucasus is very complicated. The West has never acknowledged Chechnya's independence...and now that the war is getting out of hand, the world has started to express concern. The EU has called on the Russian government to start a dialogue with all legitimate leaders in the Caucasus.... Any UNSC attempt to put the Chechnya issue on the agenda would be vetoed by Russia.... The only forums left, are the Council of Europe and the OSCE.... The fact that Moscow wants to restore order in the Caucasus is fine but the fact that human rights are being violated during this process should be reason for the international forums to take action.... However, one cannot expect too much because of the EU's lack of a sense of reality and also its lack of a coherent Russia policy."

SLOVENIA: "Russia's Tragedy"

Left-of-center Delo held (10/26): "If...there was a trace of logic (its main goal was to suppress separatism) in the first war in Chechnya, none can be found in the present war. How do the Russian generals intend to settle accounts with the 'terrorists'? By killing all male inhabitants? Who will participate in a referendum about Chechnya's future if at least three quarters of a million people have fled.... Just those who will be settled there by the new pro-Russian government? Because of the extremely unwise domestic policy and revengeful generals--who find it very hard to forget the defeat three years ago--Moscow has again found itself in a trap with only one exit: withdrawal of troops from Chechnya and negotiation with Mashadov.... The Caucasus cannot be subjugated with force. The fact that it has learnt nothing from its past failures is Russia's tragedy."

MILLENNIUM ROUND IN SEATTLE: 'MORE THAN JUST AGRICULTURE'

FRANCE: "Cultural Diversity"

Jacques Amalric opined in left-of-center Liberation (10/26): "The battle (for cultural diversity) may not take place. Many in the United States see cultural diversity, not as a Maginot line that should not be crossed, but one that can be circumvented.... It will be circumvented thanks to new technologies, which in the next five to ten years will totally upset the

rules of the game."

"The Internet And Cultural Diversity"

Gerard Dupuy had this to say in left-of-center Liberation (10/26): "The French will no longer be alone (in the fight for cultural diversity.)... Cultural exceptions--i.e. products--are not really all that exceptional.... Even when its inconveniences are raised, freedom of trade remains the keyword. How can the concept of 'cultural diversity' be applied to the Internet without unplugging half a billion computers worldwide?"

"Seattle: More Than Just Agriculture."

Laurent Mossu observed in right-of-center Le Figaro Economie (10/26): "Swiss Minister of the economy, Pascal Couchepin, did not mince his words when he said 'that it will practically be impossible to conduct successful negotiations exclusively on agriculture. This is why those who say that agriculture is the only thing that counts, should widen the agenda of the talks. If agriculture is the only topic of discussion, there is little chance of success.'... Couchepin was clearly targeting the United States."

ITALY: "Looking Toward The Millennium Round"

On the front page of leading, business Il Sole-24 Ore (10/26), Enrico Sassoon warned about the difficulties facing the upcoming WTO Summit in Seattle: "It is not only delicate, complex issues, including beef hormone exports, GMOs and the eternal dispute over agriculture that are subjects of dispute between Europe and the United States.... Two different views about development, will be confronting each other: America, on one side, dynamic and flexible, oriented towards innovation; Europe, on the other side, jealous of its own limits...stiff, with too little dynamism and much less innovation than its U.S. partner."

BELGIUM: "Trying To Compromise"

Financial De Financieel-Economische Tijd (10/23): "On Friday, the EU member states reached an agreement on the joint negotiation position for the Millennium Round. The EU will plead for a forum on labor standards and for an exception on the trade rules for the cultural and audio-visual sectors. France and Belgium want to continue their support for the audio-visual sectors. Other EU members were inclined to support the liberalization of those sectors, from which they could profit. The compromise tries to maintain the equilibrium between both visions. The EU wants to negotiate about the cultural and audio-visual sectors, but the member states must be in a position to continue their cultural and audio-visual policies to maintain their cultural diversity, the text says."

CZECH REPUBLIC: "New Trade War Between U.S., EU?"

Miroslav Prchal made these points in economic Hospodarske Noviny (10/26): "While Europe is almost irrationally afraid of genetically modified organisms [GMOs], in the United States about half the crop of corn and soy beans were grown from genetically modified seed this year.... So far, no

scientific research proved harmful influence of GMOs on human health.... GMO fans say that the fast growing human population will not have enough food in a few years, while GMOs not only emit their own pesticides, but can also be grown in dry or salty soil.... But the movement against GMOs is growing stronger in the United States as well. Dan Glickman, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, admitted that his government is considering the introduction of GMO labels for certain genetically modified goods.... It seems that the rapid dissemination of GMOs on the American farmers' fields can hardly be slowed down or stopped. How long the EU and other countries will be able stand up to the new biotechnology and very tough U.S. competition, is now very hard to tell."

THAILAND: "Trouble Ahead"

Elite, business-oriented Krungthep Turakij told its readers (10/25): "The November WTO conference in Seattle is unlikely to be smooth. Already outcries are being heard from poorer nations who have been coerced into accepting many new rules and regulations they consider unjust.... Among them, they have been pressured into opening their markets as widely and as quickly as possible, while the rich nations collaborated to shut their markets to certain products from poorer nations. Poorer nations also lack resources and information to enable them to negotiate effectively. As a result, they are left with trade agreements that will bring them no meaningful benefits."

BRAZIL: "Barriers Against Brazilian Products"

Center-right O Estado de Sao Paulo commented (10/23): "The Millennium Round conference in Seattle has acquired special importance after some developed nations, the European Union among them, began to play tough against the liberalization of agricultural trade, and support the institutionalization of labor and environmental clauses, which are measures that would undoubtedly harm developing nations. If it were not for the current barriers, Brazil could have exported \$1.5 billion more to the United States, the EU and Japan than it did in 1997/98.... The trade opening was conducted when Brazil did not have legal instruments capable of moderating or balancing other nations' protectionism.... But in order to face protectionism, the government of Brazil will not resort to retaliatory measures. Instead, it prefers bilateral negotiations, and if they prove to be insufficient, it will resort to multilateral arbitration within the WTO, for example. It is a prudent decision, because Brazil would not have the means to fight a trade war against its developed partners.... Each measure aimed at damaging the sale of Brazilian products overseas must be identified, and the government of Brazil must prepare its agents technically to contest protectionism in the appropriate fora."

BRIEFS

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE: WORLD MUST 'WAIT FOR U.S. ELECTIONS'

GERMANY: "Who Is Leading?"

In right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (10/26), Klaus-Dieter

Frankenberger editorialized, "These days there is a lot of negative talk about the U.S. on this side of the Atlantic. The leading power of the West which considers itself as indispensable (and not unjustified) likes to overestimate itself and executes its power unilaterally.... The growing domestic influence and its interests are increasingly becoming the guiding principles of America's behavior towards the rest of the world--from exporting genetically modified organisms to global environmental policy. Already at the opening of COP-5, the word is that the follow-up conference has to be rescheduled. Why? Because America is voting in a year and thus agreements on the reduction of emissions will be viewed under the aspect of the consequences they will have for the election. Error message. Subsequently Chancellor Schroeder's call on the industrialized countries to conduct forceful corrections at home will be filed in Washington under 'Attacks on American industry.' That is also a kind of leadership."

"Too Soft, But Without Alternatives"

In left-of-center Tageszeitung of Berlin (10/26) Reiner Metzger commented, "This Rio follow-up conference is about technical details. Dramatic shows will not be on offer. But climate negotiations are about the small print. The oil-exporting countries and the U.S. would like to negotiate as many loopholes as possible. The U.S. administration sees no chance even for a minimum agreement before the presidential elections at the end of 2000. Congress would never ratify such an agreement. The U.S. citizens produce about one-third of the worldwide

emissions with a rising tendency, but they do not want to restrict themselves even a little bit. The same also holds true basically for the other industrialized countries. The poor countries see their chances in developing after the model of the Western countries. Environmental protectionists are right when they argue that the green house gas effect is continuing to grow.... In times of growing global competition the industry does not want to submit itself to any restrictions--out of principle and even if a increased energy efficiency would make it more competitive. So continuing is the only option that remains. At least there will be discussions over a good cause, and even a small emission reduction is better than nothing. These are the times of 'realpolitik.'"

FRANCE: "The World Can Wait"

Bruno Frappat commented in Catholic La Croix (10/26): "Once again Europe and the U.S. are confronting each other. The U.S., which is a major polluter, is polluting more than ever and refuses a national and constraining program to limit pollution. It only wants to play by the strange rules of 'polluting permits.' Europe on the other hand has made great progress and would like to amend a system which is pragmatic as well as absurd. Everyone knows that no agreement will be reached before the U.S. presidential election. Because none of the candidates will want to cloud the skies of its constituents. The rest of the world will have to wait."

"Waiting For The Election"

Pierre-Marie Christin on independently-run RTL radio (10/26): "Everyone agrees Bonn will be a failure.... The U.S. proposal of 'polluting permits' is not bad, except that the U.S. wants no limits, no controls, no sanctions.... The agreement will be one more waste of paper.... Bill

Clinton has once more declared that the Senate is not ready to give in.... This is one more dossier that, no sooner opened, will be closed. Like the CTBT, the UN debt, the International Crimes tribunal and the threat of paralysis at the WTO.... We have been warned. Everything is postponed for at least a year. The world will wait until after the U.S. presidential election."

BELGIUM: "America's Carbon Gas Reduction: On Paper Only"

Xavier Ducarme reported in conservative Catholic La Libre Belgique (10/26) that Belgian Federal Council for Sustained Development has announced that it favors the introduction of a specific tax on energy in Belgium--which promises to reduce its carbon gas production by 7.5 percent by 2012--to force industries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Ducarme concluded: "The Council is also in favor of the 'flexible mechanisms'--which allow some countries to buy trade emission permits--but it nevertheless insists that countries should not be allowed to abide by their commitments solely on these mechanisms, thereby bypassing the very principle of pollution reduction. The actual reduction of pollution must thus remain the leading principle of all countries, the Council emphasizes, namely pointing at American attempts to abide by their commitments on paper only."

ARGENTINA ELECTIONS: DE LA RUA OVER MENEM ENDS PERONIST ERA

GERMANY: "The End of Charisma--At Last"

Centrist Tagesspiegel of Berlin opined (10/26), "Argentina voted for a boring person, a bureaucrat without charisma. But that is not important. Fernando de la Rúa, candidate of the center-left-coalition, is a diligent worker, trustworthy and reform-oriented. He is exactly the kind of president Argentina needs. After ten years of the charismatic Carlos Menem, Argentina is not about to get into the league of the industrialized countries, but is close to becoming a developing country. Menem did manage to control hyper inflation and to modernize the economy, but his failures are worse. Argentina is in debt, has no solid tax system, the

unemployment figures went up to 17 percent and the poverty and crime rate has exploded. The social security system is ailing and the funds for education have been cut. In addition, it turned out that the Menem administration was corrupt. The country can only be helped by credibility and a solid economic policy which will help those who are the weakest--solid boredom."

SPAIN: "Change In Argentina"

Liberal El Pais opined (10/26): "Center-left Alliance candidate Fernando de la Rúa has won the election more because of what he is not than because of what he is: a normal person in contrast to Menem's flamboyance, as demonstrated anew by the latter's papering over Buenos Aires with 2003 campaign posters.... De la Rúa's celebrations will end with bitter draughts because he will have to negotiate many important things, such as structural changes and fiscal austerity, with his election rivals who control much of the lower House, the Senate, a majority of provincial governorships, labor unions, etc.... The 'moral transformation' promised

by the new president will not be achieved without complications."

RUSSIA: "Argentineans Tired Of Menem"

Olga Bereznitskaya asserted in reformist business-oriented Kommersant Daily (10/26): "The Argentineans are tired of President Menem's Peronist party and 'family.' They voted not so much for De la Rúa as against Menem."

MEXICO: "The End Of Menem"

An editorial in left-of-center La Jornada said (10/25), "The overwhelming victory of the Argentinean opposition candidate Fernando de la Rúa is the graveyard of Menem's era.... Hopefully the new president will make a sharp turnaround in Argentina's economy and foreign policy. In the economic field, Menem was one of the modern hemispheric presidents who implemented an economic model based on conservatism: Pinochet in Chile, Salinas in Mexico, Fujimori in Peru and Menem in Argentina. The outcome of such policies was an increase in social inequities, a deepening of poverty and misery and the concentration of wealth in a few hands.... Menem's foreign policy also left a dark legacy. Menem acted in servant-like manner with regards to U.S. strategic initiatives. Menem not only supported U.S. attacks against Iraq in 1991, but also adhered to the U.S. initiative to create hemispheric military units under the excuse of either fighting drug trafficking or protecting democracies from destabilization efforts."

