

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: HRaymont@aol.com (HRaymont@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-DEC-1999 21:31:54.00

SUBJECT: Fwd: Favor confirmar recepcion del material. Gracias.

TO: william_rogers@aporter.com (william_rogers@aporter.com [UNKNOWN])
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CC: tmcnamara@as-coa.org (tmcnamara@as-coa.org [UNKNOWN])
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CC: enrsan@eltiempo.com.co (enrsan@eltiempo.com.co [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: rpastor@emory.edu (rpastor@emory.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: SchemanR@gtlaw.com (SchemanR@gtlaw.com [UNKNOWN])
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TEXT:

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Cc: rguizado@epasa.com, vision@epasa.com, director@epasa.com
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EXCLUSIVA Atencion Sr. Barroso - NACION

Henry Raymont

WASHINGTON-La presidente Mireya Moscoso de Panama, a pocos dias de presidir sobre la ceremonia de la transferencia del canal, llevo a Buenos Aires la emocion del anhelo de los panamenos de asumir la plena soberania

de
la franja de su territorio que durante mas de medio siglo flameaba la
bandera
de Estados Unidos.

En presencia de los jefes de Estado de varios paises latinoamericanos
que
asisten a la toma de posesion el dia de hoy del presidente-electo
argentino,
Fernando de la Rúa, la mandataria panamena confeso que aun "no podía creer"
que esta por culminar el proceso de la devolucion del canal y de las tierras
lindantes, segun informaciones de fuentes diplomaticas.

"Nos afecto a todos su profunda emocion y el orgullo con que anticipa
la
entrega del canal", manifesto en una entrevista telefonica con este
corresponsal un destacado funcionario diplomatico que asistio una recepcion
el miercoles a la noche ofrecida por el presidente saliente, Carlos Menem.

Entre los invitados con que converso la mandataria panamena estaban los
presidentes Hugo Banzer de Bolivia, Alberto Fujimori de Peru, y Andres
Pastrana de Colombia, ademas de Julio Sanguinetti de Uruguay y el
presidente
electo de ese pais, Jorge Batlle.

"Puedo decir de que el orgullo expresado por la presidenta Moscoso es
compartido por todos los que asistimos a la toma de posesion de De la Rúa,"
anoto el diplomatico, recordando como en agosto de 1977 unos 18 jefes de
Estado que se apersonaron a la firma de los Tratados Torrijos-Carter en el
gran Salon de las Americas de la sede de la Organizacion de los Estados
Americanos (OEA) el 7 de agosto de 1977.

"Han pasado mas de 20 años, pero la presidenta nos dijo que recién
cuando
recibio una comunicacion de la embajada de Estados Unidos con un borrador
de
texto de los documentos que serán intercambiados en la ceremonia del
próximo
martes tanto ella como su equipo de política exterior comenzaron a
compenetrarse de que el gran sueño panameno estaba por concretarse y eso
les
causo una extraordinaria emoción," anadio.

El diplomatico, que pidio que no se usara su nombre pero que estuvo
presente en la ceremonia de la OEA, dijo que el asombro que todavía siente
la
presidenta Moscoso le recordaron el breve discurso del general Omar
Torrijos
en esa ocasion, cuando dijo que hasta el momento de la firma temia que a
último momento el gobierno del presidente Jimmy Carter "podía
arrepentirse" y
cancelar el tratado.

Dijo que Moscoso y sus acompañantes hablaron del periodo entre la
firma y
la ceremonia del próximo martes cerca de la esclusa de Miraflores como
"años
de luces y sombras", en las que ella y algunos de sus copartidarios
sufrieron
el exilio y los organos de prensa fueron censurados y en algunos casos
completamente controlados por la dictadura militar, especialmente bajo

Manuel
Noriega.

No fue posible verificar el contenido de las notas con el embajador de Estados Unidos en Panama, Simon Ferro, porque no pudo atender las llamadas por estar "en conferencia" segun una secretaria de la embajada.

Pero una fuente cercana al departamento de Estado explico que se trata de "formas protocolares" que se usan en el traspaso internacional de propiedades.

Para asistir a la ceremonia del traspaso del canal el ex-presidente Carter, que encabezara la delegacion de Estados Unidos junto con la secretaria de Estado Madeleine Albright, viajara de Africa, donde se encuentra actualmente, a Washington para sumarse a la comitiva que incluye unas 45 personas.

La secretaria de Estado estara acompaado por un contingente de periodistas que saldran directamente de Panama a Bruselas para asistir a una reunion de cancilleres de la OTAN.

Ademas de Carter y Albright, la delegacion de Estados Unidos estara integrada por Buddy MacKay, el enviado especial del presidente Clinton a Latinoamerica; el embajador Sol Linowitz, el ultimo negociador de los Tratados Torrijos-Carter; el ex-senador Howard Baker, que fue el lider de la minoria republicana pero que apoyo los tratados; Robert Pastor, profesor del Centro Carter de la Emory University de Atlanta que fue el director de asuntos latinoamericanos del Consejo Nacional de Seguridad durante la presidencia de Carter.

Tambien debia a unirse a la comitiva, el ex-secretario de Estado Henry Kissinger que con el entonces canciller panameno Juan Antonio Tack que en 1974 firmo el llamado "Memorandum de Ocho Puntos" que comprometio a los Estados Unidos a renegociar el Tratado canalero. Pero Kissinger declino la invitacion.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: "Congressional Quarterly@cq.com" <Congressional.Quarterly@cq.com> ("Congressional Quarterly@cq.com" <Congressional.Quarterly@cq.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:14-DEC-1999 14:20:14.00

SUBJECT: cq-Subject: CQ MIDDAY UPDATE 12-14-99

TO: cq@cq.com (cq@cq.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

:::: Posted to cq list at CQ by "Congressional Quarterly@cq.com"
<Congressional.Quarterly@cq.com>
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CQ MIDDAY UPDATE

from Congressional Quarterly - <http://www.CQ.com>
Tuesday - Dec. 14, 1999 - 2:05 p.m.

TODAY IN WASHINGTON:

- LEAD STORY: President Clinton is weighing protective "national monument" status for additional lands in the West.
- The HOUSE and SENATE are in adjournment until noon on Monday, Jan. 24.
- President CLINTON plans a signing ceremony for a bill (HR 3443) to ease the transition of young adults from foster care to independent living.
- In WASHINGTON, National Drug Control Policy Director Barry McCaffrey and International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch meet to discuss IOC drug testing procedures and policies.
- The QUOTE OF THE DAY: "We regret very much that President Clinton won't attend this unique and historic act." Panama's President Mireya MOSCOSO.
- Today's TRIVIA: Georgia's 9th Congressional District includes Rabun County, where the movies "Deliverance" and "Smokey and the Bandit" were filmed. (Source: Congressional Quarterly's "Politics in America.")

Edited by Martha Angle and Jack Deutsch

CLINTON WEIGHS PROTECTIVE STATUS FOR MORE WESTERN LANDS:

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt today recommended that President Clinton create three more national monuments in the West and expand a fourth. "Secretary Babbitt's recommendations come as a result of careful analysis and extensive discussions with local citizen, state and local officials and with members of Congress," Clinton said. "And I will take them very seriously. I expect to make a decision on the sites early next year." Babbitt recommended designating 1 million acres along the north rim of the Grand Canyon as the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument; 71,100 acres of federal land north of Phoenix as the Agua Fria National Monument;

thousands of small federally owned islands, reefs and rocks along the California Coast as the Coastal National Monument; and adding 8,000 acres to the Pinnacles National Monument near San Jose, Calif. The House on Sept. 24 passed legislation (HR 1487) that would allow more public participation in monument designations. The Senate Energy Committee approved the bill without change Oct. 20, but now plans to hold it up for further review in light of Clinton's plans.

CLINTON SEEKS TO PROTECT 18 SITES UNDER 'LANDS LEGACY' PROGRAM:

President Clinton today announced he will send Congress a list of 18 natural and historic sites that he proposes to protect with new funding for his Lands Legacy Initiative. Clinton had sought \$800 million for the program, but Congress provided only \$470 million in the year-end omnibus spending bill (HR 3194 - PL 106-113). Clinton is targeting for acquisition sites ranging from "critical habitat on Florida's Pelican Island, where Theodore Roosevelt established the nation's very first wildlife preserve" to the "birth home and burial place of Martin Luther King Jr." He said the government had found "willing sellers" for all 18 sites on the list, "and we look forward to speedy review by the appropriate committees in Congress."

NAM LOBBYISTS OUTLINE GOALS FOR 2000:

Lobbyists for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) today said they will go all out to block implementation of a new Occupational Safety and Health Administration ergonomics rule designed to prevent repetitive motion injuries. Patrick Cleary, NAM's vice president for human resources policy, said, "What's the rush? I for one smell a political rat. We will do everything in our power to fight this." For starters, NAM is asking for a three-month extension of the 60-day public comment period, which ends Feb. 1. Sandy Boyd, another human resources lobbyist, said NAM also will press for legislation to lift the ceiling on H1-B visas for high-tech workers. On health care issues, lobbyist Neil Trautwein said NAM representatives are meeting with key lawmakers during the current recess to discourage final action on patients' rights legislation (HR 2990) now in conference.

SMALL BUSINESSES ASK FOR MORE GOVERNMENT HELP WITH EXPORTS:

The federal government should increase financing assistance for small business export projects if more companies are to compete globally, business experts told a Senate Small Business Committee forum today. "Financing is a choke point," said Edmund B. Rice, president of the Coalition for Employment Through Exports of Washington, D.C. "The financing organs of the U.S. government are going to have to loosen up a bit," agreed Willard A. Workman, international vice president for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Banks often consider small business export projects too small to support, while the government generally has minimum loan limits. Small businesses also need a clearinghouse for information about U.S. regulations and export opportunities, participants said. Committee Chairman Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., held the forum to determine why the number of small businesses using U.S. export programs was lower than anticipated in 1998.

CHINA TRADE OPPONENTS VOW ALL-OUT EFFORT:

Energized by their disruption of the world trade ministers meeting in Seattle two weeks ago, labor, environmental and human rights groups

vowed today to make an all-out effort to prevent Congress from approving permanent Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status for China and clearing the way for China's entry into the World Trade Organization. Citizens Trade Campaign, an umbrella group, said it will target 100 congressional districts for grass-roots efforts against expanding trade with China. Teamsters President James P. Hoffa promised to "flood congressional offices. We will march on Washington, we will do whatever it takes." Joan Claybrook, president of Public Citizen, said she expects the business community to spend \$12 million to lobby for permanent China NTR. "The whole crowd is going to be there, but we're going to overwhelm them with our crowd," Claybrook said.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIRMS TARGET HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS:

Repeal of the federal telecommunications excise tax and enactment of legislation to deregulate high-speed Internet access service top next year's legislative agenda for the U.S. Telecommunications Association. Roy Neel, the trade group's president, said today the association will attempt to convince Congress to allow telephone companies to provide "high quality" universal telephone service, while receiving tax breaks to cover the cost of providing the unprofitable service. Neel said his group will also push for legislation that would make it easier for local companies to compete with AT&T in the high-speed Internet access market. The industry plans to hit the ground running early next year, anticipating a legislative session shortened by election campaigns, Neel added.