##

- early.wp5===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

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

TEXT:

Unable to convert ARMS_EXT:[ATTACH.D27]ARMS25586710I.336 to ASCII,
The following is a HEX DUMP:

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

EARLY REPORT

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON DC 20520

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Bill Richey, Branch Chief Media Reaction, (202) 619-6511 Ann Pincus, Director

Archived at: www.usia.gov/products/medreac.htm

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

RUSSIA'S CHECHEN 'TRAP'

European commentators continued to monitor the situation in Chechnya, with papers from Britain, Italy, Belgium, Finland and elsewhere once again expressing dismay and concern that Russia has not yet learned that the "Caucasus cannot be subjugated with force." Russian papers, by contrast, once again voiced support for their government's operation in the breakaway republic. Reformist Izvestiya captured the patriotic tone of the comment: "It is good to see Russia determined at last, after three years of fully conniving in building a Chechen gangland.... One can't help but admire our brave soldiers...and their resolve to finish what they were not allowed to finish in the previous campaign. Now they have the opportunity to do that." The paper, however, added the caveat that "use of force alone spells a long war or unacceptable casualties" and advised that "we should use political means as well." Noting that "you can't force the Chechens into talks," another chided the West for being "against any use of force, whether in a noble cause or not." Outside of Russia, papers in Finland and The Netherlands acknowledged that "the fact that Russia wants to restore order in the Caucasus is fine" and that "the EU has no material interests in Chechnya while Russia is an important partner." At the same time, these papers underscored that "Russia's actions make it impossible to support or even to understand it" and urged "international forums to take action." Observing that Prime Minister Putin's political fortunes now "depend on a successful war," something he is "unlikely to achieve unless he occupies the whole of Chechnya," a British paper contended, however, that "it is doubtful if Russia has the military forces for such a prolonged struggle."

MILLENNIUM ROUND IN SEATTLE: 'MORE THAN JUST AGRICULTURE'

A handful of editors overseas discussed a plethora of trade issues in the run-up to the WTO "Millennium Round" summit to be held in Seattle next month, with nearly all agreeing that the talks would be fraught with difficulties. Most writers filing--particularly observers in France, Belgium, Thailand and Brazil--focused on matters of domestic concern in their own countries. French commentators, for example, spoke of the "battle for cultural diversity" in the audio-visual field and wondered how such diversity could be applied to the Internet "without unplugging half a billion computers worldwide." In Brazil, a center-right paper spoke of the "protectionist" barriers facing Brazilian exports to the U.S., EU and Japan, while a Thai pundit spoke on behalf of "poorer nations" who are "being coerced into accepting...new rules and regulations they consider unjust." A Czech commentator pursued a discussion of biotech products, and predicted that it was "very hard to tell" how long the EU and other countries "will be able to stand up to the new biotechnology and very tough U.S. competition." Milan's leading business Il Sole-24 Ore took a broader perspective, judging that "two different views of development" would confront each other in Seattle, namely, "America...dynamic and flexible, oriented towards innovation; [and] Europe...jealous of its own limits...stiff, with too little dynamism and much less innovation than its U.S. partner."

BRIEFS -- Climate Change Conference: World Must 'Wait For U.S. Elections'
-- Argentina Elections: De La Rúa Over Menem Ends Peronist Era

EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Kathleen J. Brahney, Gail Hamer Burke

RUSSIA'S CHECHEN 'TRAP'

RUSSIA: "Chechens Refuse To Talk"

Maksim Yusin noted on page one of reformist Izvestiya (10/26): "Chechnya's top governing body, a national defense committee, has made a statement, virtually refusing to hold talks with Moscow. The Chechens have put forward obviously unacceptable demands. Many of those demands are downright absurd. Grozny's demarche makes things easier for Moscow in its dialogue with the West. It is completely unlike an innocent victim of an 'unprovoked aggression' to be so daring and provocative. How do you talk to someone who does not want to talk to you? You can force the Chechens into talks, of course, but what will the West say to that? The West is against the use of force, whether in a noble cause or not."

"Public Supports Army"

Vyacheslav Nikonov stressed in reformist Izvestiya (10/26): "It is good to see Russia determined at last, after three years of fully conniving in building a Chechen gangland before the whole wide world. One can't but admire our brave soldiers, from private to general, and their resolve to finish what they were not allowed to finish in the previous campaign. Now they have better opportunities to do that, with the Russian public, the main political forces, and the media strongly behind the use of force.... But the use of force alone spells a long war or unacceptable casualties. So we should use political means as well."

"Every Chechen Doesn't Like Terrorists"

Vera Alyokhina and Aleksandr Alf pointed out in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (10/26): "Not all Chechens like the leaders of international terrorists who kill indiscriminately. The feds can find support among those who want to run Chechnya on their own, including as part of Russia."

BRITAIN: "Grozny Under Siege"

The centrist Independent remarked (10/26): "The problem for Mr. Putin is that his political career now depends on a successful war, but he is unlikely to achieve this unless he occupies the whole of Chechnya. It is doubtful if Russia has the military forces for such a prolonged struggle.... Many Chechens are disillusioned by three years of de facto independence, but any sympathy for Moscow is likely to be diminished by the bombing of towns and villages. Mr. Putin has so far closed the door to negotiations."

ITALY: "Inside the Trap Of Humanitarianism"

Lucio Caracciolo judged in left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (10/26): "The Grozny market is not worth the Sarajevo market. On August 28, 1995, tens of civilians were slaughtered in the market of the Bosnian capital...and forty-eight hours later NATO bombarded Mladic's troops.... Last October 21, some Russian rockets massacred people inside the Chechen capital's suk, but nobody even assumed there would be a military reprisal against Russia. Double standards? Yes, thank you.... Verbally, the West seems to have embraced a humanitarian ideology bordering on the dream of omnipotence. An absolute, abstract universal rhetoric, which does not know geopolitical priorities nor national interests.... This hypocritical, universal feeling may well become a boomerang against the West. (In fact) it produces a very concrete strategic problem: While war transforms itself into a crusade, it lacks a project scheme.... Thus, if only emotions and not a true sentiment for peace lead humanitarian interventions, then the latter will not be conclusive, and will engender new conflicts.... It would be better to lower the tone of humanitarian rhetoric and, in a lay manner, re-establish the principle of 'options:' here we can and must intervene militarily, there we cannot."

"Pre-Election Tricks"

Alberto Basile noted from Moscow in left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (10/26): "One month after the beginning of the offensive against the rebel republic (Chechnya), the Russian government still cannot say it is ahead. However, pre-election tricks currently play a more important role in Moscow than does the situation on the ground. In fact, to stop the rumors that Vladimir Putin is under a cloud, yesterday Boris Yeltsin received his prime minister, soon after he (Putin) had returned from his difficult mission in Helsinki, where Putin tried to convince Europe that Russia is fighting 'a just war' in the Caucasus.... The situation on the ground did not change much but for one point: the closing of the land corridor connecting Chechnya to Ingushetia.... That means an interruption to the only path that can be traveled relatively well by international humanitarian aid workers. It is not the case that the president of Ingushetia, Ruslan Aushev is a true ally of Moscow as well as an important link with Chechnya, as he, himself, has criticized the iron fist of Moscow."

BELGIUM: "Russians Have Learnt Their Lesson"

Paul De Bruyn observed in conservative Catholic Gazet van Antwerpen (10/26): "The Russians closely watched how NATO operated in Kosovo. Instead of deploying infantry and tanks rapidly, they wait until the right time came. The air force is to beat the enemy to pulp. In the meantime, troops are positioned and the supply routes of the enemy are cut off. Moscow believes in these tactics, but experts are not so certain. The 'terrorists' are well trained and armed, and they fight fanatically.... Add to that that they now have a weapon which they did not have before: money. Estimates are that they embezzled \$1 billion from credits for the recovery of Chechnya.... There is every indication that they are also supported by Islamic organizations abroad. With all those reserves, the rebels are capable of waging a long war. They have still another factor on their side: time. They can dig in first and spread afterwards to start a guerrilla war behind the Russian lines. The Russians do not have that time. They must achieve a victory before winter comes. If not, a new nightmare will be in the offing. At this moment, the war is popular with the Russians. They support Prime Minister Putin in his punitive expedition. However, they are wrong if they believe that, this time, they will be able to force the Chechens on their knees quickly. The second Chechen war is far from over."

CROATIA: "The Kosovo Grozny"

In semi-independent, Split-based Slobodna Dalmacija (10/26), Danko Plevnik drew parallels between Kosovo and Chechnya, writing: "What is currently happening in Chechnya is almost the same that occurred in Kosovo: Russia is defending its sovereignty, but NATO does not want to interfere in its internal affairs.... International relations do not offer a hand of solidarity to the Chechen people, but concede the interests of the Russian army, which demonstrated too much recklessness during its operations in Dagestan and Chechnya. Its goal is to impose a Pax Russiana over the entire Caucasus.... By fostering her influence in the Caucasus, Russia seeks to compensate for the weakening of her influence in the Balkans.... Concerning Chechnya, the only success for the 'Euro-Atlantic community' can be a potential deployment of 'international forces' to control the implementation of a future peace agreement."

DENMARK: "EU Must Maintain Pressure"

Center-left Politiken editorialized (10/25): "The EU must maintain and strengthen its pressure [on Russia over Chechnya] for the sake of the Union. The way the EU handles the Chechen question will not be all-encompassing for its foreign policy profile [but] it could clearly affect the EU's position on the international stage."

FINLAND: "Helsinki Summit Gives No Clarity To Russian Plans"

Independent Helsingin Sanomat's editorial said (10/24): "The Helsinki summit gave no good answer on what the real Russian goals are in the Chechnya war. Quite the opposite, in fact. Events during the meeting force one to ask if the right hand in Russia knows what the left hand is doing. Putin could hardly have been more forceful when he said in Helsinki that Russian military forces had nothing to do with the strikes in Grozny.... At the same time in Moscow, military sources said something quite different. In its relations with Russia, the EU is in a difficult position. The EU has no material interests in Chechnya while Russia is an important partner in many respects. Increased disunity and stronger Islamic fundamentalism, not to mention terrorism in the Caucasus, serve nobody's interests. But Russia's actions make it impossible to support or even to understand it. Putin stated that...Russia would only agree to negotiate with those 'who do not have blood on their hands.' This position would be understandable if Russia's operations in Chechnya were directed against separate terrorist or criminal groups, but in reality the Chechen population is indiscriminately affected. The operation looks more and more like a war of conquest. The EU has no reason to support a policy like that."

THE NETHERLANDS: "What To Do"

Influential, independent NRC Handelsblad commented (10/23): "The battle in the Caucasus is very complicated. The West has never acknowledged Chechnya's independence...and now that the war is getting out of hand, the world has started to express concern. The EU has called on the Russian government to start a dialogue with all legitimate leaders in the Caucasus.... Any UNSC attempt to put the Chechnya issue on the agenda would be vetoed by Russia.... The only forums left, are the Council of Europe and the OSCE.... The fact that Moscow wants to restore order in the Caucasus is fine but the fact that human rights are being violated during this process should be reason for the international forums to take action.... However, one cannot expect too much because of the EU's lack of a sense of reality and also its lack of a coherent Russia policy."

SLOVENIA: "Russia's Tragedy"

Left-of-center Delo held (10/26): "If...there was a trace of logic (its main goal was to suppress separatism) in the first war in Chechnya, none can be found in the present war. How do the Russian generals intend to settle accounts with the 'terrorists'? By killing all male inhabitants? Who will participate in a referendum about Chechnya's future if at least three quarters of a million people have fled.... Just those who will be settled there by the new pro-Russian government? Because of the extremely unwise domestic policy and revengeful generals--who find it very hard to forget the defeat three years ago--Moscow has again found itself in a trap with only one exit: withdrawal of troops from Chechnya and negotiation with Mashadov.... The Caucasus cannot be subjugated with force. The fact that it has learnt nothing from its past failures is Russia's tragedy."

MILLENNIUM ROUND IN SEATTLE: 'MORE THAN JUST AGRICULTURE'

FRANCE: "Cultural Diversity"

Jacques Amalric opined in left-of-center Liberation (10/26): "The battle (for cultural diversity) may not take place. Many in the United States see cultural diversity, not as a Maginot line that should not be crossed, but one that can be circumvented.... It will be circumvented thanks to new technologies, which in the next five to ten years will totally upset the rules of the game."

"The Internet And Cultural Diversity"

Gerard Dupuy had this to say in left-of-center Liberation (10/26): "The French will no longer be alone (in the fight for cultural diversity.)... Cultural exceptions--i.e. products--are not really all that exceptional.... Even when its inconveniences are raised, freedom of trade remains the key word. How can the concept of 'cultural diversity' be applied to the Internet without unplugging half a billion computers worldwide?"

"Seattle: More Than Just Agriculture."

Laurent Mossu observed in right-of-center Le Figaro Economie (10/26): "Swiss Minister of the economy, Pascal Couchepin, did not mince his words when he said 'that it will practically be impossible to conduct successful negotiations exclusively on agriculture. This is why those who say that agriculture is the only thing that counts, should widen the agenda of the talks. If agriculture is the only topic of discussion, there is little chance of success.'... Couchepin was clearly targeting the United States."

ITALY: "Looking Toward The Millennium Round"

On the front page of leading, business Il Sole-24 Ore (10/26), Enrico Sassoon warned about the difficulties facing the upcoming WTO Summit in Seattle: "It is not only delicate, complex issues, including beef hormone exports, GMOs and the eternal dispute over agriculture that are subjects of dispute between Europe and the United States.... Two different views about development, will be confronting each other: America, on one side, dynamic and flexible, oriented towards innovation; Europe, on the other side, jealous of its own limits...stiff, with too little dynamism and much less innovation than its U.S. partner."

BELGIUM: "Trying To Compromise"

Financial De Financieel-Economische Tijd (10/23): "On Friday, the EU member states reached an agreement on the joint negotiation position for the Millennium Round. The EU will plead for a forum on labor standards and for an exception on the trade rules for the cultural and audio-visual sectors. France and Belgium want to continue their support for the audio-visual sectors. Other EU members were inclined to support the liberalization of those sectors, from which they could profit. The compromise tries to maintain the equilibrium between both visions. The EU wants to negotiate about the cultural and audio-visual sectors, but the member states must be in a position to continue their cultural and audio-visual policies to maintain their cultural diversity, the text says."

CZECH REPUBLIC: "New Trade War Between U.S., EU?"

Miroslav Prchal made these points in economic Hospodarske Noviny (10/26): "While Europe is almost irrationally afraid of genetically modified organisms [GMOs], in the United States about half the crop of corn and soy beans were grown from genetically modified seed this year.... So far, no scientific research proved harmful influence of GMOs on human health.... GMO fans say that the fast growing human population will not have enough food in a few years, while GMOs not only emit their own pesticides, but can also be grown in dry or salty soil.... But the movement against GMOs is growing stronger in the United States as well. Dan Glickman, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, admitted that his government is considering the introduction of GMO labels for certain genetically modified goods.... It seems that the rapid dissemination of GMOs on the American farmers' fields can hardly be slowed down or stopped. How long the EU and other countries will be able stand up to the new biotechnology and very tough U.S. competition, is now very hard to tell."

THAILAND: "Trouble Ahead"

Elite, business-oriented Krungthep Turakij told its readers (10/25): "The November WTO conference in Seattle is unlikely to be smooth. Already outcries are being heard from poorer nations who have been coerced into accepting many new rules and regulations they consider unjust.... Among them, they have been pressured into opening their markets as widely and as quickly as possible, while the rich nations collaborated to shut their markets to certain products from poorer nations. Poorer nations also lack resources and information to enable them to negotiate effectively. As a result, they are left with trade agreements that will bring them no meaningful benefits."

BRAZIL: "Barriers Against Brazilian Products"

Center-right O Estado de Sao Paulo commented (10/23): "The Millennium Round conference in Seattle has acquired special importance after some developed nations, the European Union among them, began to play tough against the liberalization of agricultural trade, and support the institutionalization of labor and environmental clauses, which are measures that would undoubtedly harm developing nations. If it were not for the current barriers, Brazil could have exported \$1.5 billion more to the United States, the EU and Japan than it did in 1997/98.... The trade opening was conducted when Brazil did not have legal instruments capable of moderating or balancing other nations' protectionism.... But in order to face protectionism, the government of Brazil will not resort to retaliatory measures. Instead, it prefers bilateral negotiations, and if they prove to be insufficient, it will resort to multilateral arbitration within the WTO, for example. It is a prudent decision, because Brazil would not have the means to fight a trade war against its developed partners.... Each measure aimed at damaging the sale of Brazilian products overseas must be identified, and the government of Brazil must prepare its agents technically to contest protectionism in the appropriate fora."

BRIEFS

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE: WORLD MUST 'WAIT FOR U.S. ELECTIONS'

GERMANY: "Who Is Leading?"

In right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (10/26), Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger editorialized, "These days there is a lot of negative talk about the U.S. on this side of the Atlantic. The leading power of the West which considers itself as indispensable (and not unjustified) likes to overestimate itself and executes its power unilaterally.... The growing domestic influence and its interests are increasingly becoming the guiding principles of America's behavior towards the rest of the world—from exporting genetically modified organisms to global environmental policy. Already at the opening of COP-5, the word is that the follow-up conference has to be rescheduled. Why? Because America is voting in a year and thus agreements on the reduction of emissions will be viewed under the aspect of the consequences they will have for the election. Error message. Subsequently Chancellor Schroeder's call on the industrialized countries to conduct forceful corrections at home will be filed in Washington under 'Attacks on American industry.' That is also a kind of leadership."

"Too Soft, But Without Alternatives"

In left-of-center Tageszeitung of Berlin (10/26) Reiner Metzger commented, "This Rio follow-up conference is about technical details. Dramatic shows will not be on offer. But climate negotiations are about the small print. The oil-exporting countries and the U.S. would like to negotiate as many loopholes as possible. The U.S. administration sees no chance even for a minimum agreement before the presidential elections at the end of 2000. Congress would never ratify such an agreement. The U.S. citizens produce about one-third of the worldwide

emissions with a rising tendency, but they do not want to restrict themselves even a little bit. The same also holds true basically for the other industrialized countries. The poor countries see their chances in developing after the model of the Western countries. Environmental protectionists are right when they argue that the green house gas effect is

continuing to grow.... In times of growing global competition the industry does not want to submit itself to any restrictions--out of principle and even if a increased energy efficiency would make it more competitive. So continuing is the only option that remains. At least there will be discussions over a good cause, and even a small emission reduction is better than nothing. These are the times of 'realpolitik'."

FRANCE: "The World Can Wait"

Bruno Frappat commented in Catholic La Croix (10/26): "Once again Europe and the U.S. are confronting each other. The U.S., which is a major polluter, is polluting more than ever and refuses a national and constraining program to limit pollution. It only wants to play by the strange rules of 'polluting permits.' Europe on the other hand has made great progress and would like to amend a system which is pragmatic as well as absurd. Everyone knows that no agreement will be reached before the U.S. presidential election. Because none of the candidates will want to cloud the skies of its constituents. The rest of the world will have to wait."

"Waiting For The Election"

Pierre-Marie Christin on independently-run RTL radio (10/26): "Everyone agrees Bonn will be a failure.... The U.S. proposal of 'polluting permits' is not bad, except that the U.S. wants no limits, no controls, no sanctions.... The agreement will be one more waste of paper.... Bill Clinton has once more declared that the Senate is not ready to give in.... This is one more dossier that, no sooner opened, will be closed. Like the CTBT, the UN debt, the International Crimes tribunal and the threat of paralysis at the WTO.... We have been warned. Everything is postponed for at least a year. The world will wait until after the U.S. presidential election."

BELGIUM: "America's Carbon Gas Reduction: On Paper Only"

Xavier Ducarme reported in conservative Catholic La Libre Belgique (10/26) that Belgian Federal Council for Sustained Development has announced that it favors the introduction of a specific tax on energy in Belgium--which promises to reduce its carbon gas production by 7.5 percent by 2012--to force industries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Ducarme concluded: "The Council is also in favor of the 'flexible mechanisms'--which allow some countries to buy trade emission permits--but it nevertheless insists that countries should not be allowed to abide by their commitments solely on these mechanisms, thereby bypassing the very principle of pollution reduction. The actual reduction of pollution must thus remain the leading principle of all countries, the Council emphasizes, namely pointing at American attempts to abide by their commitments on paper only."

ARGENTINA ELECTIONS: DE LA RUA OVER MENEM ENDS PERONIST ERA

GERMANY: "The End of Charisma--At Last"

Centrist Tagesspiegel of Berlin opined (10/26), "Argentina voted for a boring person, a bureaucrat without charisma. But that is not important. Fernando de la Rúa, candidate of the center-left-coalition, is a diligent worker, trustworthy and reform-oriented. He is exactly the kind of president Argentina needs. After ten years of the charismatic Carlos Menem, Argentina is not about to get into the league of the industrialized countries, but is close to becoming a developing country. Menem did manage to control hyper inflation and to modernize the economy, but his failures are worse. Argentina is in debt, has no solid tax system, the

unemployment figures went up to 17 percent and the poverty and crime rate has exploded. The social security system is ailing and the funds for education have been cut. In addition, it turned out that the Menem administration was corrupt. The country can only be helped by credibility and a solid economic policy which will help those who are the weakest--solid boredom."

SPAIN: "Change In Argentina"

Liberal El Pais opined (10/26): "Center-left Alliance candidate Fernando de la Rúa has won the election more because of what he is not than because of what he is: a normal person in contrast to Menem's flamboyance, as demonstrated anew by the latter's papering over Buenos Aires with 2003 campaign posters.... De la Rúa's celebrations will end with bitter draughts because he will have to negotiate many important things, such as structural changes and fiscal austerity, with his election rivals who control much of the lower House, the Senate, a majority of provincial governorships, labor unions, etc.... The 'moral transformation' promised by the new president will not be achieved without complications."

RUSSIA: "Argentineans Tired Of Menem"

Olga Bereznitskaya asserted in reformist business-oriented Kommersant Daily (10/26): "The Argentineans are tired of President Menem's Peronist party and 'family.' They voted not so much for De la Rúa as against Menem."

MEXICO: "The End Of Menem"

An editorial in left-of-center La Jornada said (10/25), "The overwhelming victory of the Argentinean opposition candidate Fernando de la Rúa is the graveyard of Menem's era.... Hopefully the new president will make a sharp turnaround in Argentina's economy and foreign policy. In the economic field, Menem was one of the modern hemispheric presidents who implemented an economic model based on conservatism: Pinochet in Chile, Salinas in Mexico, Fujimori in Peru and Menem in Argentina. The outcome of such policies was an increase in social inequities, a deepening of poverty and misery and the concentration of wealth in a few hands.... Menem's foreign policy also left a dark legacy. Menem acted in servant-like manner with regards to U.S. strategic initiatives. Menem not only supported U.S. attacks against Iraq in 1991, but also adhered to the U.S. initiative to create hemispheric military units under the excuse of either fighting drug trafficking or protecting democracies from destabilization efforts."