N.J. MAN SENTENCED TO PROBATION FOR THREAT TO REP. GEKAS:

A New Jersey man who made a telephone threat to a senior House Judiciary Committee Republican during last year's impeachment proceedings was sentenced to three years' probation today. Edward M. Devine, 35, of Garfield, N.J., could have received up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for his call to Rep. George W. Gekas, R-Pa., but U.S. District Judge Yvette Kane ruled that Devine meant no real harm and instead needed alcohol counseling. Kane also ordered Devine to spend four months at an alcohol treatment center, perform 200 hours of community service and pay a \$3,100 fine. Devine called Gekas' district office in Harrisburg at 4 a.m. on Dec. 11, 1998, the day after Gekas and other committee members made their opening statements at President Clinton's impeachment hearings. Devine left his name and number on the machine and said, "If I see you I am going to shoot you in the (expletive) head. You suck. You make me sick. You need to be shot. You need to be executed."

CLINTON VOWS 'CONTINUING COMMITMENT' TO SECURITY OF PANAMA CANAL:

President Clinton today vowed a "continuing commitment" to the security of the Panama Canal and a determination that the strategic waterway remain open for global commerce. To the dismay of Panamanian leaders, Clinton skipped today's ceremonial handover of the canal to Panama, sending former President Carter to represent the United States. Carter signed the treaties in 1977 agreeing to give up the Panama Canal and transfer more than 360,000 acres of land to Panama. "Today's ceremony underscores our confidence in the government of Panama and the Panamanian people's ability to manage this vital artery of commerce," Clinton said in a written statement. "It also signals our continuing commitment to the security of the canal, as enshrined in our treaty obligations, and our determination to work with Panama and the many other countries that use the

canal to ensure that it remains open to the world's shipping and commerce."

POLITICAL CLIPPINGS:

The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER reported that Jon S. Corzine, a New Jersey Senate candidate, "showed last night the dramatic strides he has made toward capturing the Democratic nomination." Corzine's campaign said it raised \$700,000 at "a fundraising event attended by the party's political and financial elite." The event featured an endorsement from Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb. Also in attendance was Sen. Robert G. Torricelli, D-N.J.

The BLOOMINGTON (Ill.) PANTAGRAPH reported that Democrat Mike Kelleher, "formally announced his candidacy" for the 15th Congressional District seat. Kelleher has a "war chest topping \$100,000 ... and endorsements from nearly all local Democratic leaders." Former Democratic state Rep. Laurel Prussing is challenging Kelleher in the primary. The seat is held by Republican Thomas W. Ewing, who is retiring.

The COLUMBUS DISPATCH reported that Democratic Rep. Ted Strickland "officially launched his bid yesterday for a third consecutive term in southern Ohio's 6th Congressional District. Meanwhile, former Republican Rep. Frank Cremeans said yesterday he is still weighing two potential races: seeking a rematch with Strickland or challenging incumbent Republican Sen. Mike DeWine." One Republican, Mike Azinger of Marietta, has filed to run against Strickland.

AND FINALLY ...

The watchdog group Public Campaign today bestowed the dubious honor of its "Golden Leash" award on Bill Bradley, George W. Bush, Al Gore and John McCain for drawing funds for their presidential campaigns disproportionately from the nation's wealthiest zip codes. Comparing demographic data with campaign finance information from the Center for Responsive Politics, the group found that Manhattan's Upper East Side 10021 zone, the well-known Beverly Hill's zip code 90210 and Northwest Washington's 20016 - all wealthy and with overwhelmingly white populations - rank among the top 10 nationwide in producing presidential campaign contributions. The group said Bradley has collected nearly half a million dollars from 10021; Bush, more than \$1 million from the wealthy Dallas zip codes 75205 and 75225; Gore, more than \$870,000 from 10021, 90210 and Northwest Washington's 20008; and McCain, \$137,000 from the Paradise Valley, Ariz., zip code 85253.

--30--

Editor: Kinsey Wilson

Managing Editor: Jackie Frank

Senior Editors: Martha Angle, John Bicknell, Jack Deutsch, Kathleen Silvassy and Randy Wynn

Reporters: The staff of the CQ Daily Monitor and CQ Weekly

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Erik Brand <brande@nationalpress.com> (Erik Brand <brande@nationalpress.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-DEC-1999 08:57:11.00

SUBJECT: Wednesday's Latin America Advisor

TO: latinpub@iaginteractive.com (latinpub@iaginteractive.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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TODAY'S TOP NEWS STORIES

Slight Dip In Inflation Predicted For
Ecuador

Peru Suspends \$288 Million Bond Sale

Venezuelans Prepare To Vote On New
Constitution

Panama Canal Ceremonies Mark The
End Of U.S. Control

\$100,000 Reward Offered For
Ex-Paraguayan General's Capture

Police And Protesters Clash In Argentina

Whirlpool Ups Offer For Brazilian Units

Chile's Codelco May Produce Copper In
Brazil

TODAY'S QUESTION

The continuing downturn in Ecuador's
economy, which is expected to shrink
between 7 percent and 11 percent in 1999,
has recently led to a new round of calls for

President Jamil Mahuad's resignation. Do
you think Mahuad should step aside? To
what extent is he responsible for the
country's economic ills and to what extent
does the blame rest on the shoulders of
Congress, which has blocked many of his
attempts at economic reform?

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<br><i>Director</i>
<br><i>Columbus Group</i>
<p><b>W. Bowman Cutter</b>
<br><i>Managing Director,</i>
<br><i>E.M. Warburg Pincus</i>
<p><b>Peter Egon de Svastich</b>
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<i>Chairman, </i>

<i>WestHem International</i>
<p>Peter J. Firestein

<i>Managing Director, </i>

<i>Latin America, </i>

<i>Thomson Financial</i>

<i>Investor Relations</i>
<p>Ken Frankel

<i>Head, Latin America </i>

<i>Practice Group, </i>

<i>Tory Haythe</i>
<p>Francis Freisinger

<i>Manager, </i>

<i>Latin American </i>

<i>Economics Group,</i>

<i>Merrill Lynch</i>
<p>Wallace Gardner

<i>Vice President, </i>

<i>Worldwide Sales, </i>

<i>Chubb & Son</i>
<p>Michael Gavin

<i>Head, Economic Research,</i>

<i>Latin America, </i>

<i>Warburg Dillon Read</i>
<p>Francisco Gros

<i>Chairman, </i>

<i>Latin America</i>

<i>Morgan Stanley </i>

<i>Dean Witter</i>
<p>Peter Gruber

<i>President,</i>

<i>Globalvest Management Company</i>
<p>Peter Hakim

<i>President,</i>

<i>Inter-American Dialogue</i>
<p>Robert C. Helander

<i>Partner,</i>

<i>Kaye, Scholer,</i>

<i>Fierman, et al.</i>
<p>Robert D. Hormats

<i>Vice Chairman, </i>

<i>Goldman Sachs International</i>
<p>James R. Jones

<i>Of Counsel,</i>

<i>Manatt, Phelps & Phillips</i>
<p>David R. Malpass

<i>Chief International Economist,</i>

<i>Bear Stearns & Co</i>
<p>Thomas F. McLarty III

<i>Vice Chairman, </i>

<i>Kissinger McLarty Associates</i>
<p>Geoffrey Milton

<i>General Manager, </i>

<i>New York Branch,</i>

<i>Arab Banking Corporation</i>
<p>Ronald Ratcliffe

<i>Chief Latin American Economist, </i>

<i>SG Cowen Securities</i>
<p>David L. Roberts

<i>Managing Director, </i>

<i>Sovereign Research,</i>

<i>Banc of America </i>

<i>Securities, LLC</i>
<p>Allen M. Rodriguez

<i>Co-Manager,</i>

<i>Global Economics,</i>

<i>General Motors Corporation</i>
<p>Thomas W. Studwell

<i>Partner, </i>

<i>Baker & McKenzie</i>
<p>Michael Warren

<i>Latin America Analyst, </i>

<i>Toyota Motor </i>

<i>Corporate Services</i>
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<p> To pose a question to the board e-mail <a href="mailto:latinpub@iagint
eractive.com">latinpub@iaginteractive.com
or
<p> By Phone: (212) 268-1443

By Fax: (212) 268-1113 </td>
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<p>TODAY'S TOP NEWS STORIES
<p><!--TOP NEWS STORY TITLES ARE PLACED HERE BY PUBLISHING SYSTEM--><a href=
"#story1">Slight
Dip In Inflation Predicted For Ecuador
<p>Peru Suspends \$288 Million Bond Sale
<p>Venezuelans Prepare To Vote On New Constitution

[Panama Canal Ceremonies Mark The End Of U.S. Control](#story3)

[\\$100,000 Reward Offered For Ex-Paraguayan General's Capture](#story5)

[Police And Protesters Clash In Argentina](#story6)

[Whirlpool Ups Offer For Brazilian Units](#story7)

[Chile's Codelco May Produce Copper In Brazil](#story8)

TODAY'S QUESTION

The continuing downturn in Ecuador's economy, which is expected to shrink between 7 percent and 11 percent in 1999, has recently led to a new round of calls for President Jamil Mahuad's resignation. Do you think Mahuad should step aside? To what extent is he responsible for the country's economic ills and to what extent does the blame rest on the shoulders of Congress, which has blocked many of his attempts at economic reform?

Yes: 17%

No: 50%

Other: 16%

"Yes" vote commentary: Peter Gruber: "Based on the failures to date of his Administration, Mahuad should of course step down. Unfortunately,

there are few desirable candidates to assume the Presidency. Accountability is essential, and to this extent he is responsible for the lack of consensus in Congress. Each and every member, however, has failed the people of Ecuador.

The Congress has a long history of deeply embedded, divided allegiances with many members beholden to small special interests. The country-wide lack of leadership does not bode well in the near term. Sadly, the best hope may be an even deeper crisis from which a strong leader such as Fujimori emerges."

"No" vote commentary: Peter Hakim: "A vicious cycle has taken hold in Ecuador. Over the years, a series of irresponsible, incompetent governments have undermined the country's economy. Economic failure, in turn, has drained the government of the authority and support it needs to implement and sustain policies that can move the economy out of its slump. As the economy continues to slide downhill, the government is further crippled and less able to act -- and the country's institutions lose credibility.

Mahuad inherited this situation and has not been able to turn it around. His resignation will not break this cycle. Indeed, it will probably make it worse. His successor will be in no better position, as long as intense partisan conflict and personal ambition continue to shape national politics and override any consideration for the national interest."

"Other" vote commentary: Robert C. Helander: "Let us grieve for our Ecuadorean friends, while we hope that the economic damage will not be even worse. My impression is that the excesses of the Ecuadorean political process may make it incapable of using the extraordinary talents of Mahuad, who is the latest and the best of the sacrificial offerings to a legislature

that tends to desert its executive within six months of each election. He is no naïf, but even so able a politician can only do so much in a country that attempted to avoid strongman presidents by giving them too little power to lead."

<p>"No" vote commentary: Geoffrey Milton: "I do not think Mahuad should step aside. I would not want to point fingers at any particular individual or group but would suggest that both the executive and congressional

branches of government and their predecessors all should share the blame. The sad state of affairs is a result of many years of economic mismanagement and lack of focus to the point where there is no easy solution. With the enormous debt service burden, Ecuador will need strong cooperation between the government, business, and international creditors to reach a viable conclusion. Because of this, it is very difficult to be optimistic."