##

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: STATE_Media_Reaction@notesmail1.usia.gov (STATE_Media_Reaction@notesmail1.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 4-NOV-1999 08:08:26.00

SUBJECT: Early Report: MIDDLE EAST/RUSSIA

TO: David L. Evans (CN=David L. Evans/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: dleahy@usitc.gov (dleahy@usitc.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: cstromme@exchange.usia.gov (cstromme@exchange.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Charlotte_Oldham-Moore@Wellstone.senate.gov (Charlotte_Oldham-Moore@Wellstone.senate.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: dbw@usia.gov (dbw@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: bdaly@peacecorps.gov (bdaly@peacecorps.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: durham@exchange.usia.gov (durham@exchange.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: bplevelich@ustr.gov (bplevelich@ustr.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Andy_Semmel@lugar.senate.gov (Andy_Semmel@lugar.senate.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: abrezian@voa.gov (abrezian@voa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: albert.dalglish@osd.pentagon.mil (albert.dalglish@osd.pentagon.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: daniel_cruise@ita.doc.gov (daniel_cruise@ita.doc.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: DFATA@EMAIL.CFR.ORG (DFATA@EMAIL.CFR.ORG [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mccauslandj@awc.carlisle.army.mil (mccauslandj@awc.carlisle.army.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: bryan.whitman@osd.pentagon.mil (bryan.whitman@osd.pentagon.mil [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: gregoryb@ndu.edu (gregoryb@ndu.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: richy@exchange.usia.gov (richy@exchange.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: b.muskovitz@state.gov (b.muskovitz@state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: paobf@fasnet.bf (paobf@fasnet.bf [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: stein@exchange.usia.gov (stein@exchange.usia.gov [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: aleisha@surflin.ne.jp (aleisha@surflin.ne.jp [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: wasserma@exchange.usia.gov (wasserma@exchange.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Editors in a number of regions continued to file assessments of the two-day summit in Oslo earlier this week involving President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Barak and Palestinian leader Arafat. Sharp fault lines divided commentary from the Middle East--where Arab commentators offered mainly negative assessments of the confab and Israeli pundits were wary of the perceived Palestinian desire to bring "U.S. pressure to bear on Israel"--from that of Europeans and others, who saw the Oslo meeting as having generated "a wind of optimism" concerning the peace process. Echoing the views of dailies in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria, Amman's leading, semi-official Al-Rai contended: "The Oslo summit was no more than another peace festival without peace," adding: "All Israel has achieved is to unleash the stout American stick, to beat the Arabs into normalizing relations with Israel." Damascus's government-owned Al-Thawra interpreted President Clinton's remarks on the "fragile" nature of the peace process as a sign that the U.S. was seeking to portray itself as a "marginal participant" rather than the "initiator of a peace plan" for the Middle East. "This pessimistic tone comes at a time [when] the world community is expecting a more active role" from the U.S., that paper intoned. In Tel Aviv, ultra-orthodox Hamodia judged that proposals put forth in Oslo "failed to link diplomatic solutions to an irrevocable, total and definitive halt in terror attacks" against Israel.

CHECHNYA: OBSERVERS WORRY ABOUT RUSSIA'S 'SCORCHED EARTH' CAMPAIGN

As Russia's "scorched earth" campaign in Chechnya continues, European commentators registered growing concern for the plight of the nearly 200,000 Chechen refugees and warned that Russia's "reconquest" of Chechnya could "end in a regional catastrophe." Many wondered what recourse Western nations have, at this point, for pressuring Moscow to end its military offensive. Observing that "with respect to the humanitarian aspect...there

is hardly a difference between the Caucasus and Kosovo," a Frankfurt daily, nevertheless, predicted that "Moscow does not need to fear a response...similar to the one that [the West] gave the regime in Belgrade." French writers also bemoaned the fact that "the West's capacity for indignation has remarkably diminished...since Kosovo and Bosnia." London's centrist Independent appeared resigned that "for all its dismay at Russia's deadly onslaught...the West has little scope to exert military, economic or even diplomatic pressure on Moscow." Meanwhile, other pundits looked to this month's OSCE summit in Istanbul and a possible confrontation between Russia and other OSCE members over Chechnya. Speculating that at the OSCE summit "Western leaders will have a choice between an open crisis with Russia and discrediting the organization," Paris's left-of-center Liberation asked, "How will it be possible to avoid speaking about Chechnya?" From Moscow, some media focused on the refugee situation, with a nationalist, opposition paper holding that "for Putin, Chechen refugees are really a time bomb." Arguing that "while [Putin] may get away with the war and its victims, he won't get away with a humanitarian catastrophe," reformist Kommersant Daily added, "The West won't be able to remain silent either--the war in Yugoslavia showed that the public is very sensitive to the refugee issue."

BRIEFS -- Balkans: Albright: Aid To Belgrade In Return For Free Elections; Policy Shift?

-- Elections Roundup: Georgia, Ukraine, Argentina, Uruguay

EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Kathleen J. Brahney, Gail Hamer Burke

ASSESSING OSLO: 'ANOTHER PEACE FESTIVAL WITHOUT PEACE'?

ISRAEL: "Palestinians Must Prove Good Faith"

Ultra-orthodox Hamodia emphasized (11/4): "The word from Oslo is that President Clinton tried to get the Israelis and Palestinians to agree to an arrangement under which the Palestinian Authority (PA) would get an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, while Israel would keep the land occupied by Jewish communities.... Regardless of the merits of this proposal, its most serious drawback is that it fails to link diplomatic solutions to an irrevocable, total and definitive halt in terror attacks.... There is no point in making an agreement with the PA, as long as other Palestinian groups may not abide by it. It is useless and even dangerous to accommodate the Palestinians while armed radical bands vow to continue the anti-Israel struggle.... A precondition to any diplomatic progress must be a solemn commitment tested over a long period of time to stop terror attacks."

"Finish The Job"

The independent Jerusalem Post's editorial held (11/4): "The meeting in Oslo was an opportunity to introduce formulas that combine toughness and flexibility, or at least to stop digging in deeper around old inflexible stands. Barak took that opportunity by suggesting that Israel has divided its priorities into three tiers of differing flexibility. Arafat, despite his appreciated displays of respect for Yitzhak Rabin, showed no hint of preparations to compromise.... It would be a mistake to succumb to the Palestinian wish to leave as much as possible for a three-way summit at Camp David in the hope that U.S. pressure could be brought to bear on

Israel. The United States should do its utmost to avoid such a dynamic, which also increases the likelihood of a last-minute crisis in the negotiations."

JORDAN: "Israel's Difficult Choice"

Tariq Masarwah had this to say in leading, semi-official Al-Rai (11/4): "The Oslo summit was no more than another peace festival without peace. Its objective was to market Ehud Barak and to release the financial deal...that resulted from the Sharm El-Sheikh agreement. Israel wants a Palestinian entity much less than a state, while avoiding deterioration to a situation similar to Kosovo, and without returning to the Jordanian option or to the state of apartheid. To achieve this, Israel will have to make some hard choices, particularly that the Palestinians have proven to be resilient negotiators, despite all accusations to the contrary. Meanwhile, all Israel has achieved is to unleash the stout American stick, to beat the Arabs into normalizing relations with Israel."

"The Tripartite Oslo Summit"

Mazen Al-Saket observed in center-left, influential Al-Dustour (11/4) "The Oslo summit was concluded without announcing any results except the obituary of former Prime Minister Rabin. The U.S. president has tried to dilute this failure by talking about other summits to be held soon, but the failure to achieve any progress asserts that the entire peace process is at a dead end. Clinton would like to conclude his term in office with a final settlement, but he is handicapped by his total bias toward Israel.... The issues that were faced by this summit are the same that will face any future talks or summits, and they threaten to take the region into a state of 'no settlement and no peace' that last for decades."

LEBANON: "What Kind Of Peace Does U.S. Want?"

Pro-Syrian, pro-Baath Party Ash-Sharq featured this comment by Awni Al-Kaki on page one (11/3): "The Oslo summit is only a pressure tool against the Palestinians to make them present more concessions.... What kind of peace does the United States want? How can we believe in the United States' peaceful intentions when it continues to support Israel's military superiority, turns a blind eye on Israel's escalation of the situation in the south, and when the Israelis appoint the former head of their intelligence apparatus, known for his radicalism, as the head of the negotiating team on the Syrian track?"

SAUDI ARABIA: "Revitalized Process"

London-based, pan-Arab Al-Hayat judged (11/3): "President Clinton and other American officials are still treating Ehud Barak's victory over Benjamin Netanyahu as a major accomplishment for the cause of peace in the Middle East. No one, it seems, is willing or has the desire to acknowledge that while Barak may have ambitions for peace, great ideas and good peaceful intentions, his negotiation tools are no less racist and inferior than those of the Likud.... When the Israeli government--regardless of who its leader is--acknowledges that settlements are not sacred lands and their existence must not control the peace settlement, either from a

geographical--or especially--from a security point of view...when the Israeli government acknowledges that Jerusalem has special religious and cultural dimensions which do not belong to Jews alone...when the Israeli government acknowledges that security is for all, not for one party alone...then it will be correct to assert that normalization (with Israel) can serve the cause of peace."

SYRIA: "The Danger Of The Current Situation"

Muhammed Ali Buza commented in government-owned Al-Thawra (11/3): "The recent U.S. statements on peace oscillated between optimism and pessimism.... On the eve of Oslo meeting, President Clinton's rhetoric was less optimistic and more realistic as he described the chance of peace as 'fragile.' This pessimistic tone comes at a time the world community is expecting a more active [U.S. role]; it is a dangerous sign.... It is unacceptable for the U.S. administration to unleash general statements as if it is a marginal participant and not the initiator of a peace plan; as if its bias toward Israel is not prohibiting it from correcting the course of the peace process.... We realize that it is useless to bet on any change in the United States' performance on the peace process... but we still have our own choices and have our means to retrieve our lands and rights."

GERMANY: "Oslo Dispels Spirit Of Mistrust"

Right-of-center Fuldaer Zeitung indicated (11/4): "The meeting in Oslo this week...mainly served to dispel the spirit of distrust which had covered tense relations during Netanyahu's term like mildew."

"Oslo Was Good For The Climate"

Peter Wendt concluded in right-of-center Maerkische Oderzeitung of Frankfurt on the Oder (11/4): "Although the core questions of the peace process were not addressed, President Clinton but also Premier Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat accepted the continuation of the peace process as a legacy of former Israeli Premier Rabin. By doing so, they prepared a fertile ground for the beginning of the final status talks."

ITALY: "Oslo's Optimism Vs. Disputes Over Jerusalem"

Provocative, classical liberal Il Foglio underscored this theme (11/4): "While the Oslo talks among President Clinton, Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat have generated a wind of optimism, even though with caution, concerning the resumption of the peace process, a stormy climate is rising in Jerusalem...as far as inter-religious relations are concerned."

RUSSIA: "Success"

Pyotr Chernyakov reported from Oslo for centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (11/4): "The sides involved in the Middle East peace process agree that the summit meeting in Oslo was a success."

JAPAN: "Mixed Feelings Of Joy, Sorrow For President Clinton"

Liberal Asahi's Oslo correspondent Nishimura observed (11/4): "President Clinton's demonstration of leadership at the Oslo meeting could certainly have a positive effect on future efforts at putting the Middle East peace process back on track. But during his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Putin, Clinton remained far apart with Putin over Chechnya, missile defense and other issues.... The U.S. president also received a 'tough message' from Russian President Yeltsin, who strongly opposes revision of the ABM Treaty. Given these circumstances, President Clinton will have no other diplomatic option but to stake his remaining term of office upon the realization of Middle East peace."

CANADA: "Ambitious Agenda"

The liberal Toronto Star maintained (11/3): "Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat have given themselves barely 100 days to overcome 100 years of mistrust, bloodshed and wasted opportunity. On Monday, they plan to breathe new hope into the six-year-old Mid-east peace process by launching talks to draft a broad political 'framework' by mid-February to set up a Palestinian state.... Barak's main challenge, in the next 100 days, is to persuade Israelis that they can serve their own interests best by offering Palestinians a generous peace, and a state that is stable enough to be a partner, not a problem."

CHECHNYA: OBSERVERS WORRY ABOUT RUSSIA'S 'SCORCHED EARTH' CAMPAIGN

RUSSIA: "Russia Would Rather Lose the West Than Chechnya"

Aleksandr Sukhotin commented in reformist Vremya-MN (11/4) on Putin's trip to Oslo: "In recent years, except during NATO's air raids on Belgrade, Russia put up with the West's mentor-like and selfish ways. That changed, however, when the West toughened its stand on the Chechnya issue. Moscow took it as a betrayal. Exhortations by the Alliance, which has just about razed to the ground a sovereign state in the Balkans, cause an angry 'Look who's talking.' Western criticisms are readily associated here with interference in Russia's internal affairs. After all, Chechnya is part of Russia. Sad as it may be for Moscow to lose the West, losing Chechnya seems like an incomparably greater evil and a threat to Russia itself. Knowing little about the Caucasus, even less about Chechnya, the West, so cynics say, does not give a damn about Chechens, as it did not give a damn about Serbs, Albanians or other aborigines. The Americans want Russia to ease up on ABM. The West would like to have a bigger role in the Caucasus, but the methods it is using to secure it are too risky. To use the Russians' natural proclivity for masochism is one thing, but to interfere in their internal affairs and attack their egos is quite another."

"Refugees Are No Trivia"

Ilya Bulavinov wrote in reformist, business-oriented Kommersant Daily (11/4): "Clearly, Putin can't finish this war quickly. He just can't do this--it would take years to destroy the militants completely, and it is impossible to make them capitulate. While he may get away with the war and

its victims, he won't get away with a humanitarian catastrophe. The West won't be able to remain silent either--the war in Yugoslavia showed that the public is very sensitive to the refugee issue these days. The problem is really tough. Carried away with the fighting, the

government did not bother with trivia like having to provide accommodations for forced displaced people."