<p>"No" vote commentary: Allen M. Rodriguez: "Mahuad and Ecuador's Congress should share the blame for Ecuador's economic downfall. The combinatio

n of a politically inept president and an obstructionist Congress created a potent blend of defeatism. Replacing Mahuad would not solve the country's formidable problems, although a new leader from the opposition party that controls the Congress could help accelerate the lengthy recovery."

<p>"No" vote commentary: James R. Jones: "Mahuad should not step down. Ecuador's current economic woes have many fathers with a special emphasis on its Congress. Economic reforms are necessary for Ecuador to show long-term growth and to create current-term confidence among the global financial markets. There is no other obvious choice to lead this effort other than Mahaud."

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LAG Latin America Advisor

TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Slight Dip In Inflation	Panama Canal Ceremonies
Predicted For Ecuador.....page 2	Mark The End Of U.S. Controlpage 2
Venezuelans Prepare To Vote	\$100,000 Reward Offered For
On New Constitution.....page 2	Ex-Paraguayan General's Capture ...page 3

QUESTION OF THE DAY

The continuing downturn in Ecuador's economy, which is expected to shrink between 7 percent and 11 percent in 1999, has recently led to a new round of calls for President Jamil Mahuad's resignation. Do you think Mahuad should step aside? To what extent is he responsible for the country's economic ills and to what extent does the blame rest on the shoulders of Congress, which has blocked many of his attempts at economic reform?

YES: 17%

NO: 67%

OTHER: 16%

"Yes" vote commentary: Peter Gruber: "Based on the failures to date of his Administration, Mahuad should of course step down. Unfortunately, there are few desirable candidates to assume the Presidency. Accountability is essential, and to this extent he is responsible for the lack of consensus in Congress. Each and every member, however, has failed the people of Ecuador. The Congress has a long history of deeply embedded, divided allegiances with many members beholden to small special interests. The country-wide lack of leadership does not bode well in the near term. Sadly, the best hope may be an even deeper crisis from which a strong leader such as Fujimori emerges."

"The combination of a politically inept president and an obstructionist congress created a potent blend of defeatism."

- Allen M. Rodriguez

"No" vote commentary: Peter Hakim: "A vicious cycle has taken hold in Ecuador. Over the years, a series of irresponsible, incompetent governments have undermined the country's economy. Economic failure, in turn, has drained the government of the authority and support it needs to implement and sustain policies that can move the economy out of its slump. As the economy continues to slide downhill, the government is further crippled and less able to act — and the country's institutions lose credibility. Mahuad inherited this situation and has not been able to turn it around. His resignation will not break this cycle. Indeed, it will probably make it worse. His successor will be in no better position, as long as intense partisan conflict and personal ambition continue to shape national politics and override any consideration for the national interest."

"Other" vote commentary: Robert C. Helander: "Let us grieve for our Ecuadorean friends, while we hope that the economic damage will not be even worse. My impression is that the excesses of the Ecuadorean political process may make it incapable of using the extraordinary talents of Mahuad, who is the latest and the best of the sacrificial offerings to a legislature that tends to desert its executive within six months of each election. He is no naif, but even so able a politician can only do so much in a country that attempted to avoid strongman presidents by giving them too little power to lead."

Continued On Page Two

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Continued from Page One

"No" vote commentary: Geoffrey Milton: "I do not think Mahuad should step aside. I would not want to point fingers at any particular individual or group but would suggest that both the executive and congressional branches of government and their predecessors all should share the blame. The sad state of affairs is a result of many years of economic mismanagement and lack of focus to the point where there is no easy solution. With the enormous debt service burden, Ecuador will need strong cooperation between the government, business, and international creditors to reach a viable conclusion. Because of this, it is very difficult to be optimistic."

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WEEK IN REVIEW

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Union Reports Agreement Averting Transit Strike

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<NYT_BYLINE>

By STEVEN GREENHOUSE

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

Transit workers and the M.T.A. reached a deal early Wednesday morning, narrowly averting a threatened strike, union officials said.

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Germans Plan on \$5 Billion in Payments to Nazi Slaves

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By EDMUND L. ANDREWS

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

After months of bitter negotiations, German industry and government officials agreed on Tuesday to establish a fund of 10 billion marks, or \$5.1 billion, to compensate slave laborers during the Nazi regime.

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A Perpetual Winner Saw Liberation in Near Failure

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By JAMES DAO

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<NYT_SUMMARY>

To many of Bill Bradley critics and supporters alike, the disastrous 1990 campaign -- both sides use the adjective -- represents the most important event in his political life.

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'It's Yours,' Carter Tells the Panamanians

</NYT_HEADLINE>

<NYT_BYLINE>

By DAVID GONZALEZ

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

Former president Jimmy Carter exchanged diplomatic notes with President Mireya Moscoso of Panama granting Panama sovereignty and responsibility for the canal.

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Mideast Fresh Air: Israel Awaits Sign

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<NYT_BYLINE>

By DEBORAH SONTAG

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

Israel and its neighbors have arrived at a critical turning point. When the Syrian foreign minister greets Israel's prime minister at the White House on Wednesday, Syria will be taking a

giant step toward recognizing the state of Israel.

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Griffey Used Off-Field Clout to Block a Trade

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<NYT_BYLINE>

By MURRAY CHASS

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

Late Monday night, Ken Griffey Jr., the Seattle Mariner star who is generally considered to be the best player in baseball, used his veto rights to quash a possible trade to the Mets.

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I.R.S. Shifting Its Pursuit

</NYT_HEADLINE>

<NYT_BYLINE>

By DAVID CAY JOHNSTON

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

The I.R.S. is reducing efforts to find cheating by businesses and high-income individuals and is stepping up investigations into two forms of cheating more likely to involve the working poor: abuse of the Earned Income Tax Credit and people who failed to file tax returns.

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b>It's Charlie Brown's Last Christmas

</NYT_HEADLINE>

<NYT_BYLINE>

By RICK LYMAN

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

Charles Schulz is retiring, and so is the "Peanuts" comic strip.

The strip has appeared daily since 1950, with one short break.

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l">Immunity Ruling Makes Tripp More Likely to Face Trial

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<NYT_BYLINE>

By NEIL A. LEWIS

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

A Maryland judge ruled on Tuesday that the immunity granted to Linda R. Tripp by the independent counsel's office did not apply to state wiretapping charges against her, making it increasingly likely that she will face trial for the secret tape-recordings of Monica S. Lewinsky that led to the impeachment of President Clinton.

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<!-- ALSO IN TODAY'S TIMES -->

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<a href="/library/national/science/121599hth-childr

en-ritalin.html">Study Backs a Drug for Hyperactive Children<

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<NYT_BYLINE>

By HOLCOMB B. NOBLE

</NYT_BYLINE>

<NYT_SUMMARY>

In one of the largest studies of its kind ever conducted, researchers have found that the drug Ritalin, the object of sharp debate for three decades, was more effective than behavior-modification therapy in treating children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

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Corrections

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QUOTATION OF THE DAY

I carry with me to the negotiations all the pain of the conflict -- the victims, the graves, the memorial days -- but also all the dreams and hopes of Israelis who wait for the day when we look from a position of power and strength at a different Israel, an Israel at peace.

EHUD BARAK, Prime minister of Israel, on talks with Syria.

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SUBJECT: Politico (Part 2) Panama Canal transfer prompts fears and hopes

TO: "undisclosed-recipients;";@eop.gov ("undisclosed-recipients;";@eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Politico-The forum for Latino politics, V3-12, 12/20/99 (Part 2)

Please send all comments to Politico1@aol.com. Scroll to the end of the document for subscription information.

This week:

Special Report: Panama Canal hand over prompts fears, hopes and "independence"

El Mundo Latino: Chilean runoff Jan. 16 , Venezuelans approve new constitution

Special Report

By Franc Contreras

Panamanians had waited to hear the words for almost a century. During the ceremonial transfer of the Panama Canal on December 14 former President Jimmy Carter said simply, "It's yours."

And with that plain statement, ownership of the canal passed to the Panamanians. But these proud and heady days are filled with mixed emotions about the United States and the problems Panamanians must face in the coming years.

"We are celebrating an event that will begin a new relationship between your country and mine and it is very important for all of Latin America," Carter told the crowd that day, speaking in stilted Spanish.

Even though it was Carter who convinced Congress in the late 1970s to agree to eventually transfer control of the canal to Panama, many Panamanians, including President Mireya Moscoso, were disappointed that President

Clinton
had not attended the ceremony.

She had gone to Washington recently to personally invite the President to come to Panama for the hand over, but her effort failed. Nonetheless, once at the podium, Moscoso focused on the opportunities the hand over promises.

"For the Panamanian people and the United States government," she said, "the completion of the Panama Canal Treaties demonstrates not only the respect that this country has earned, (but) also initiates a new era of relations between our two nations."

-Solo Panama-

Many Panamanians believe the transfer and accompanying military pullout will finally make the country truly independent.

"This will definitely be something big for the Panamanian people," a Panama City taxi driver told me. "For many years we longed to be truly sovereign."

Political analyst Jose Blandon agrees. He says the United States decision to pull its military out of Panama gives the country unprecedented freedom. "I think this is the greatest gain we Panamanians are making," Blandon said. "It will produce tremendous political changes."

Some have likened the formal split from the U.S. to a divorce, while others prefer to think of Panama as a country that has finally come of age. Those who support the latter view say this Central American nation must now learn to fend for itself, without the economic and military assistance of the United States.

"Panamanians have learned to live with the Americans, but, at the same time, we feel that we don't want to have the military here," said political analyst Mario Rognoni.

The idea of no longer having a U.S. military presence in Panama makes some Panamanians nervous. Panama, they say, has no national defense force, since the United States destroyed it in 1989 during the invasion to capture former dictator General Manuel Noriega.

In the meantime, there is growing violence along the border with Colombia that could threaten the country and the canal's security. As if to underscore the seriousness of such a threat, Panamanian police made an alarming discovery in the last days of November.

Just 130 miles southeast of the canal, Panamanian helicopters were scouring the border Colombian border when they came across the charred remains of 10 palm-leaf homes in a remote village.

Maria Azajel, who lives near the border, said people in the area fear for their lives. She complains that Colombian paramilitary forces cross into Panama routinely in pursuit of guerrillas.

Kidnappings in the remote border region called the Darien Province are commonplace, and now with the U.S. military gone, many worry about an increase of such attacks.

Also in November, in one of their boldest raids yet, Colombians stole two Panamanian helicopters.

Critics worry that Panama's first line of defense is now its national police force, trained by the U.S., but not trained to fight off a jungle attack along the border with Colombia.

U.S. Brigadier Gen. Michael Aguilar, the chief of the canal's defense until December 31, said U.S. troops still plan to help Panama from bases in Florida and Texas. Aguilar added that troops in Honduras are "forward deployed" (ready to go) if needed.

"We have always had plans for any threats to the canal," said Aguilar. "We now just have to adjust."

-Other threats-

For some U.S. observers, there is another threat: China.