"Ingushetia Is Part Of Russia Too"

L. Nikolayev, referring to the sorry plight of Chechen refugees in neighboring Ingushetia and Ingushetian President Aushev's questioning the legitimacy of the federal troops' action in his republic, remarked in nationalist, opposition Sovetskaya Rossiya (11/4): "We may refer to 'bad guy, Aushev' and provide lots of other reasons, but the fact is that Ingushetia, just like Chechnya, is part of Russia, so Moscow and personally the premier are responsible for whatever happens there. For Putin, Chechen refugees are really a time bomb."

BRITAIN: "Why Moscow Will Not Easily Listen To Pleas For Restraint"

The centrist Independent had this analysis (11/4) by associate editor Rupert Cornwell: "For all its dismay at Russia's deadly onslaught against Chechnya, the West has little scope to exert military, economic or even diplomatic pressure on Moscow to make it change its policies. Though the parallel is constantly drawn with the Serb oppression of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, there is all the difference in the world between punitive strikes on an isolated, small-to-middling country in central Europe and action against a nuclear-armed former superpower with a permanent seat on the UNSC. With the military option a non-starter, the search turns to economic and diplomatic leverage. But there, too, the possibilities are scant. Russia has no immediate need for outside financial support; and even before the Chechen crisis, its relations with the West--and the United States in particular--were under heavy strain.... Theoretically, the West could retaliate by suspending negotiations to reschedule a bulge of Soviet debt due for repayment in the next few years. But that might trigger an immensely disruptive Russian default--with potentially damaging political repercussions."

FRANCE: "A Dance Macabre"

Jacques Amalric observed in left-of-center Liberation (11/4): "On the footsteps of many czars, Vladimir Putin has entered the 'dance macabre' in the Caucasus.... But he is more methodical and more persistent than his predecessors.... The air strikes are not always on target, causing many civilian casualties. But Moscow cares very little about this. Its aim is to 'free Chechnya from terrorism...' as Igor Sergueiev said. And although he did not say it outright, every Chechen is a potential terrorist for his troops. This scorched earth policy will end in a regional catastrophe. Russia's 'reconquest' of Chechnya will contaminate the neighboring republics.... The West's embarrassed silence in the face of this new colonial adventure is hard to understand. In the first place, because the violence inflicted on the people of Chechnya goes against the code of good conduct accepted by the new Russia.... Second, because the methods and

manipulations used in this conflict point to the impossibility of democracy in Russia. How can we forget that the only justification for the horrors being perpetrated in Chechnya is the election [for president] of a prime minister whose training was insured by the KGB?"

"The West Puts No Pressure On Moscow"

Pierre Haski judged in left-of-center Liberation (11/4): "The West's capacity for indignation has remarkably diminished...since Kosovo and Bosnia.... At the OSCE summit in Istanbul next month, Western leaders will have a choice between an open crisis with Russia and discrediting the organization.... How will it be possible to avoid speaking about Chechnya?... In Oslo, Bill Clinton was not particularly demanding when he spoke with Putin, even if no one expected him to be threatening.... In the past year, the concept of humanitarian intervention, with Kosovo, East Timor and Chechnya, has seen various interpretations.... With Chechnya, it is clear that intervention applies more to 'rogue' states than to former superpowers, which have a right of

veto at the UN and a nuclear arsenal.... This year, the right to intervene has made two steps forward and one backward."

GERMANY: "Helpless"

Werner Adam argued in right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (11/4): "The misery of the refugees in the Northern Caucasus creates oppressive memories of the events in Kosovo.... Moscow does not need to fear a response [to its offensive] similar to the one that [the West] gave the regime in Belgrade. This is the logic of the so-called realpolitik...even though, with respect to the humanitarian aspect of the affair, there is hardly a difference between the Caucasus and Kosovo. Although the flow of refugees has swollen to more than 200,000 people, the Russian generals want to stop their...campaign against Chechnya only if the small Caucasian republic is again under full control of Moscow. But the future will tell whether this will ever be possible. But one thing is becoming obvious. The bigger the applause for Putin among his Russian compatriots, the deeper will be the hatred against him and his military in Northern Caucasus."

ITALY: "Clinton Stirred Souls"

Cesare De Carlo filed from Washington in conservative, top-circulation syndicate La Nazione (11/4): "Returning from Oslo, President Clinton may not have revived the Middle East peace process, but he certainly succeeded in stirring the souls and the conscience of the West about Chechnya, another serious international crisis."

FINLAND: "Cruel War, Bad Justifications"

Leading, independent Helsingin Sanomat ran this editorial (11/3): "It is clear that the aim of the Russian military action is not just to destroy isolated criminal and terrorist groups but to subjugate all of Chechnya. The 1996 agreement with Grozny has been torn apart and President Yeltsin's pledge to continue on a peaceful path has been forgotten. The Russian army

is moving forward slowly and appears mainly to be using artillery. It is a very ineffective way of fighting mobile guerrilla groups but effective in a war of conquest, if civilian casualties don't count. The Russian army wants revenge for its humiliation in 1996.... And the Kremlin is fomenting nationalist feelings and diverting attention away from internal problems in the run-up to the Duma elections."

THE NETHERLANDS: "Chechnya As An Obstacle"

According to independent, influential NRC Handelsblad's editorial (11/2): "The [OSCE] on principal and practical grounds is not in favor of a further breakup of existing states into scarcely viable ethnically autonomous units, certainly not in a region of such international tension as the Caucasus. That the Kremlin wishes to retain the unity of the Russian Federation is not opposed. But the way in which the Russians conduct themselves is not acceptable. Their retort, that it concerns an internal question and that local terrorism must be combated, does not hold vis-a-vis the obligations they have incurred as member of the OSCE. The OSCE, therefore, must not avoid a confrontation in Istanbul, unless it wishes to lose its credibility."

TURKEY: "Ecevit's Moscow Visit"

Semih Idiz wrote in the tabloid Star (11/4): "Ecevit, who left for Moscow today, will sign an anti-terrorism agreement with Russia, which for Moscow means 'do not interfere with my affairs with the Chechens, and I will not interfere in the Kurdish issue.' Lately Ankara and Moscow have been competing strongly for Caspian oil and natural gas resources. The fact that Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan get dragged into political instability when there are signs that Russia won't participate in regional developments is significant. Turkey and Russia are the two

key players in the Caucasus, and unless they agree on a joint approach, stability in the region will remain just a dream."

BRIEFS

BALKANS: ALBRIGHT: AID TO BELGRADE IN RETURN FOR FREE ELECTIONS; POLICY SHIFT?

GERMANY: "The Blunt Weapon Of Sanctions"

Peter Muench opined (11/4) in centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich, "Five months after the end of the war, an urgently necessary strategic discussion has begun about whether sanctions against Serbia will have a positive effect and what will be the negative consequences of such sanctions. The Europeans are pursuing a soft line...and they are working hard to convince the Americans of this approach. This is not easy, because it is well known that the hawks of a sanctions policy sit in Washington. From the Cubans to the Iraqis, many people can testify how stringently the United States continues to adhere to a policy of sanctions.... Since the beginning of the 90s, the Serbs have lived with...embargoes. During this time, they waged wars against Croatia, in Bosnia, and in Kosovo, but the sanctions were unable to prevent these wars.... Misery is not driving the

Serbs to the barricades,...they have fallen into apathy.... Those who want to topple Milosevic must do everything to strengthen his opponents. Nobody can foresee how the opposition will deal with such support. Milosevic will certainly also try to profit from such assistance. But it is by no means certain that such a strategy would be successful.... But to sum it up, we can say that today there are more arguments for a relaxation of sanctions from which the people are suffering. And one thing is sure: the alternative to this relaxation has failed."

ITALY: "Elections In Serbia And We Will Provide (The Country) With Oil"

Massimo Cavallini reported from Washington in pro-DS (leading government party) daily L'Unita (11/4): "According to State Department spokesman James Rubin, they are not really 'updating' a policy whose two basic points--'exerting continued pressure on Milosevic and supporting the opposition'--remain, overall, the same. However, it would be very difficult to term Madeleine Albright's announcement yesterday...as a simple 'variant' to U.S. strategy in the Balkans.... Left alone with journalists, after Secretary Albright and Serbian leaders departed, James Rubin did his very best to demonstrate that 'under no circumstances' had the U.S. administration 'yielded' in its principles."

"Maybe Albright And Dini Think (Almost) The Same Of Sloba (Milosevic)"

A front-page analysis in provocative, classical liberal Il Foglio said (11/4), "Yesterday Madeleine Albright, herself, announced important political news: As soon as Milosevic allows free elections, the United States will be willing to lift the embargo. This (news) no longer means 'only when Sloba (Milosevic) will have gone.' The novelty in the U.S. position is also due to the petition submitted by the Belgrade opposition led by Zoran Djindjic and Dragoslav Avramovic. However, the U.S. position remains quite far from the Italian position.... However, the opportunity that Washington has just offered to the Yugoslav opposition does not coincide with Milosevic's legitimization. It is still a long, difficult way to go (toward common views/sic)."

ELECTIONS ROUNDUP: GEORGIA, UKRAINE, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY,

GERMANY: "Georgia Parliamentary Elections, Fear As Election Supporter"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich opined (11/2), "Eduard Shevardnadze's party scored so well in the elections in Georgia that the impression comes up that it has achieved a suspiciously good result. Indeed, the opposition parties already raised the suspicion of election fraud.... Nevertheless, it is likely that the outcome of the second free parliamentary elections in Georgia were achieved not through election fraud but through regular elections. Eduard Shevardnadze owes his success to two things: to the cruel attack against the Armenian parliament and to the Russian war against Chechnya. The bloodbath in Georgia demonstrated to the

Georgians again how easy it is for their region to go down in chaos, anarchy, and violence. This is why they elected the only man who guaranteed stability over the past few years: Eduard Shevardnadze. Moscow's brutal campaign in Chechnya...reminded the Georgians again that Russia has never given up its aim to recapture control over the Caucasus. This is why they elected the only man who offered them the perspective of a link to the West: Eduard Shevardnadze. Now it is up to the West to remember this trust bonus which the small Georgia gave to the West."

"Ukraine Presidential Elections: Preliminary Winner Kuchma"

Werner Adam says in an editorial in right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (11/2), "Ukraine witnessed everything else but a fair election campaign.... Nevertheless, the favorable outcome for the incumbent is no falsification of the voter's will, since it is difficult to imagine that the majority of Ukrainians wants to return to a planned economy and back to the Russian core country.... But this is what communist front-runner Simonenko promised, who, despite his considerable lead to the other contenders, will have no chance of winning in the run-off elections against Kuchma. In the first vote, the current president presented himself as the only serious supporter of the market economy.... However, with respect to internal stability, Ukraine is better off than Russia. And Ukraine owes this to the man whose re-election cannot be doubted."

POLAND: "Kuchma Self-Assured"

Piotr Kosciński wrote in centrist Rzeczpospolita (11/2): "Leonid Kuchma has what he wanted: In the second round of the elections, he will compete with Petro Symonenko, leader of the communists. One can expect his election campaign in the two coming weeks will be held according to a simple pattern which says: If you don't vote for me, communists will come to power, and coming with them will be the lack of commodities in stores, long lines, and, finally, political terror. It is almost one hundred percent certain today that Kuchma will win.... As the elections showed, more than one-third of the citizens believe him."

ARGENTINA: "Uruguayan Elections: Broad Enough?"

An editorial in the Liberal, English-language Buenos Aires Herald read (11/2), "The only certainty after Sunday's Uruguayan elections is that a November 28 runoff will be held between Broad Front candidate Tabaré Vazquez and the ruling Colorado Party's Jorge Batlle. A confident victory forecast can be made for each man... but each would be simplistic.... Before the election National Party leader ex-president Luis Lacalle promised not only to back Batlle but to campaign for him in the second round, (but) can he carry his voters or will these join a prevailing protest mood? The clues to Uruguay's next president lie partly in the economic situation and partly in the personalities of the two surviving candidates in a duel which pits charisma against dynasty (three past presidents carried the Batlle surname)--if Argentina's recent elections were won by a boring Alliance candidate, in Uruguay one candidate (Batlle) is boring and the other (Vazquez) heads a center-left alliance. One key question is whether

Vazquez still embodies the protest mood against traditional politics or whether his two terms as Montevideo mayor have not made him part of the Establishment.... The economy also cuts both ways since Vazquez' tax proposals (cutting value-added taxation via a new income levy including

MEXICO: "Uruguay, Turn To The Left"

transformation that our nations so urgently need."

"Argentina And Now Uruguay, Hope For The Southern Cone"

An editorial in nationalist El Universal stated (11/1), "The triumph of opposition candidate Fernando de la Rúa in Argentina makes evident the vote was against an economic policy that during the Carlos Menem administration favored unproductive sectors to the detriment of employment and salaries. This is a similar to the situation in Uruguay during its civil government period.... Voters are not satisfied with macroeconomic achievements, which both countries have had, especially in the war on inflation. In contrast, as happens throughout the subcontinent there has been a decline in living conditions of large sectors of the population.... Nevertheless, it is an important phenomenon that democracy is making way in the Southern Cone."

##

- early.rtf===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

```
{\rtf1\ansi {\colortbl\red0\green0\blue0;\red255\green255\blue255;\red255\green0\blue0;\red0\green255\blue0;\red0\green0\blue255;\red255\green0\blue255;\red255\green255\blue0;\red0\green255\blue255;\red128\green0\blue0;\red0\green128\blue0;\red0\green0\blue128;\red128\green0\blue128;\red128\green128\blue0;\red0\green128\blue128;\red128\green128\blue128;\red192\green192\blue192;\red255\green255\blue255;\red255\green239\blue206;\red255\green255\blue194;\red255\green255\blue208;\red224\green255\blue191;\red224\green255\blue223;\red224\green255\blue255;\red194\green239\blue255;\red224\green241\blue255;\red224\green224\blue255;\red232\green224\blue255;\red241\green224\blue255;\red255\green224\blue255;\red255\green224\blue245;\red255\green224\blue230;\red255\green255\blue255;\red255\green225\blue220;\red255\green225\blue176;\red255\green255\blue127;\red241\green241\blue180;\red194\green255\blue145;\red193\green255\blue213;\red164\green255\blue255;\red161\green226\blue255;\red192\green225\blue255;\red191\green191\blue255;\red210\green191\blue255;\red225\green191\blue255;\red255\green193\blue253;\red255\green192\blue228;\red255\green192\blue206;\red247\green247\blue247;\red255\green192\blue182;\red255\green194\blue129;\red255\green255\blue53;\red241\green241\blue128;\red127\green255\blue127;\red130\green255\blue202;\red127\green255\blue255;\red130\green224\blue255;\red130\green192\blue255;\red159\green159\blue255;\red194\green159\blue255;\red226\green159\blue255;\red255\green159\blue
```


255;\red255\green159\blue207;\red255\green159\blue169;\red239\green239\blue239;
\red255\green159\blue159;\red255\green159\blue113;\red255\green255\blue0;\red22
4\green224\blue116;\red65\green255\blue50;\red66\green255\blue199;\red66\green2
55\blue255;\red0\green191\blue255;\red82\green145\blue239;\red128\green128\blue
255;\red192\green130\blue255;\red224\green129\blue255;\red255\green127\blue255;
\red255\green130\blue194;\red255\green130\blue160;\red225\green225\blue225;\red
255\green128\blue128;\red255\green129\blue65;\red255\green225\blue24;\red225\gr
een225\blue64;\red0\green255\blue0;\red0\green255\blue178;\red0\green255\blue25
5;\red0\green161\blue224;\red33\green129\blue255;\red97\green129\blue255;\red16
1\green96\blue255;\red192\green98\blue255;\red255\green95\blue255;\red255\green
96\blue175;\red255\green96\blue136;\red210\green210\blue210;\red255\green64\blu
e64;\red255\green66\blue30;\red255\green191\blue24;\red225\green225\blue0;\red0
\green225\blue0;\red0\green225\blue173;\red0\green224\blue224;\red0\green130\bl
ue191;\red0\green128\blue255;\red65\green129\blue255;\red130\green66\blue255;\r
ed193\green64\blue255;\red255\green66\blue249;\red255\green64\blue160;\red255\g
reen64\blue112;\red192\green192\blue192;\red255\green31\blue53;\red255\green31\
blue16;\red255\green129\blue0;\red191\green191\blue0;\red0\green194\blue0;\red0
\green193\blue150;\red0\green193\blue194;\red65\green129\blue192;\red0\green98\
blue225;\red65\green65\blue255;\red66\green0\blue255;\red194\green0\blue255;\re
d255\green34\blue255;\red245\green43\blue151;\red255\green34\blue89;\red178\gre
en178\blue178;\red224\green31\blue37;\red225\green32\blue0;\red226\green98\blue
0;\red161\green161\blue0;\red0\green160\blue0;\red0\green159\blue130;\red63\gre
en128\blue128;\red0\green96\blue160;\red0\green65\blue194;\red0\green33\blue191
;\red65\green0\blue194;\red129\green0\blue255;\red255\green0\blue255;\red255\gr
een0\blue128;\red255\green0\blue65;\red162\green162\blue162;\red194\green0\blue
0;\red255\green0\blue0;\red191\green65\blue0;\red128\green128\blue63;\red63\gre
en128\blue63;\red0\green130\blue80;\red0\green96\blue98;\red0\green64\blue128;\r
ed0\green31\blue226;\red64\green64\blue194;\red64\green0\blue162;\red96\green0
\blue161;\red224\green0\blue224;\red223\green0\blue127;\red194\green0\blue65;\r
ed143\green143\blue143;\red160\green0\blue0;\red225\green0\blue0;\red161\green6
3\blue0;\red98\green98\blue0;\red0\green96\blue0;\red0\green96\blue60;\red0\gre
en64\blue65;\red0\green47\blue128;\red0\green0\blue255;\red32\green32\blue160;\r
ed34\green0\blue161;\red64\green0\blue128;\red161\green0\blue159;\red192\green
0\blue127;\red159\green0\blue15;\red128\green128\blue128;\red96\green0\blue0;\r
ed194\green18\blue18;\red130\green66\blue0;\red66\green66\blue0;\red0\green66\bl
ue0;\red0\green64\blue35;\red0\green50\blue63;\red0\green32\blue96;\red0\green
32\blue194;\red34\green34\blue192;\red0\green0\blue128;\red31\green0\blue127;\r
ed128\green0\blue128;\red130\green0\blue64;\red128\green0\blue0;\red95\green95\
blue95;\red64\green0\blue0;\red161\green31\blue18;\red96\green66\blue0;\red33\g
reen33\blue0;\red0\green33\blue0;\red0\green32\blue31;\red0\green32\blue65;\red
0\green32\blue79;\red0\green0\blue224;\red0\green0\blue161;\red0\green0\blue97;
\red31\green0\blue98;\red64\green0\blue95;\red98\green0\blue66;\red98\green0\bl
ue18;\red79\green79\blue79;\red208\green177\blue161;\red224\green161\blue117;\r
ed210\green176\blue106;\red192\green194\blue124;\red130\green193\blue104;\red12
9\green192\blue151;\red127\green194\blue188;\red113\green178\blue207;\red177\gr
een177\blue210;\red159\green159\blue224;\red192\green161\blue224;\red226\green1
59\blue222;\red239\green145\blue235;\red226\green159\blue200;\red241\green143\bl
ue188;\red47\green47\blue47;\red127\green96\blue79;\red161\green98\blue82;\red
128\green98\blue16;\red130\green130\blue63;\red63\green98\blue31;\red60\green97
\blue62;\red55\green96\blue94;\red16\green65\blue96;\red66\green66\blue130;\red
98\green96\blue161;\red98\green65\blue129;\red96\green49\blue129;\red96\green33
\blue98;\red98\green33\blue82;\red129\green63\blue98;\red0\green0\blue0;}{\font
tbl{\f0\froman Tms Rmn;}{\f1\fswiss Helv;}{\f2\modern Courier;}{\f5\fswiss Ari
al;}{\f6\froman Times New Roman;}}\margl720 \margr940 \margt1440 \margb1440 \se

ctd \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \trrowd \trgaph180 \cellx6120 \cellx10800 \pard \intbl \li55 \fi0 \ri40 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \keep \plain \b \fs72 \cf0 EARLY REPORT

\cell \pard \intbl \qc \li55 \fi0 \ri40 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \keep \keepn \plain \b \fs48 \cf0 FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

\cell \pard \intbl \row \trrowd \trgaph180 \cellx6120 \cellx10800 \pard \intbl \li55 \fi0 \ri40 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \keep \keepn \plain \b \fi \fs18 \cf0 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON DC 20520

\cell \pard \intbl \qc \li55 \fi0 \ri40 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \keep \keepn \plain \b \fi \fs18 \cf0 OFFICE OF RESEARCH

\cell \pard \intbl \row \pard \par \pard \li0 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \keep \keepn \plain \f6 \fs16 \cf0 Bill Richey, Branch Chief Media Reaction, (202) 619-6511 Ann Pincus, Director

\plain \f6 \fs16 \cf0 Archived at: www.usia.gov/products/medreac.htm

\plain \f6 \fs16 \cf0

\plain \f6 \fs16 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li0 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Thursday

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ,

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 November

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 4

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ,

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 1999

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li900 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ASSESSING OSLO: 'ANOTHER PEACE FESTIVAL WITHOUT PEACE'?

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Editors in a number of regions continued to file assessments of the two-day summit in Oslo earlier this week involving President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Barak and Palestinian leader Arafat. Sharp fault lines divided commentary from the Middle East--where Arab commentators offered mainly negative assessments of the confab and Israeli pundits were wary of the perceived Palestinian desire to bring "U.S. pressure to bear on Israel"--from that of Europeans and others, who saw the Oslo meeting as having generated "a wind of optimism" concerning the peace process. Echoing the views of dailies in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria, Amman's leading, semi-official

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Al-Rai

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 contended: "The Oslo summit was no more than another peace festival without peace," adding: "All Israel has achieved is to unleash the stout American stick, to beat the Arabs into normalizing relations with Israel." Damascus's government-owned

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Al-Thawra

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 interpreted President Clinton's remarks on the "fragile" nature of the peace process as a sign that the U.S. was seeking to portray itself as a "marginal participant" rather than the "initiator of a peace plan" for the Middle East. "This pessimistic tone comes at a time [when] the world community is expecting a more active role" from the U.S., that paper intoned. In Tel Aviv, ultra-orthodox

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Hamodia

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 judged that proposals put forth in Oslo "failed to link diplomatic solutions to an irrevocable, total and definitive halt in terror attacks"

acks" against Israel.

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 CH ECHNYA: OBSERVERS WORRY ABOUT RUSSIA'S 'SCORCHED EARTH' CAMPAIGN

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 As Russia's "scorched earth" campaign in Chechnya continues, European commentators registered growing concern for the plight of the nearly 200,000 Chechen refugees and warned that Russia's "reconquest" of Chechnya could "end in a regional catastrophe." Many wondered what recourse Western nations have, at this point, for pressuring Moscow to end its military offensive. Observing that "with respect to the humanitarian aspect...there is hardly a difference between the Caucasus and Kosovo," a Frankfurt daily, nevertheless, predicted that "Moscow does not need to fear a response...similar to the one that [the West] gave the regime in Belgrade." French writers also bemoaned the fact that "the West's capacity for indignation has remarkably diminished...since Kosovo and Bosnia." London's centrist

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Independent

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 appeared resigned that "for all its dismay at Russia's deadly onslaught...the West has little scope to exert military, economic or even diplomatic pressure on Moscow." Meanwhile, other pundits looked to this month's OSCE summit in Istanbul and a possible confrontation between Russia and other OSCE members over Chechnya. Speculating that at the OSCE summit "Western leaders will have a choice between an open crisis with Russia and discrediting the organization," Paris's left-of-center

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Liberation

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 asked, "How will it be possible to avoid speaking about Chechnya?" From Moscow, some media focused on the refugee situation, with a nationalist, opposition paper holding that "for Putin, Chechen refugees are really a time bomb." Arguing that "while [Putin] may get away with the war and its victims, he won't get away with a humanitarian catastrophe," reformist

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Kommersant Daily

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 added, "The West won't be able to remain silent either--the war in Yugoslavia showed that the public is very sensitive to the refugee issue."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 BRIEFS

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 -- Balkans: Albright: Aid To Belgrade In Return For Free Elections; Policy Shift?