Conservatives in the U.S., many of whom opposed the hand over, say they fear China has set its sites on the Panama Canal. They point to the Hong Kong-owned company, Hutchison Whompoa, which operates key ports at the Atlantic and Pacific mouths of the canal. The company could be used to spy on the United States, smuggle goods or even mine the canal waterway, they say. President Clinton says the concern is unfounded.

Nonetheless, Canal Administrator Alberto Aleman Zubieta, a Panamanian, has had to travel to Washington to calm those concerns.

"There is no Chinese threat," he said. "We have world-class security in the Panama Canal. We will continue to have that."

-Panamanian 'fire sale'-

Another worry in this time of transition involves Panama's history of endemic

government corruption.

Professor and author Richard Coster has lived in Panama for 42 years. He says, "The military and their civilian quislings sacked the country for their own benefit and in the process corrupted most of the ruling class of this country. The particular problem Panama has (now) is it's taking over a \$2 billion a year enterprise. One wonders whether the government will keep its hands out of the canal cash register."

Under the hand over treaty, Panama receives the deeds to hundreds of houses, shops, restaurants, schools and office buildings used by U.S. troops and canal workers.

Former Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta, who runs the agency responsible for the economic future of the canal zone, has been selling off billions worth of former U.S. military facilities to mostly foreign companies. But critics say Panama's elite is making off with key properties at bargain rates.

Ardito Barletta denies the charge.

"I can assure you that the activities have been transparent and have been according to the law. And there are checks and balances."

-Disgarded history-

While he welcomes the American withdrawal, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Aleman says there is something he wishes the U.S. military had not left behind: hundreds of unexploded artillery shells.

"There is no doubt that the work that's been carried out there does not meet the standards required to clean up a base in the United States. There is no doubt about that."

Panama plans to seek reparations for the cost of the cleanup.

-Invasive legacy-

On a recent morning in the neighborhood of El Chorillo, 10 young men played stickball, as Spanish raggae music blasted from an open door.

This rundown barrio in Panama City was ground zero for the U.S. invasion 10 years ago. El Chorillo was nearly bombed into oblivion during the attack that began at midnight December 20 and lasted until 6 a.m. the next morning.

Anai Cruz, 77, recalled the terror.

"I was right here in my home when I learned what was happening. I thought

it
was a lie. The bombing was so fierce that I threw myself to the floor with
my
children and my husband. The lights went out and water was flooding all
over.
It was very bad, very bad."

Her neighborhood went up in flames. Scores of friends and some relatives
died
in the attack. Afterward, Cruz rebuilt her life amid the rubble left by the
U.S. soldiers.

Yet, she says she doesn't hate the gringos.

"No, I can't be mad at them. I have daughters married to North Americans, I
have grandchildren in Hawaii and Michigan. And my father was an American."

Her father was a soldier who came to Panama to protect the canal in the
1920s. When she was three months old, she said, he abandoned her and her
mother and returned to the United States. She never saw him again.

Cruz is not unique. Polls show that most Panamanians are sorry about the
U.S.
pull out of the country. And they certainly will regret the loss of some
\$350
million yearly that the canal zone brought. But that sentiment is balanced
by
a deep readiness to move on, to fail or succeed on their own.

Business leader and former presidential advisor Anel Beliz put it this way.

"On Dec. 31, at noon, Panama will not have an excuse anymore to blame the
gringos for anything. Now we've got to solve our own problems. And we have
to
face that reality, that if the canal doesn't run well, it's our blame. And
if
it runs well, it's our pride."

Panamanians say they're ready for the challenge.

(Contreras is Mexico correspondent for The World and Latin America
correspondent for Politico. E-mail franc@laneta.apc.org. A radio version of
this article will also be broadcast on National Public Radio's Latino USA.
Visit www.lusa.org for a listing of radio stations that carry the program
in
your area.)

El Mundo Latino

Chile

-Chile runoff Jan. 16-

Center-left candidate Ricardo Lagos won 47.98 percent of the vote in Chile's Dec. 12 presidential election contest, forcing a runoff January 16 with Joaquin Lavin of the ultra-right Union for Chile coalition. Lavin gathered 47.47 percent of the vote.

Lavin is backed by the traditional right-wing sectors linked to former dictator Augusto Pinochet?now under house arrest in England. Analysts say he won over many Chileans by using populist campaign rhetoric and distancing himself from Pinochet.

Lagos has stressed human rights and democracy in his campaign and is linked to the nation's Socialist Party, though his campaign rhetoric bears little resemblance to that of former Socialist President Salvador Allende?overthrown by Pinochet in a coup on Sept. 11, 1973.

Mexico

A radio station operated by the government of the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas, suspended its regular evening music program on Dec. 14 to warn of possible new attacks by members of the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). The rebel army first gained public attention when it captured four Chiapas cities on Jan. 1, 1994.

The station reported that military and federal and state police units were "on alert" in 10 municipalities in the Chiapas, but federal authorities dismissed the statements and denied that security forces were on alert.

Chiapas governor Roberto Albores Guillen also denied that there was an alert, and said that the state authorities "recognize that the attitude of the EZLN is one of great responsibility, it hasn't caused problems in Chiapas."

Venezuela

-Venezuelans approve new constitution-

Venezuelans voted overwhelmingly on Dec. 15 to approve a new constitution championed by left-populist President Hugo Chavez.

With about half the votes counted, the National Electoral Council reported that the "Yes" vote was 71.21 percent, with 28.79 percent opposing the new

charter.

Less than half of the country's 11 million voters turned out, in part because of heavy rains and flooding, which also led officials to keep some polling places open for an extra two hours.

Polls indicated that less than 2 percent of the voters had read the text they were voting on, according a report by CNN en Espanol.

The new constitution changes the country's name to "Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela," creates a single-chamber legislature, gives soldiers the right to vote, extends the presidential term from five to six years, and allows a president to hold two consecutive terms. It also provides guarantees for indigenous and women's rights, free public education through the university level, universal health care and pensions, and a dramatic rise in the minimum wage.

Chavez, who is expected to seek reelection next year, acknowledged that the goals set forth in the new constitution can't be reached soon.

(El Mundo Latino briefs reprinted this week with permission granted by by Weekly News Update on the Americas. For a complete version of their weekly e-letter, visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~dbwilson/wnuhome.html>. E-mail wnu@igc.apc.org.)

Forecast 2000

-February 17-19: Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center's San Antonio Inter-American

Bookfair & Literary Festival, Trinity University, San Antonio. Readings, lectures, panels, workshops, signings. Featuring more than 40 authors, including Marjorie Agos?n, Sandra Benitez, Lucha Corpi, Martin Espada, Rosario Ferr?, Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Oscar Hahn, James Hoggard, James Mardis, Carol Moldaw, Cherr?e Moraga, John Nichols, Loida Maritza Perez, Hermine Pinson, Roberto Quesada, Raul Salinas, John Phillip Santos, Aram Saroyan, Virgil Su?rez, Arthur Sze, Luci Tapahonso, Marcos McPeck Villatoro.

For information, contact director Bryce Milligan. Email brycem@guadalupeculturalarts.org; www.guadalupeculturalarts.org, call 210-271-3151, ext. 24.

- Feb. 26: Seventh Annual Dia de la Mujer Conference, Conquering the New Millennium, Michigan State University. Contact the Office of Minority Student Affairs, Luis A. Garcia, 338 Student Services Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

-Feb. 29: NCLR Capital Awards in Washington, DC. The awards program

recognizes members of Congress for their support of public policies benefiting the Hispanic community. The event also honors a civilian for outstanding contributions to the Hispanic community. Contact NCLR at 1-800-808-6027.

-March 24: Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine presents LATINA CONFERENCE 2000, Looking to the Future, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Radisson Hotel - San Bernardino, California
Exhibitors, seminars sessions, three keynote addresses and a panel discussion
on the "State of Latino Education for Women". Contact 909-328-1385 or visit our website at www.HISPANICLIFESTYLE.com

-April 16: NCLR's American Latino Media Arts Awards. The Hispanic primetime network awards special celebrates the positive portrayal of Latinos in American film and television. The ALMA Awards will air on ABC primetime in June. Contact NCLR at 1-800-808-6027.

-June 21-24: National Association of Hispanic Journalists 18th Annual Convention, Houston, Texas. More than 1,200 professional journalists
convene
for media-related seminars, workshops and panels. Features a media job fair.
Call 202-662-7145 or visit www.nahj.org.

-June 22-24: National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials,
Denver, CO, 323-720-1932 or www.naleo.org.

-June 25-July 1: The 71st Annual LULAC National Convention & Exposition, Building Unity for the New Millennium, Washington, D.C. Contact 202-408-0060
or visit www.LULAC.org.

-July 1-5: The NCLR Annual Conference in San Diego. The event attracts over 15,000 participants. Contact NCLR at 1-800-808-6027.

-Oct. 5-6: 15th National Hispanic Women's Conference, Phoenix Civic Plaza
in
Phoenix, Ariz. For more information, call 602-954-7995

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The staff

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-End-

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The Associated Press
Saturday, January 15, 2000

Albright Sees Colombia's Drug Fight

By GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press Writer

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright got a firsthand look Saturday at Colombian efforts to intercept cocaine shipments at this steamy Caribbean port. She came away impressed with government sleuths' high-tech tools - and the methods drug lords use to circumvent them.

"That's fantastic," Albright said when shown an Internet hookup that allows Colombia to connect with 286 ports in 80 countries as part of an integrated counterdrug campaign.

She also was shown manifests purporting to document legal exports that were an attempt by drug traders to conceal cocaine or heroin shipments.

"They certainly are ingenious," Albright said.

President Andres Pastrana, appearing with Albright at a news conference on the grounds of the seaside guest house where she stayed Friday night, cited the near-dismantling of cartels in Medellin and Cali as an indication of Colombia's progress in the drug war.

"We can and will do more," he said as three Coast Guard speed boats armed with M-60 rifles deployed in waters just yards away.

He said European donors will meet in June or July to make pledges to assist Colombia in fighting the drug trade.

Albright said the two countries are sharing a "very important moment" and are "fully in harmony" on high priority objectives.

While Albright was in northern Colombia, 14 people were killed Saturday in clashes between leftist rebels and security forces hundreds of miles away, near Bogota, the capital.

The Colombian government and the rebels also held peace talks Saturday in a southern jungle. It was not clear if the attack was meant as a show of force to coincide with the peace talks or Albright's visit.

Albright's visit was further evidence of the growing alliance between Washington and Colombia, the source of 80 percent of all the cocaine used in the United States. Colombian drug lords also have emerged in the past decade as a major force in heroin trafficking.

Despite gains in interdiction, narcotics traders have been able to outpace the government's eradication efforts.

Later Saturday, Albright flew to Panama where she inspected the operation of the Panama Canal and also met with President Mireya Moscoso.

She expressed fascination with the maze of buttons, monitors and levers at the Miraflores Lock near the Pacific side of the canal. She spoke as a Japanese vessel that originated in Senegal was passing through with a cargo of phosphate heading for Vancouver.

She said the U.S. decision to formally surrender the canal to Panama two weeks ago was the right one. As a member of the Carter administration when the Panama Canal treaties were ratified 20 years ago, she said "it was a great source of pride at the time and should be a great source of pride at this time."

Albright had been scheduled to go to Panama on Dec. 14 for a lavish ceremony marking the transfer but postponed because of the impending start of peace talks in Washington between Israeli and Syrian leaders. The absence of both President Clinton and Albright from the ceremony was criticized in Panama and elsewhere.

She was to spend Saturday night in Oaxaca in southern Mexico before meetings Sunday with government officials.

Last week, the White House announced a two-year, \$1.6 billion program largely devoted to the anti-narcotics struggle in Colombia. Albright said Friday night that Peru and Bolivia have reduced coca leaf production and Colombia can do the same with hard work.

Albright was escorted around the port by Colombian National Police Chief Gen. Jose Serrano, a hero to many on Capitol Hill because of his reputation as an incorruptible combatant in the drug war.

Albright praised Serrano for the "world class" counterdrug system he has built and expressed the "greatest gratitude" for his efforts.

Bolstering the high-tech anti-drug weapons were German shepherds trained at a special school in Bogota to sniff out illicit drugs.

Albright held the paw of one amiable canine. "Good dog, really good show," she said.

One of the biggest cocaine seizures in Cartagena involved the capture of about 70 "industrial spools" - cylinders normally used for housing material for producing textiles.

Also on display was a container seized 13 months ago that held part of a 7.3-ton cocaine seizure - one of the largest ever in Colombia.

Republican lawmakers in the United States, citing evidence on the manifest and other information, believe the shipment was bound for the United States by way of Cuba. But the Clinton administration, along with Colombia and Cuba, maintain the cargo was destined for Spain.

**Clinton Presidential Records
Automated Records Management System
[EMAIL] and Tape Restoration Project [Email]**

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies a responsive email, already made available within another collection.

Collection: 2019-0144-F

Bucket: Default

Creation Date: 2000-02-18

Subject: Background Notes: Panama, 01/00

Creator: U.S. State Department <stategov@UIC.EDU> U.S.
State Department <stategov@UIC.EDU> [UNKNOWN]

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: HRaymont@aol.com (HRaymont@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 1-OCT-2000 16:16:39.00

SUBJECT: This was actually written from Cambridge (Mass) before he decided to stay on

TO: fpajares@btconnect.com (fpajares@btconnect.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: coatswor@fas.harvard.edu (coatswor@fas.harvard.edu [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: oppen@herald.infi.net (oppen@herald.infi.net [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: julio_ortega@brown.edu (julio_ortega@brown.edu [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Agrio sabor deja visita de Fujimori a EU

--

Henry Raymont

Corresponsal

Washington.- Razón de más tener a Alberto Fujimori para regresar sonriente al Perú. Por segunda vez en ocho años la Organización de los Estados Americanos

(OEA) así como el gobierno de Estados Unidos consintieron a que el autocrático líder peruano tutelara la transición de su país a una "plena democracia".

Así Fujimori, quien aparentemente armó su sorpresivo viaje como demostración

de poder en medio de los rumores que militares aliados al defenestrado ex jefe del Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional (SIN), Vladimiro Montesinos, permanezca en el poder hasta las elecciones del año próximo, en vez de ceder

el cargo a un gobierno de transición como había insistido la oposición.

Fujimori "va por buen camino hacia una plena democracia," pronunció Joe Lockhart, el vocero de la Casa Blanca que ayer dejó su cargo tras una reunión

del líder peruano con Sandy Berger, asesor de Seguridad Nacional del presidente Bill Clinton.

En tanto, no han cesado las exhortaciones al gobierno panameño para que extienda asilo político a Montesinos. Hasta el momento ningún funcionario de la OEA o el gobierno de Estados Unidos ha esclarecido por qué si la

democracia peruana est en este inminente peligro sólo Panamá tiene que salirle al rescate.

Montesinos desató este mes una crisis política nacional, luego que un video lo mostré presuntamente sobornando a un legislador opositor. Como cabeza del SIN, Montesinos fue sindicado como proveedor de información de la CIA con datos sobre narcotraficantes y grupos guerrilleros y hasta que comenzaron las sospechas de que tampoco tenía las manos limpias en un clandestino embarque de armas jordanas a las guerrillas colombianas, parece que aún gozaba de la confianza de los servicios de inteligencia y antidrogas de Estados Unidos.

Antes de su reunión con Berger, Fujimori tuvo sendas entrevistas con César Gaviria, el Secretario General de la OEA y Madeleine Albright, la secretaria de Estado, quienes volvieron a exhortar a Panamá para que extendiera asilo político a Montesinos con el argumento de que una negativa podría estimular un golpe de estado en Perú y el posible regreso del ex asesor de Fujimori.

"Semejante explicación presupone una ceguera extraordinaria sobre la verdadera situación peruana, pues hacer recaer toda la carga negativa del régimen de Montesinos y la cúpula militar que él impuso en el aparato castrense...y el Presidente Fujimori, que sería algo así como una víctima amenazada por aquellos malvados", disparó el escritor peruano Mario Vargas Llosa. "Sería para reírse a carcajadas, si la realidad detrás de semejante paparruchada no fuera trágica"

Para que la transición a la democracia sea posible, escribió Vargas Llosa en un fulminante artículo publicado ayer por El País de Madrid, "es indispensable que la cúpula militar cómplice de Montesinos sea reemplazada por militares profesionales y constitucionalista, que en estos años, fueron postergados o pasados a retiro y, sobre todo, no comprometidos con los grandes delitos de corrupción y de abusos a los derechos humanos que jalonan la historia de este régimen.

No obstante, en la opinión de la Casa Blanca, Fujimori "va por buen camino hacia una plena democracia, en el contexto de lo realizado por la OEA y el trabajo que hemos realizado con ellos".

Por su parte, Gaviria utilizó una inusual conferencia de prensa convocada ayer para dar sólo escuetos detalles del encuentro con Fujimori el viernes por la noche con el explícito fin de reiterar un llamado a Panamá para que extienda asilo político a Montesinos.

Sólo así, señaló, el ejército peruano "apoyara y respetara el proceso democrático", en lo que se interpretó como agudizando la presión que se está ejerciendo sobre el gobierno panameño de la presidenta Mireya Moscoso.

Las declaraciones de Lockhart y Gaviria causaron reacciones mixtas entre los

embajadores ante la OEA. Unos, cuyos gobiernos apoyaron la iniciativa de Gaviria y Estados Unidos de solicitar la ayuda de Panamá, y otros que consideran las gestiones como "poco elegantes", aunque uno fue más directo y habló de "poca vergüenza".

Un preponderante número de los diplomáticos entrevistados consideran que Fujimori ya una vez dejó burlada a la OEA cuando en 1992 se presentó a la Asamblea General en las Bahamas para defender su decisión de cerrar al Congreso con la promesa de que pronto llamaría a nuevas elecciones parlamentarias cuando de hecho instituyó, apoyado por Montesinos, un régimen que pisó la línea entre la dictadura y la democracia.

"Creo que debíamos haber procedido con mayor cautela", señaló un embajador que, como los otros, hablaron a condición de permanecer anónimos.

Cautela una actitud de mayor sinceridad en el cumplimiento de los objetivos democráticos que supuestamente motivan a la OEA es lo que también aconseja Vargas Llosa en su columna titulada: "La herencia maldita".

"Tal como están las cosas en la actualidad," advierte, "el fin de esta dictadura, que es inevitable, podría significar, no el restablecimiento de la democracia, sino la instalación de un nuevo régimen autoritario, revestido de un disfraz distinto. Este es un peligro muy real, si la oposición y la comunidad internacional se dejan embaucar una vez más con la estrategia diseñada ahora por Fujimori y los suyos para exonerarse de culpas autoritarias pretendiendo transferir toda la responsabilidad de los crímenes, robos y abusos de estos años al malvado Montesinos, y dejando al Presidente, por una obra de estas magias, impoluto y transformado de victimario a víctima."

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[PORTADA | NACIÓN | OLIMPIADAS | COMUNIDAD | DEPORTES | FINANZAS | OPINIÓN |
HISPANO AMÉRICA |
NUESTRAS PROVINCIAS | ESTILO DE VIDA]

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Domingo 1 de octubre de 2000
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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: HRaymont@aol.com (HRaymont@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-OCT-2000 09:49:37.00

SUBJECT: Bily: Wishing you a speedy recovery--from a fellow sufferer. Abrazos, h~

TO: iga@panaembadc.org (iga@panaembadc.org [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Leve mejoría en relaciones con EU

--

Henry Raymont
Corresponsal

Washington.- Las reuniones informales del ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá, José Miguel Alemán, con altos funcionarios de Estados Unidos han cambiado el tono de las relaciones entre los dos países, aunque no el fondo.

Tanto Alemán como funcionarios del departamento de Estado confirmaron ayer su abierta disposición a trabajar juntos para resolver una serie de molestos problemas como el lavado de dinero y la limpieza de los polígonos.

Pero si la invitación de los funcionarios a Alemán para dialogar fue un intento a redefinir las nuevas relaciones entre Estados Unidos y Panamá, ¿esta terminó ayer sin resultados concretos, pero con un clima político considerablemente mejorado.

La "redefinición" de las relaciones entre Washington y Panamá tras la devolución del Canal es quizás el objetivo más deseado de Peter Romero, el secretario de Estado adjunto para Latinoamérica, pero hasta el momento no se ha cumplido.

"Hemos logrado progreso en una amplia gama de asuntos", declaró Romero a El Panamá Américo al finalizar la ronda de reuniones el viernes por la noche.

"Sí, hemos avanzado algo," coincidió Alemán adoptando un tono más cauteloso.

Ni el canciller ni Romero quisieron hablar sobre una inesperada reunión entre Alemán y el subsecretario de Estado, Thomas R. Pickering, que está en medio de los desesperados esfuerzos que realiza Estados Unidos para evitar que

deteriora más la situación entre Israel y los palestinos.

La reunión tuvo lugar a última hora del viernes, lo que retrasó la llegada de

Alemán a la cena de clausura de la "Semana de Panamá" que el Consejo Empresarial Estados Unidos-Panamá ofreció en la Unión Panamericana, el edificio sede de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA).

Por su parte, Alemán aprovechó una reunión anterior con Alan Larson, el subsecretario para Asuntos Económicos, para entregarle una petición formal exigiendo que Estados Unidos tome "acciones inmediatas" con el fin de levantar la advertencia impuesta sobre Panamá por el departamento de Tesoro por supuesta renuencia de colaborar en la lucha contra el lavado de dinero.

La acción del departamento enfatiza: "Ha ocasionado un perjuicio inmensurable a Panamá en general, y en especial, a su economía de servicios".

El documento, dirigido al subsecretario del Tesoro, Stuart Eizenstat, pone especial énfasis en la responsabilidad de Washington de actuar independientemente del Grupo de Acción Financiera Internacional (GAFI) que representa a los países más desarrollados de Europa, Japón y Estados Unidos.

El canciller resalta una vez más que en la opinión del gobierno panameño, la reciente aprobación de nuevas leyes por la Asamblea Legislativa y firmadas por la presidenta Mireya Moscoso, "cumple con todos los requisitos para que Panamá sea eliminado de dicha lista".