\tab -- Elections Roundup: Georgia, Ukraine, Argentina, Uruguay

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Kathleen J. Brahney, Gail Hamer Burke

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ASSESSING OSLO: 'ANOTHER PEACE FESTIVAL WITHOUT PEACE'?

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ISRAEL: "Palestinians Must Prove Good Faith"

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Ultra

-orthodox

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Hamodia

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 emphasized (11/4): "The word from Oslo is that President Clinton tried to get the Israelis and Palestinians to agree to an arrangement under which the Palestinian Authority (PA) would get an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, while Israel would keep the land occupied by Jewish communities.... Regardless of the merits of this proposal, its most serious drawback is that it fails to link diplomatic solutions to an irrevocable, total and definitive halt in terror attacks.... There is no point in making an agreement with the PA, as long as other Palestinian groups may not abide by it. It is useless and even dangerous to accommodate the Palestinians while armed radical bands vow to continue the anti-Israel struggle.... A precondition to any diplomatic progress must be a solemn commitment tested over a long period of time to stop terror attacks."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 "Finish The Job"

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 The independent

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Jerusalem Post

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 's editorial held (11/4): "The meeting in Oslo was an opportunity to introduce formulas that combine toughness and flexibility, or at least to stop digging in deeper around old inflexible stands. Barak took that opportunity by suggesting that Israel has divided its priorities into three tiers of differing flexibility. Arafat, despite his appreciated displays of respect for Yitzhak Rabin, showed no hint of preparations to compromise.... It would be a mistake to succumb to the Palestinian wish to leave as much as possible for a three-way summit at Camp David in the hope that U.S. pressure could be brought to bear on Israel. The United States should do its utmost to avoid such a dynamic, which also increases the likelihood of a last-minute crisis in the negotiations."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 \par

\plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 JORDAN: "Israel's Difficult Choice"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Tariq Masarwah had this to say in leading, semi-official

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Al-Rai

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "The Oslo summit was no more than another peace festival without peace. Its objective was to market Ehud Barak and to release the financial deal...that resulted from the Sharm El-Sheikh agreement. Israel wants a Palestinian entity much less than a state, while avoiding deterioration to a situation similar to Kosovo, and without returning to the Jordanian option or to the state of apartheid. To achieve this, Israel will have to make some hard choices, particularly that the Palestinians have proven to be resilient negotiators, despite all accusations to the contrary. Meanwhile, all Israel has achieved is to unleash the stout American stick, to beat the Arabs into normalizing relations with Israel."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880

0 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 "The Tripartite Oslo Summit"

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Mazen Al-Saket observed in center-left, influential

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Al-Dustour

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4) "The Oslo summit was concluded without announcing any results except the obituary of former Prime Minister Rabin. The U.S. president has tried to dilute this failure by talking about other summits to be held soon, but the failure to achieve any progress asserts that the entire peace process is at a dead end. Clinton would like to conclude his term in office with a final settlement, but he is handicapped by his total bias toward Israel... The issues that were faced by this summit are the same that will face any future talks or summits, and they threaten to take the region into a state of 'no settlement and no peace' that last for decades."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 LE BANON: "What Kind Of Peace Does U.S. Want?"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Pro-Syrian, pro-Baath Party

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Ash-Sharq

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 featured this comment by Awni Al-Kaki on page one (11/3): "The Oslo summit is only a pressure tool against the Palestinians to make them present more concessions.... What kind of peace does the United States want? How can we believe in

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 the United States' peaceful intentions when it continues to support Israel's military superiority, turns a blind eye on Israel's escalation of the situation in the south, and when the Israelis appoint the former head of their intelligence apparatus, known for his radicalism, as the head of the negotiating team on the Syrian track?"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 SAUDI ARABIA: "Revitalized Process"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 London-based, pan-Arab

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Al-Hayat

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 judged (11/3): "President Clinton and other American officials are still treating Ehud Barak's victory over Benjamin Netanyahu as a major accomplishment for the cause of peace in the Middle East. No one, it seems, is willing or has the desire to acknowledge that while Barak may have ambitions for peace, great ideas and good peaceful intentions, his negotiation tools are no less racist and inferior than those of the Likud.... When the Israeli government--regardless of who its leader is--acknowledges that settlements are not sacred lands and their existence must not control the peace settlement, either from a geographical--or especially--from a security point of view...when the Israeli government acknowledges that Jerusalem has special religious and cultural dimensions which do not belong to Jews alone...when the Israeli government a

cknowledges that security is for all, not for one party alone...then it will be correct to assert that normalization (with Israel) can serve the cause of peace."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 SYRIA: "The Danger Of The Current Situation"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Muhammed Ali Buza commented in government-owned

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Al-Thawra

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/3): "The recent U.S. statements on peace oscillated between optimism and pessimism.... On the eve of Oslo meeting, President Clinton's rhetoric was less optimistic and more realistic as he described the chance of peace as 'fragile.' This pessimistic tone comes at a time the world community is expecting a more active [U.S. role]; it is a dangerous sign.... It is unacceptable for the U.S. administration to unleash general statements as if it is a marginal participant and not the initiator of a peace plan; as if its bias toward Israel is not prohibiting it from correcting the course of the peace process.... We realize that it is useless to bet on any change in the United States' performance on the peace process... but we still have our own choices and have our means to retrieve our lands and rights."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 GERMAN: "Oslo Disperses Spirit Of Mistrust"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Right-of-center

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Fuldaer Zeitung

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 indicated (11/4): "The meeting in Oslo this week...mainly served to dispel the spirit of distrust which had covered tense relations during Netanyahu's term like mildew."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 "Oslo Was Good For The Climate"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Peter Wendt concluded in right-of-center

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Maerkische Oderzeitung

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 of Frankfurt on the Oder (11/4): "Although the core questions of the peace process were not addressed, President Clinton but also Premier Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat accepted the continuation of the peace process as a legacy of former Israeli Premier Rabin. By doing so, they prepared a fertile ground for the beginning of the final status talks."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ITALY: "Oslo's Optimism Vs. Disputes Over Jerusalem"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Provocative, classical liberal

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Il Foglio

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 underscored this theme (11/4): "While the Oslo talks among President Clinton, Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat have generated a wind of optimism, even though with caution, concerning the resumption of the peace process, a stormy climate is rising in Jerusalem...as far as inter-religious relations are concerned."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 RUSSIA: "Success"

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Pyotr Chernyakov reported from Oslo for centrist

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Nezavisimaya Gazeta

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "The sides involved in the Middle East peace process agree that the summit meeting in Oslo was a success."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 JAPAN: "Mixed Feelings Of Joy, Sorrow For President Clinton"

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Liberal

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Asahi

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 's Oslo correspondent Nishimura observed (11/4): "President Clinton's demonstration of leadership at the Oslo meeting could certainly have a positive effect on future efforts at putting the Middle East peace process back on track. But during his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Putin, Clinton remained far apart with Putin over Chechnya, missile defense and other issues.... The U.S. president also received a 'tough message' from Russian President Yeltsin, who strongly opposes revision of the ABM Treaty. Given these circumstances, President Clinton will have no other diplomatic option but to stake his remaining term of office upon the realization of Middle East peace."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 CANADA: "Ambitious Agenda"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 The Liberal

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Toronto Star

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 maintained (11/3): "Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat have given themselves barely 100 days to overcome 100 years of mistrust, bloodshed and wasted opportunity. On Monday, they plan to breathe new hope into the six-year-old Mid-east peace process by launching talks to draft a broad political 'framework' by mid-February to set up a Palestinian state.... Barak's main challenge, in the next 100 days, is to persuade Israelis that they can serve their own

n interests best by offering Palestinians a generous peace, and a state that is stable enough to be a partner, not a problem."

0 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 CHECHNYA: OBSERVERS WORRY ABOUT RUSSIA'S 'SCORCHED EARTH' CAMPAIGN

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 RUSSIA: "Russia Would Rather Lose the West Than Chechnya" \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Aleksandr Sukhotin commented in reformist \plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Vremya-MN

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4) on Putin's trip to Oslo: "In recent years, except during NATO's air raids on Belgrade, Russia put up with the West's mentor-like and selfish ways. That changed, however, when the West toughened its stand on the Chechnya issue. Moscow took it as a betrayal. Exhortations by the Alliance, which has just about razed to the ground a sovereign state in the Balkans, cause an angry 'Look who's talking.' Western criticisms are readily associated here with interference in Russia's internal affairs. After all, Chechnya is part of Russia. Sad as it may be for Moscow to lose the West, losing Chechnya seems like an incomparably greater evil and a threat to Russia itself. Knowing little about the Caucasus, even less about Chechnya, the West, so cynics say, does not give a damn about Chechens, as it did not give a damn about Serbs, Albanians or other aborigines. The Americans want Russia to ease up on ABM. The West would like to have a bigger role in the Caucasus, but the methods it is using to secure it are too risky. To use the Russians' natural proclivity for masochism is one thing, but to interfere in their internal affairs and attack their egos is quite another."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 "Refugees Are No Trivia"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Ilya Bulavinov wrote in reformist, business-oriented

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Kommersant Daily

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "Clearly, Putin can't finish this war quickly.

He just can't do this--it would take years to destroy the militants completely, and it is impossible to make them capitulate. While he may get away with the war and its victims, he won't get away with a humanitarian catastrophe. The West won't be able to remain silent either--the war in Yugoslavia showed that the public is very sensitive to the refugee issue these days. The problem is really tough. Carried away with the fighting, the

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 government did not bother with trivia like having to provide accommodations for forced displaced people."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx

720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 "Ingushetia Is Part Of Russia Too"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 L. Nikolayev, referring to the sorry plight of Chechen refugees in neighboring Ingushetia and Ingushetian President Aushev's questioning the legitimacy of the federal troops' action in his republic, remarked in nationalist, opposition

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Sovetskaya Rossiya

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "We may refer to 'bad guy Aushev' and provide lots of other reasons, but the fact is that Ingushetia, just like Chechnya, is part of Russia, so Moscow and personally the premier are responsible for whatever happens there. For Putin, Chechen refugees are really a time bomb."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 BRITAIN: "Why Moscow Will Not Easily Listen To Pleas For Restraint"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 The centrist

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Independent

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 had this analysis (11/4) by associate editor Rupert Cornwell: "For all its dismay at Russia's deadly onslaught against Chechnya, the West has little scope to exert military, economic or even diplomatic pressure on Moscow to make it change its policies. Though the parallel is constantly drawn with the Serb oppression of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, there is all the difference in the world between punitive strikes on an isolated, small-to-middling country in central Europe and action against a nuclear-armed former superpower with a permanent seat on the UNSC. With the military option a non-starter, the search turns to economic and diplomatic leverage. But there, too, the possibilities are scant. Russia has no immediate need for outside financial support; and even before the Chechen crisis, its relations with the West--and the United States in particular--were under heavy strain.... Theoretically, the West could retaliate by suspending negotiations to reschedule a bulge of Soviet debt due for repayment in the next few years. But that might trigger an immensely disruptive Russian default--with potentially damaging political repercussions."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 FRANCE: "A Dance Macabre"

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Jacques Amalric observed in left-of-center

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Liberation

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "On the footsteps of many czars, Vladimir Putin has entered the 'dance macabre' in the Caucasus.... But he is more methodical and more persistent than his predecessors.... The air strikes are not always on target, causing many civilian casualties. But Moscow cares very little about this. Its aim is to 'free Chechnya from terrorism...' as Igor Sergueiev said. And although he did not say it outright, every Chechen is a potential terror

ist for his troops. This scorched earth policy will end in a regional catastrophe. Russia's 'reconquest' of Chechnya will contaminate the neighboring republics.... The West's embarrassed silence in the face of this new colonial adventure is hard to understand. In the first place, because the violence inflicted on the people of Chechnya goes against the code of good conduct accepted by the new Russia.... Second, because the methods and manipulations used in this conflict point to the impossibility of democracy in Russia. How can we forget that the only justification for the horrors being perpetrated in Chechnya is the election [for president] of a prime minister whose training was insured by the KGB?"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 "The West Puts No Pressure On Moscow"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Pierre Haski judged in left-of-center

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Liberation

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "The West's capacity for indignation has remarkably diminished...since Kosovo and Bosnia.... At the OSCE summit in Istanbul next month, Western leaders will have a choice between an open crisis with Russia and discrediting the organization.... How will it be possible to avoid speaking about Chechnya?... In Oslo, Bill Clinton was not particularly demanding when he spoke with Putin, even if no one expected him to be threatening.... In the past year, the concept of humanitarian intervention, with Kosovo, East Timor and Chechnya, has seen various interpretations.... With Chechnya, it is clear that intervention applies more to 'rogue' states than to former superpowers, which have a right of