"La confianza de nuestro Gobierno sobre el particular, está fundamentada en la participación activa de Panamá a través de los años en la lucha de la comunidad internacional contra el lavado de dinero, lo cual se evidencia en la celeridad con que se aprobó la nueva legislación en octubre de este año, con el objetivo de corregir las deficiencias encontradas por el GAFI, en respuesta a los criterios calificadores utilizados por dicho organismo".

El problema de la advertencia emitida por el departamento del Tesoro a la comunidad bancaria estadounidense, así como la acción del GAFI se han vuelto un tema espinoso para las relaciones entre Estados Unidos y Panamá, señaló el canciller a este corresponsal antes de regresar a su país ayer, tras una visita de cuatro días con motivo de la "Semana de Panamá" organizada por el Consejo Empresarial Estados Unidos-Panamá.

Antes de su llegada el pasado martes a la noche, Alemán había advertido al embajador Ford que no deseaba ampliar una visita para promover comercio e inversiones para su país con visitas a funcionarios estadounidenses.

No obstante, tanto el departamento de Estado como funcionarios del Consejo Nacional de Seguridad aparentemente insistieron en conversar con el canciller a lo que éste finalmente accedió.

Sin embargo, por lo que informan ambas partes, parece que no ha habido ninguna concesión ni de una parte ni de la otra.

Estados Unidos requiere "pruebas concretas" de que la nueva legislación sea aplicada, mientras que Panamá, hasta el momento, no ha aceptado la visita de una misión de expertos para "asesorar" a las autoridades panameñas como implementar las nuevas leyes para conformar el criterio del GAFI y del departamento de Tesoro.

Lo que sí confirmaron fuentes de ambas partes es que el departamento de Estado se comprometió a organizar un equipo de expertos que saldrá la próxima semana para asesorar al gobierno panameño en la ejecución más certera de las nuevas leyes contra el lavado aprobadas hace apenas dos semanas.

Se supo que Estados Unidos entregó una respuesta al pliego que a comienzos de mes el embajador de Panamá, Guillermo Ford, entregó al departamento de Estado reafirmando la posición de su país sobre la necesidad que Estados Unidos debe ayudar a Panamá a remover los explosivos no detonados de vastas áreas de los antiguos polígonos de tiro, en vez de limitarse a asesorar en cómo evitar el acceso de personas a las áreas contaminadas.

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[PORTADA | NACIÓN | COMUNIDAD | DEPORTES | FINANZAS | OPINIÓN | HISPANO
AMÉRICA |
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Domingo 15 de octubre de 2000
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S.A.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: hot_spots@airsecurity.com (hot_spots@airsecurity.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-OCT-2000 11:48:55.00

SUBJECT: AIR SECURITY International - HOT SPOTS - 10/16/00

TO: HOT SPOTS Recipients <hot_spots@webelists.com> (HOT SPOTS Recipients <hot_spots@webelists.com> [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

AIR SECURITY / BOMBARDIER SECUREFLITE PROGRAM

Bombardier and Air Security International's SecureFlite Program insures the safety and protection of new Challenger 604 and Global Express owners. For more details on the Bombardier SecureFlite Program that involves security and safety equipment, international cell phones, security training, and security intelligence - contact Mark Hall at 713/430-7300 or e-mail at mark.hall@argis.com.

HOT SPOTS
Snapshots of Today's Events

16 October 2000

[TODAY'S FOCUS]

Saudi Arabia/Iraq
Middle East
Zimbabwe
Mexico

SNAPSHOTS

Burundi
Ivory Coast (2)
Nigeria
South Africa
Uganda
Bosnia
Ireland
Switzerland/Italy/France
Belarus
Ecuador
Canada
Mexico
Panama
Iran

Iraq
Afghanistan
Australia (2)
India (2)
Indonesia
Solomon Islands
South Korea
United States

SITUATION UPDATES

Bolivia
Ecuador
Venezuela
France

[SAUDI ARABIA/IRAQ]

- Saudi Arabian Aircraft Hijacked to Baghdad During Jeddah-London Flight -

On 14 October, two Saudi citizens hijacked a Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 777-200 en route from Jeddah to London. The hijackers claimed to be in possession of TNT and threatened to explode it on the aircraft. The aircraft eventually landed safely at Baghdad's Saddam International Airport, where Iraqi authorities arrested the two hijackers. The two stated that they had acted in order to protest oppressive nature of Saudi Arabia's regime and the presence of Western military personnel in the country. They denied earlier reports that they had requested political asylum. The Saudi Minister of Interior stated today that the two hijackers were armed with pistols. According to the same source, one of the two was a border guard in the south part of the country while the other was a security guard at Jeddah's airport, a position he used to circumvent security checks. The passengers flew to Jeddah early today and are expected to travel on to London.

[MIDDLE EAST]

- Expectations Low for Sharm al-Sheikh Meeting -

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat are meeting in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt, today, in an attempt to stem the violence between Israelis and Palestinians. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Jordan's King Abdullah II are also attending. All sides have warned against putting high expectations on the summit as wide gaps remain between the Israeli and Palestinian positions. Early reports from the meeting confirm this pessimism. Violence occurred again today in the Palestinian territories. There was a gunfire exchange in Nablus and rock throwing incidents in Bethlehem and Hebron in the West Bank as well as in Khan Yunis, located in the Gaza Strip. Arafat does not appear to be in control of the situation and escalation is likely following the end of the Sharm al-Sheikh meeting. The Lebanese militant organization Hizbullah potentially complicated matters further over the weekend by claiming to have captured a colonel in the Israeli army. Israeli offici

[ZIMBABWE]

- Protests near Harare Following Bread Price Increase -

Riot police officers fired tear gas in two townships east of Harare over the weekend to break up protests against hikes in the price of bread. Approximately 100 people had gathered at Zimunhu, a popular shopping center in Mabvuku, a township located approximately 18 mi/30 km east of Harare. When the police officers had broken up the gathering, they traveled through Mabvuku and the neighboring township of Tafara, firing tear gas to break up all groups of three or more people. Mabvuku was the flashpoint for violent food riots in 1998.

[MEXICO]

- Cessna 320E Operated by U.S. Group Crashes in Baja California -

On 14 October, a Cessna 320E operated by the U.S. group, Flying Doctors crashed on approach to landing at a military base near Ensenada, located in Baja California, approximately 50 mi/80 km south of the border with the United States. All six people on board, who were U.S. citizens, were killed. The military base commander stated that the crew had not reported an emergency before the crash, but that it appeared that there may have been an engine malfunction.

[SNAPSHOTS]

Burundi: Yesterday, unidentified gunmen killed an Italian nun and injured a Burundian nun in Gitega, located approximately 55 mi/90 km east of Bujumbura. An Italian missionary source stated that robbery appears to have been the motive for the killing. In another development, a Burundian army source stated that there has been heavy fighting with Hutu rebels over the past week in the district of Tenga-Kivoga, located north of Bujumbura.

Ivory Coast: The offices of at least four banks located in Plateau, Abidjan's commercial district, were evacuated today following an anonymous bomb threat. Security forces were deployed and conducted a search but found no explosives. Some of the affected banks reopened later in the day.

Ivory Coast: An alliance of opposition groups calling itself the Forum of Dead Town Days has called for a two-day nationwide strike beginning today. The military government of Gen. Robert Guei has threatened unspecified sanctions against the strike organizers and against employees in the commerce and transportation sections who heed the strike call.

Nigeria: Clashes occurred today in Lagos' Ijora district between members of the Yoruba and Hasu-Fulanis ethnic groups. At least six people were killed and several vehicles, including fuel tankers, were burned during the violence. Ijora is located near a major oil depot owned by the state oil company, and the disturbances disrupted operations at the facility.

South Africa: On 14 October, pro-Palestinian protesters threw rocks and

other objects at a McDonald's restaurant in Cape Town following a rally related to the latest violence in the Middle East. The protesters also stoned several vehicles. They dispersed after police officers and members of a private security company intervened. Two people inside the restaurant sustained minor injuries.

Uganda: Ugandan health officials stated on 14 October that there is an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in Gulu, located 225 mi/360 km north of Kampala. Over the past two weeks, more than 60 people have been diagnosed with the disease and more than 40 have died. It is the first recorded Ebola outbreak in Uganda. Officials for the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) have stated that there is no need to restrict travel to and from Uganda.

Bosnia: A Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect set off a grenade as German peacekeepers attempted to arrest him overnight. The blast killed the suspect and wounded four soldiers, none of them seriously. The incident occurred in the town of Foca, located 25 mi/40 km southeast of Sarajevo.

Ireland: Aer Lingus announced today that it will suspend tomorrow's flights due to a strike threat by cabin crew members. It is expected that the carrier will have to cancel 200 flights, affecting approximately 20,000 passengers. In a separate action, Aer Lingus baggage handlers at Dublin Airport are continuing a series of two-hour strikes.

Switzerland/Italy/France: Heavy rains caused flooding and landslides in parts of Switzerland, Italy and France over the weekend. Thirteen people are confirmed dead thus far, and more are missing and feared dead. Authorities evacuated people from Switzerland's canton of Valais and Italy's Valle d'Aosta and Piedmont regions. Landslides also destroyed bridges and disrupted road and rail traffic. Rail service has been suspended between Milan and Turin.

Belarus: The Belarus opposition is claiming victory in yesterday's parliamentary elections, stating that a substantial number of voters, particularly in major cities, heeded its calls not to participate in the voting. Government officials, however, stated that participation was more than 60 percent and that the voting was valid in all but 14 constituencies. The opposition has accused the government of falsifying turn-out figures.

Ecuador: A massive mudslide occurred on 13 October on the flanks of El Altar volcano, located approximately 115 mi/185 km south of Quito. At least two people have died and 18 more are missing. The mudslide destroyed houses in the towns of Penipe and Guano and damaged nearby farms.

Canada: This morning, independent truckers in Ontario went on strike, demanding that shippers pay higher fees to cover the rising cost of fuel. The striking truckers are members of the National Truckers Association, representing approximately 1,800 truckers. The union has announced that it does not plan to block traffic as part of its protest.

Mexico: In oil-rich Tabasco state, the ruling-party candidate and the opposition candidate are running a very close race and both are claiming

to be winning, in a tense election that could spark protests. Nearly all the votes have been counted, and Roberto Madrazo, who is running for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) holds 44 percent, while Democratic Revolution Party opposition candidate Raul Ojeda holds 43 percent. Tabasco lies on the Gulf of Mexico.

Panama: Early today, armed men attacked police forces in the village of Nazaret, located approximately 170 mi/270 km east of Panama City, on the border with Colombia. One civilian was killed and 12 other people were injured. It is not known what group the assailants are affiliated with, but Colombian left- and right-wing rebels have attacked this part of Panama in the past. Panama will increase security in the border area, President Mireya Moscoso stated after the attack.

Iran: Today, approximately 1,000 people demonstrated outside Tehran's U.N. headquarters, calling for the break-off of peace talks with Israel. Demonstrators threw eggs at the building, burned Israeli and U.S. flags, chanted slogans against both Israel and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and called for holy war. There were no reports of damage or injuries.

Iraq: Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen confirmed earlier reports that there has been some movement of the Iraqi Republican Guard troops west of Baghdad. Cohen stated that the United States is monitoring the situation very closely and that it would be ready to respond to any Iraqi aggression against its neighbors.

Afghanistan: On 14 October, a bomb exploded in the Communications Ministry building in Kabul, causing damage but no injuries, Taliban sources stated. It is not known who planted the bomb. In another development, the opposition alliance claimed yesterday to have captured two districts in the northern province of Takhar during overnight fighting. The Taliban captured those districts in September 2000. Fighting continues in the area today.

Australia: Yesterday, approximately 2,500 protesters held a pro-Palestinian rally in a downtown Sydney park, then marched to the U.S. Consulate, where approximately 20 protesters unsuccessfully tried to storm the consulate. The protesters burned Israeli and U.S. flags. The protest was heavily monitored by police officers. There were no reports of injuries. In a separate incident, unknown parties threw a small homemade bomb at a Canberra synagogue, but there were no damages or injuries.

Australia: On 14 October, a Qantas Boeing 737 made a safe emergency landing at Hobart, located on the island of Tasmania, 30 minutes after it had taken off from that same location. A Qantas spokeswoman did not confirm press reports that one of the engines had caught fire, stating only that some of the passengers reported hearing a noise and seeing sparks that appeared to come from the engine.

India: Militant youths shot a prominent businessman and abducted another on 14 October in Golokgunj in Assam's Dhubri district. The youths belong to the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), a banned militant organization. Police officers are still searching for the assailants.

India: Paramilitary forces patrolled the streets of Siwan in north Bihar last night, to maintain order during a dawn-to-dusk strike called by the Communist Party of India - Marxist Leninist (CPI-ML). CPI-ML called the strike to protest the deaths of 11 members of a family, who were gunned down on 13 October in a Mujajidpur village over a land dispute.

Indonesia: Over the weekend, at least six people were killed in political violence in Aceh. Six separatist gunmen attacked 20 government soldiers at the Ranto Selamat military post last night, beginning a 30-minute clash which involved grenades and automatic weapons. Four of the rebels were killed, while the soldiers suffered no casualties. In retaliation, more rebels attacked an army transport truck this morning in Peurelak, East Aceh. Rebels later claimed to have killed eight soldiers, but the army has not confirmed it. There were two other attacks on military vehicles yesterday, unclaimed thus far. Two unidentified bodies were discovered near Bantaiyan village in Murussalam.

Solomon Islands: Yesterday, the Isatabu and Malaita militias reached an agreement to end a two-year-old conflict. According to the agreement, the Isatabu Freedom Movement (IFM) and the Malaita Eagle Force (MEF) will hand in their weapons and their members will benefit from an amnesty. Unarmed international observers on the ground will guarantee that the two sides abide by the agreement. New Zealand has already agreed to provide observers.

South Korea: Today, the Korean Air pilots' union began taking votes from its members on whether to launch a strike. The voting process will continue until 20 October, and the strike, if approved, would begin on 21 October. The union is protesting wage disparities between Korean and expatriate pilots. It is also demanding that the airline cut the pilots' working week to 75 hours a week from the current 80 hours week.

United States: On 14 October, a Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 en route from Seattle to San Jose, California made a safe emergency landing at San Jose International Airport after the pilot shut down the number 1 engine. Airport officials stated that an engine gauge apparently malfunctioned.

[SITUATION UPDATES]

Bolivia: On 14 October, government troops began peacefully removing roadblocks on Bolivia's main highway, following an accord between the government and coca growers to end a 27-day stand-off which paralyzed the country in a conflict over halting coca production. Concurrently, teachers and peasants protested to demand higher pay and more land (respectively). Ten protesters died and 165 people were injured as protesters and government troops clashed.

Ecuador: Following last week's kidnapping of 10 expatriate oil workers by rebels, oil companies evacuated 132 employees from sites in the Amazon region. Helicopters carried the evacuees to Quito, the capital. The 10 workers who were kidnapped, including five U.S. citizens, have not been returned. On 13 October, troops found the abductor's helicopter abandoned near the river that divides Ecuador and Colombia.

Venezuela: The state-owned oil company Petroleros de Venezuela (PDVSA)

agreed over the weekend to a US\$7.25 daily wage increase, bringing an end to a four-day strike by oil sector employees. The PDVSA concession also averted a nationwide strike, which other unions had threatened in support of the oil workers.

France: Following three more attacks on synagogues in France, Prime Minister Jospin announced on 14 October that police are on alert to prevent anti-Semitic attacks, and urged prosecutors to deal severely with apprehended perpetrators. In addition to multiple arson attempts on synagogues throughout last week, over the weekend various assailants burned a Jewish bakery in Strasbourg, drove a car through a Lyon synagogue wall, and attempted to burn two synagogues in suburban Paris.

[SIGNIFICANT DATES]

17 October

Israel: Feast of Tabernacles (last until 20 October at sunset. Schools and some businesses close)

Haiti: Dessalines Day (Public holiday - Government offices and businesses closed)

18 October

Israel: Feast of Tabernacles (see 17 October)

Azerbaijan: Independence Day (Public holiday - Government offices and businesses closed)

20 October

Israel: Feast of Tabernacles (see 17 October)

Kenya: Kenyatta Day (Anniversary of Kenya's independence. Public holiday - government offices and businesses closed)

Guatemala: Revolution Day (Public holiday - government offices and businesses closed)

21 October

Honduras: Armed Forces Day (Public holiday - government offices and businesses closed)

22 October

Ivory Coast: Presidential Elections (Unrest and demonstrations are likely)

23 October

Hungary: Anniversary of 1956 revolution (Public holiday - Banks, offices and some stores closed. Celebrations organized in some cities)

Thailand: Chulalongkorn Day Commemorates the modernization of the government. (Public Holiday - Most government and business offices close)

25 October

Kazakhstan: Republic Day

Taiwan: Children's Day (Public Holiday - Most government and business offices closed)

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: HRaymont@aol.com (HRaymont@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-OCT-2000 08:01:46.00

SUBJECT: Fwd: VERSION ORIGINAL

TO: DodsonSA1@state.gov (DodsonSA1@state.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: caleb.mccarry@mail.house.gov (caleb.mccarry@mail.house.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

EXCLUSIVA - NACION

Henry Raymont
Corresponsal

WASHINGTON-Estados Unidos podria interceder ante el gobierno del presidente Andres Pastrana para que Colombia adopte medias mas efectivas para garantizar la seguridad de su frontera con Panama, fuentes diplomaticas revelaron ayer, aun antes de producirse los sangrientos sucesos de Nazareth en Darien.

La integridad territorial de la republica istmica ante las reiteradas incursiones de grupos irregulares colombianos, denunciadas instentamente por Monsenor Romulo Emiliani, el obispo de la region, preocupa de manera especialmente al subsecretario de Estado para Asuntos Politicos, Thomas R. Pickering, una fuente oficial indico a este corresponsal.

En este contexto se considera mas que probable que Pickering, el principal enlace del gobierno del presidente Bill Clinton para coordinar el Plan Colombia con Pastrana, abordó el tema en su conversacion a puertas cerradas el viernes a la noche con el ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Panama, Jose Miguel Aleman.

Pastrana ha invitado a la presidenta de Panama, Mireya Moscoso, a Cartagena de India, probablemente para esta misma semana, para tratar "asuntos bilaterales", las fuentes informaron a EL PANAMA AMERICA, previo al ataque fronterizo contra la comunidad de Nazareth en Darien.

"Debemos interpretar esta invitacion como una expresion mas de la preocupacion de Pastrana por evitar que el narcotrafico y la violencia rebasen las fronteras colombianas," senalo un diplomatico.

Criticos del Plan Colombia y la ayuda militar del paquete de \$1.300 millones de dolares que Estados Unidos aporta al plan que Bogota dice costara 7.500 millones, consideran que la iniciativa podria resultar contraproducente con

el resultado de una expansion de la actividad de los narcotraficantes, guerrilleros y paramilitares mas alla de las fronteras de su pais, tal como lo indican las denuncias de monsenor Emiliani, asi como de los gobiernos de Brasil, Ecuador y Brasil.

Por el contrario, manifiesta el presidente colombiano, el Plan Colombia pretende "circumscribir" la actividad militar, crear nuevas bases de desarrollo social y economico y promover el proceso de paz con las guerrillas en el que Pastrana comprometio a su gobierno.

Por otro lado, en varias conversaciones publicas y privadas con este corresponsal, Pastrana insistio en la voluntad de su gobierno de tomar "las medidas necesarias" para evitar que elementos irregulares de su pais cricen la frontera a Panama, aunque reconoce que patrullar esos paramos selvaticos es una tarea casi imposible.

"Lo que pasa en la frontera con Panama es parte del problema de fondo," explico en una reciente conversacion en una capital sudamericana. "Por eso estamos requiriendo toda la ayuda posible de los paises europeos y las instituciones internacionales para acabar con estos temores y llevar la paz a una region que mas que nada anhela salir de la pobreza".

En tanto, fuentes estadounidenses como panamenas mantuvieron un absoluto mutismo sobre la reunion entre Pickering y Aleman, que se celebro el viernes a la noche, horas despues de que el canciller se hubiera reunido con Alan Larson, subsecretario para Asuntos Economicos y Comerciales y con Peter Romero, secretario adjunto para Asuntos Hemisfericos.

El hecho de que Pickering, un funcionario clave del gobierno de Clinton en los asuntos de seguridad, reciba a Aleman en medio de la crisis del Oriente Medio y con la incierta situacion en que aun yace la situacion jugoeslava, es otro indicio mas de como la algida situacion de Colombia posiblemente se ha convertido en el tema prioritario de la politica de Clinton in Latinoamerica.

En la tarde de ayer el Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de la Casa Blanca aun no estaba informado sobre el incidente fronterizo considerando que todos estaban febrilmente organizando la partida del presidente Clinton al Cairo en una desesperada tentativa de evitar una nueva conflagracion entre Israel y los palestinos.

En tanto, y a pesar de un enorme esfuerzo publicitario por parte del gobierno de Clinton en favor del Plan Colombia, este recibio un nuevo balde de agua fria a traves de otro extenso articulo publicado en la edicion dominical de The New York Times, bajo el titular "Tambalea Ambicioso Plan Antidroga para Colombia".

El articulo esta mayormente basado en la falta de entusiasmo que Union Europea ha mostrado en su reticencia de financiar a un plan que consideran es
hechura de los militares y organos antidrogas de Estados Unidos.

Tambien en Washington diplomaticos europeos hablan no han escondido su preocupacion de que el enfoque de Estados Unidos enfoca exageradamente el aspecto militar a la vez que no da suficiente enfasis al proceso de paz.

El articulo cita un informe de una oficina fiscal del Congreso que sentencia
"el gobierno colombiano no ha demostrado de que tiene planes detallados, una estructura administrativa y el financiamiento necesario" para cumplir con los objetivos del plan mas alla del apoyo de Estados Unidos.

"El plan," senala el articulo bajo la firma de Christopher Marquis, "surgio el ano pasado despues de que el general Barry McCaffrey, el coordinador antidrogas de la Casa Blanca-bajo presion de los Republicanos del Congeso-declaro que la situacion colombiana ameritaba una 'emergencia' para la politica exterior de Washington, senalando como argumento el constante incremento de los cultivos de las drogas, la influencia cada vez mayor de los rebeldes y el potencial general para la desestabilizacion de la region, considerado la posicion de Colombia entre el Canal de Panama y Venezuela, el pais que mas petroleo envia a Estados Unidos".