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 veto at the UN and a nuclear arsenal.... This year, the right to intervene has made two steps forward and one backward."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 GERMAN: "Helpless"

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Werner Adam argued in right-of-center

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "The misery of the refugees in the Northern Caucasus creates oppressive memories of the events in Kosovo.... Moscow does not need to fear a response [to its offensive] similar to the one that [the West] gave the regime in Belgrade. This is the logic of the so-called realpolitik...even though, with respect to the humanitarian aspect of the affair, there is hardly a difference between the Caucasus and Kosovo. Although the flow of refugees has swollen to more than 200,000 people, the Russian generals want to stop their...campaign against Chechnya only if the small Caucasian republic is again under full control of Moscow. But the future will tell whether this will ever be possible. But one thing is becoming obvious. The bigger the applause for P

utin among his Russian compatriots, the deeper will be the hatred against him and his military in Northern Caucasus."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ITALY: "Clinton Stirred Souls"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Cesare De Carlo filed from Washington in conservative, top-circulation syndicate \plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 La Nazione

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "Returning from Oslo, President Clinton may not have revived the Middle East peace process, but he certainly succeeded in stirring the souls and the conscience of the West about Chechnya, another serious international crisis."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 FINLAND: "Cruel War, Bad Justifications"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Leading, independent

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Helsingin Sanomat

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ran this editorial (11/3): "It is clear that the aim of the Russian military action is not just to destroy isolated criminal and terrorist groups but to subjugate all of Chechnya. The 1996 agreement with Grozny has been torn apart and President Yeltsin's pledge to continue on a peaceful path has been forgotten. The Russian army is moving forward slowly and appears mainly to be using artillery. It is a very ineffective way of fighting mobile guerrilla groups but effective in a war of conquest, if civilian casualties don't count. The Russian army wants revenge for its humiliation in 1996.... And the Kremlin is fomenting nationalist feelings and diverting attention away from internal problems in the run-up to the Duma elections."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 THE NETHERLANDS: "Chechnya As An Obstacle"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 According to independent, influential

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 NRC Handelsblad

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 's editorial (11/2): "The [OSCE] on principal and practical grounds is not in favor of a further breakup of existing states into scarcely viable ethnically autonomous units, certainly not in a region of such international tension as the Caucasus. That the Kremlin wishes to retain the unity of the Russian Federation is not opposed. But the way in which the Russians conduct themselves is not acceptable. Their retort, that it concerns an internal question and that local terrorism must be combated, does not hold vis-a-vis the obligations they have incurred as member of the OSCE. The OSCE, therefore, must not avoid a confrontation in Istanbul, unless it wishes to lose its credibility."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx

720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 TURKEY: "Ecevit's Moscow Visit"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Semih Idiz wrote in the tabloid

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Star

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "Ecevit, who left for Moscow today, will sign an anti-terrorism agreement with Russia, which for Moscow means 'do not interfere with my affairs with the Chechens, and I will not interfere in the Kurdish issue.' Lately Ankara and Moscow have been competing strongly for Caspian oil and natural gas resources. The fact that Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan get dragged into political instability when there are signs that Russia won't participate in regional developments is significant. Turkey and Russia are the two

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 key players in the Caucasus, and unless they agree on a joint approach, stability in the region will remain just a dream."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \tx0 \tx720 \tx1440 \tx2160 \tx2880 \tx3600 \tx4320 \tx5040 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 BRIEF S

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 BALKANS: ALBRIGHT: AID TO BELGRADE IN RETURN FOR FREE ELECTIONS; POLICY SHIFT?

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 GERMANY: "The Blunt Weapon Of Sanctions"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Peter Muench opined (11/4) in centrist

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Sueddeutsche Zeitung

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 of Munich, "Five months after the end of the war, an urgently necessary strategic discussion has begun about whether sanctions against Serbia will have a positive effect and what will be the negative consequences of such sanctions. The Europeans are pursuing a soft line...and they are working hard to convince the Americans of this approach. This is not easy, because it is well known that the hawks of a sanctions policy sit in Washington. From the Cubans to the Iraqis, many people can testify how stringently the United States continues to adhere to a policy of sanctions.... Since the beginning of the 90s, the Serbs have lived with...embargoes. During this time, they waged wars against Croatia, in Bosnia, and in Kosovo, but the sanctions were unable to prevent these wars.... Misery is not driving the Serbs to the barricades,...they have fallen into apathy.... Those who want to topple Milosevic must do everything to strengthen his opponents. Nobody can foresee how the opposition will deal with such support. Milosevic will certainly also try to profit from such assistance. But it is by no means certain that such a strategy would be successful.... But to sum it up, we can say that today there are more arguments for a relaxation of sanctions from which the people are suffering. And one thing is sure: the alternative to this relaxation has failed."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ITALY: "Elections In Serbia And We Will Provide (The Country) With Oil"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Massimo Cavallini reported from Washington

in pro-DS (leading government party) daily

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 L'Unita

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 (11/4): "According to State Department spokesman James Rubin, they are not really 'updating' a policy whose two basic points--'exerting continued pressure on Milosevic and supporting the opposition'--remain, overall, the same. However, it would be very difficult to term Madeleine Albright's announcement yesterday...as a simple 'variant' to U.S. strategy in the Balkans.

... Left alone with journalists, after Secretary Albright and Serbian leaders departed, James Rubin did his very best to demonstrate that 'under no circumstances' had the U.S. administration 'yielded' in its principles."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 "Maybe Albright And Dini Think (Almost) The Same Of Sloba (Milosevic)"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 A front-page analysis in provocative, classical liberal

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Il Foglio

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 said (11/4), "Yesterday Madeleine Albright, herself, announced important political news: As soon as Milosevic allows free elections, the United States will be willing to lift the embargo. This (news) no longer means 'only when Sloba (Milosevic) will have gone.' The novelty in the U.S. position is also due to the petition submitted by the Belgrade opposition led by Zoran Djindjic and Dragoslav Avramovic. However, the U.S. position remains quite far from the Italian position.... However, the opportunity that Washington has just offered to the Yugoslav opposition

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 does not coincide with Milosevic's legitimization. It is still a long, difficult way to go (toward common views/sic)."

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \qc \li720 \fi0 \ri500 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 ELECTIONS ROUNDUP: GEORGIA, UKRAINE, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY,

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \b \f5 \fs22 \cf0 GERMANY: "Georgia Parliamentary Elections, Fear As Election Supporter"

\par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \par \pard \li720 \fi0 \ri0 \sl240 \sb0 \sa0 \plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Centrist

\plain \ul \f5 \fs22 \cf0 Sueddeutsche Zeitung

\plain \f5 \fs22 \cf0 of Munich opined (11/2), "Eduard Shevardnadze's party scored so well in the elections in Georgia that the impression comes up that it has achieved a suspiciously good result. Indeed, the opposition parties already raised the suspicion of election fraud.... Nevertheless, it is likely that the outcome of the second free parliamentary elections in Georgia were achieved not through election fraud but through regular elections. Eduard Shevardnadze owes his success to two things: to the cruel attack against the Armenian parliament and to the Russian war against Chechnya. The bloodbath in Georgia demonstrated to the Georgians again how easy it is for their region to go down in chaos, anarchy, and violence. This is why they elected the only man who guaranteed stability over the past few years: Eduard Shevardnadze. Moscow's brutal campaign in Chechnya...reminded the Georgians again that Russia has never given up its aim to recapture control over the Caucasus. This is why they elected the only

y man who offered them the perspective of a link to the West: Eduard Shevardna dze. Now it is up to the West to remember this trust bonus which the small Georgia gave to the West."

Ukraine Presidential Elections: Preliminary Winner Kuchma"

Werner Adam says in an editorial in right-of-center

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

(11/2), "Ukraine witnessed everything else but a fair election campaign.... Nevertheless, the favorable outcome for the incumbent is no falsification of the voter's will, since it is difficult to imagine that the majority of Ukrainians wants to return to a planned economy and back to the Russian core country.... But this is what communist front-runner Simonenko promised, who, despite his considerable lead to the other contenders, will have no chance of winning in the run-off elections against Kuchma. In the first vote, the current president presented himself as the only serious supporter of the market economy.... However, with respect to internal stability, Ukraine is better off than Russia. And Ukraine owes this to the man whose re-election cannot be doubted."

POLAND: "Kuchma Self-Assured"

Piotr Kosciński wrote in centrist

Rzeczpospolita

(11/2): "Leonid Kuchma has what he wanted: In the second round of the elections, he will compete with Petro Symonenko, leader of the communists. One can expect his election campaign in the two coming weeks will be held according to a simple pattern which says: If you don't vote for me, communists will come to power, and coming with them will be the lack of commodities in stores, long lines, and, finally, political terror. It is almost one hundred percent certain today that Kuchma will win.... As the elections showed, more than one-third of the citizens believe him."

ARGENTINA : "Uruguayan Elections: Broad Enough?"

An editorial in the Liberal, English-language

Buenos Aires Herald

read (11/2), "The only certainty after Sunday's Uruguayan elections is that a November 28 runoff will be held between Broad Front candidate Tabare Vazquez and the ruling Colorado Party's Jorge Batlle. A confident victory forecast can be made for each man... but each would be simplistic.... Before the election National Party leader ex-president Luis Lacalle promised not only to back Batlle but to campaign for him in the second round, (but) can he carry his voters or will these join a prevailing protest mood? The clues to Uruguay's next president lie partly in the economic situation and partly in the personalities of the two surviving candidates in a duel which pits charisma against dynasty (three past presidents carried the Batlle surname)--if Argentina's recent elections were won by a boring Alliance candidate, in Uruguay one candidate (Batlle) is boring and the other (Vazquez) heads a center-left alliance. One key question is whether

V

azquez still embodies the protest mood against traditional politics or whether his two terms as Montevideo mayor have not made him part of the Establishment.. .. The economy also cuts both ways since Vazquez' tax proposals (cutting value-added taxation via a new income levy including bank deposits) have caused wide spread alarm. Yet Vazquez not only has four weeks to pledge upkeep bank secrecy but can also offer the Broad Front's minority position in Congress as a guarantee against drastic reform."

\\par \\pard \\li720 \\fi0 \\ri0 \\sl240 \\sb0 \\sa0 \\plain \\b \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 MEXICO:

"Uruguay, Turn To The Left"

\\par \\pard \\li720 \\fi0 \\ri0 \\sl240 \\sb0 \\sa0 \\par \\pard \\li720 \\fi0 \\ri0 \\sl240 \\sb0 \\sa0 \\plain \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 Left-of-center

\\plain \\ul \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 La Jornada

\\plain \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 opined (11/1), "One can expect the Progressive Encounter party to gain a majority in Congress. From that position--and from the presidency, should they win it--the Uruguayan left has before it the responsibility of rebuilding a national economy which has been ever exclusive and which now, to make matters worse, shows an acute crisis, with over 10 percent of the population unemployed.... (This parallels with the Argentinean elections of last week, in which voters put an end to two 'disastrous' consecutive periods of Menemism.) One should hope that these two facts contribute to the start of a regional, Latin American trend that will place formal democratic mechanisms at the service of the social transformation that our nations so urgently need."

\\plain \\b \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 "Argentina And Now Uruguay, Hope For The Southern Cone"

\\par \\pard \\li720 \\fi0 \\ri0 \\sl240 \\sb0 \\sa0 \\par \\pard \\li720 \\fi0 \\ri0 \\sl240 \\sb0 \\sa0 \\plain \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 An editorial in nationalist
\\plain \\ul \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 El Universal

\\plain \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 stated (11/1), "The triumph of opposition candidate Fernando de la Rúa in Argentina makes evident the vote was against an economic policy that during the Carlos Menem administration favored unproductive sectors to the detriment of employment and salaries. This is a similar to the situation in Uruguay during its civil government period.... Voters are not satisfied with macroeconomic achievements, which both countries have had, especially in the war on inflation. In contrast, as happens throughout the subcontinent there has been a decline in living conditions of large sectors of the population.... Nevertheless, it is an important phenomenon that democracy is making way in the Southern Cone."

\\par \\pard \\qc \\li720 \\fi0 \\ri0 \\sl240 \\sb0 \\sa0 \\plain \\f5 \\fs22 \\cf0 \\par ##

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