Return-path: <HRaymont@aol.com>
Date: Mon, 16 Oct 2000 07:18:01 EDT
From: HRaymont@aol.com
Subject: VERSION ORIGINAL
To: director@epasa.com, rcarles@epasa.com, franaria@epasa.com
Cc: rguizado@epasa.com
Message-id: <51.2181ff6.271c3de9@aol.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Windows AOL sub 125
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
Full-name: HRaymont
EXCLUSIVA - NACION

Henry Raymont
Corresponsal

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: HRaymont@aol.com (HRaymont@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:27-OCT-2000 06:58:11.00

SUBJECT: A silver lining?

TO: iga@panaembadc.org (iga@panaembadc.org [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

EU reconoce actitud de Panam en caso Montesinos

--

Henry Raymont
Corresponsal

Washington.- Altos funcionarios del Gobierno de Estados Unidos estiman que "cuando se escriba la historia", la aceptaci3n de Panam para que el pol?mico Vladimiro Montesinos pudiese pasar un mes en ese pa?s antes de regresar al Per? el pasado domingo, representar "un hist3rico galard3n" para la presidenta Mireya Moscoso.

"La actitud de la presidenta de Panam fue un elemento cr?tico para desactivar la explosiva situaci3n que se hab?a creado en el Per? para el presidente [Alberto] Fujimori," declar3 al corresponsal de El Panam Am?rica un funcionario familiarizado con el pensamiento de la Casa Blanca.

El funcionario dijo que la mandataria desempe?3 un papel "digno y valiente" al desafiar a una multitud de cr?ticos, "porque sab?a que favorec?a a la promoci3n del orden democr tico en el Per? y, por ende, en toda Am?rica".

Moscoso, explic3, sab?a de antemano que la decisi3n provocar?a duras cr?ticas por parte de los grupos de oposici3n en el Per? y de su pa?s, "pero no se dej3 intimidar, porque sab?a que era un gesto de solidaridad con todos que ans?an beneficiar al sistema democr tico con elecciones libres y pac?ficas".

Tambi?n C?sar Gaviria, el secretario general de la Organizaci3n de los Estados Americanos, felicita a Moscoso por su colaboraci3n en sacar a Montesinos del Per?, donde es acusado de corrupci3n, violaci3n de los derechos humanos y tortura.

Gaviria, que tuvo un papel clave en que el Gobierno y la oposici3n hayan alcanzado un acuerdo para convocar elecciones el pr3ximo a?o, se?al3 que "Panam cumpli3".

"Quien no cumpli  fue Fujimori," se al  al referirse al hecho de que el Gobierno peruano permiti  que el exjefe del servicio de inteligencia militar ingresara de nuevo al pa s despu s de haber solicitado la ayuda de varios pa ses y de la OEA para sacarlo. Tampoco est  muy claro a n si la tan publicitada "caza" encabezada por Fujimori para "capturar" a Montesinos es genuino o un mero "show" para la prensa y el exterior.

En tanto, con la vista puesta en una eventual soluci n de los entredichos que mantenjan en suspenso las relaciones entre Panam  y Estados Unidos, los funcionarios estadounidenses admitieron ayer por primera vez que se sienten aliviados por la salida de Vladimiro Montesinos del territorio paname o.

"Todos los temas est n listos para ser atendidos", declar  un alto representante del Gobierno del presidente Bill Clinton, refiri ndose a la cuestionada advertencia que emiti  el Departamento del Tesoro sobre una supuesta falta de cooperaci n del Gobierno paname o en relaci n al lavado de dinero, y otros problemas bilaterales que quedaron en suspenso, en parte por la pol mica desatada por la presencia en Panam  durante un mes del ex-asesor del presidente Alberto Fujimori.

"No hay duda que la controversia creada por la estad a de Montesinos tuvo un efecto perturbador para la conducta normal de nuestras relaciones," destac  otro funcionario, sin plantearse porque su propio Gobierno fue uno de los que m s se movi  para que el pol mico personaje pudiera refugiarse en Panam .

Con el inesperado regreso del exjefe del servicio de inteligencia militar peruano a Lima, "nos est  despejando el camino" para reanudar las gestiones bilaterales, especialmente en lo que respecta a una asesor a que el Departamento del Tesoro ofreci  al Gobierno paname o en aras de eliminar la advertencia que emiti  a los inversores estadounidenses alegando que Panam  no hab a tomado todas las medidas posibles contra el lavado.

"Ojal  de ahora en adelante caminen sobre rieles," coment  el embajador de Panam , Guillermo Ford, con una sonrisa, refiri ndose a la agenda bilateral que incluye desde problemas de seguridad hasta programas de desarrollo social y la lucha antidrogas.

"Tuvimos bastante reuniones para allanar las dificultades que a n debemos abordar," a adi .

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Viernes 27 de octubre de 2000

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: HRaymont@aol.com (HRaymont@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-OCT-2000 06:42:06.00

SUBJECT: We don't only carp, ok?

TO: mshifter@the.dialogue.org (mshifter@the.dialogue.org [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: TSzulc@aol.com (TSzulc@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: eduter@dsi.com.mx (eduter@dsi.com.mx [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: elwolf@infosel.net.mx (elwolf@infosel.net.mx [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: zimmer@udesa.edu.ar (zimmer@udesa.edu.ar [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Regreso de Montesinos entre farsa y triunfo

--

Henry Raymont
Corresponsal

Washington. - Lo que viene ocurriendo en Lima desde que Vladimiro Montesinos regresé de su polímico refugio panameño tiene todo el aspecto de una ópera bufa o de una de esas farsas peruanas como "Pantaleón y las Visitadoras", la mordaz novela de Mario Vargas Llosa sobre las andanzas sexuales de una guarnición fronteriza.

Pero esa imagen superficial no debe desviar la atención del fondo los hechos de los últimos días que en Washington se perfilan como un extraordinario triunfo para la sociedad civil peruana y la comunidad de las naciones americanas, particularmente el papel de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA).

La puesta en escena del presidente Alberto Fujimori en su espectacular "cacería" en busca del exjefe de facto del servicio de inteligencia militar no logró, sin embargo, opacar el persistente esfuerzo de la OEA, a través de la "Mesa de Diálogo", para evitar que la crisis se desborde en un golpe

militar o un levantamiento popular como los que acabaron con las dictaduras de la Europa Oriental.

Este esfuerzo, encabezado por el propio secretario general de la OEA, el expresidente colombiano César Gaviria, que se trasladó a Lima a fines de la semana pasada, ha logrado que Fujimori a un f?rreo compromiso para cumplir con su llamado a nuevas elecciones para el próximo abril, sin doblegarse a las demandas militares de una previa ley de amnistía.

"Tuvimos una reunión de gran tensión," reveló el embajador canadiense Peter Boehm, actual presidente del Consejo Permanente de la OEA, que acompañó a Gaviria a Lima. "A Fujimori no le gustó nada que lo hubieramos criticado públicamente por permitir el regreso de Montesinos y condicionar las elecciones a una amnistía general para los militares"

"Pero logramos los objetivos proclamados por la Asamblea General reunida en Windsor el pasado agosto: elecciones para el 8 de enero y reformas del proceso electoral," declaró Boehm, en una entrevista exclusiva con El Panamá Am?rica. "Y nada de condiciones previas, nada de amnistía. La única condición: elecciones libres y transparentes".

Comentando los resultados del día, Gaviria expresó su "gran satisfacción al haber tenido la ocasión de presenciar como el gobierno, la oposición y los miembros de la sociedad civil han podido llegar a los acuerdos en que el país pueda celebrar el próximo 8 de abril un certamen electoral" con garantías de un proceso "justo, libre y transparente".

El Secretario General, así como funcionarios de la Casa Blanca, también elogiaron el "gesto decisivo" de la presidenta Mireya Moscoso al permitir el pasado mes que Montesinos ingresara a Panamá en un momento en que se temía que el presidente Alberto Fujimori enfrentaba un golpe de fuerzas armadas leales al ex-jefe de inteligencia militar.

"Gaviria se sintió traicionado por el regreso de Montesinos al Perú so pretexto que su vida corría peligro y el hecho que no le fuera impedido por Fujimori," confió una fuente cercana al ex-presidente horas antes que saliera hacia Lima.. "Pocas veces lo vimos tan indignado".

En este contexto, el secretario general adoptó una actitud de dureza en sus conversaciones con Fujimori, según esta fuente, que estuvo reflejada en una reveladora fotografía en la que el presidente peruano forzaba una sonrisa y le extendía la mano mientras Gaviria se mantenía de semblante sombrío.

PAPEL CRITICA DE GAVIRIA

"El papel de Gaviria fue criticado en lograr este acuerdo," manifestó un alto funcionario de la Casa Blanca a este corresponsal. "También debemos

reconocer

que Fujimori act o con decisi n para aislar a Montesinos tras los esfuerzos que se hab an hecho para alejarlo del pa s gracias a la ayuda de Panam ."

Jake Siewert, el portavoz de la Casa Blanca, confirm  que el gobierno acepta

la opini n del Secretario General que el presidente peruano est  "actuando en

buena fe" cuando promete excluir a Montesinos, su ex- asesor, del proceso pol tico, y que cumplira el acuerdo para reformar el proceso electoral y su prop sito de abandonar el gobierno a mediados del 2001.

En un acto de bipartidismo, raro en esta temporada de campa a electoral, el Congreso el martes aprob  por unanimidad una resoluci n instando al gobierno

de Estados Unidos para "apoyar activamente las aspiraciones de las fuerzas democr ticas en Per  hacia una inmediata y plena restauraci n de la democracia en ese pa s".

No obstante, todos los observadores reconocen que la situaci n interna del Per  continua sumamente precaria, con la econom a casi paralizada, la situaci n militar a n incierta, y un Congreso en que no solo la oposici n fragmentada sino tambi n el bloque del gobierno aparenta estar tambaleante.

"Nadie parece gozar de mucha autoridad en el Per  en estos momentos," se al 

Peter Hakim, el presidente del Di logo Interamericano, que regres  recientemente de Lima.

El experto se al  que hace pocos d as una encuesta demostraba que aunque el presidente hab a bajado en popularidad, todav a ten a 36 por ciento del p blico a su favor, en comparaci n del 22 por ciento para el ex-vicepresidente Francisco Tudela y el l der de la oposici n, Alejandro Toledo.

Segun Hakim, la posici n de Fujimori puede haber mejorado algo gracias al dram tico operativo para encontrar a Montesinos, tan remenicente a como dirigi  el asalto contra los terroristas que ocuparon la embajada del Jap n.

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Domingo 29 de octubre de 2000

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**Clinton Presidential Records
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Collection: 2016-0964-F

Bucket: Default

Creation Date: 2000-11-23

Subject: Muy justa DECLARACIÒN de la UNIDAD CUBANA

Creator: Luis Alberto <sacpita@teleline.es> Luis Alberto
<sacpita@teleline.es> [UNKNOWN]

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: HRaymont@aol.com (HRaymont@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:24-NOV-2000 10:53:54.00

SUBJECT: attn. Embajador Lozoya

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

TO: secib.pmiraflores@cimabc.com (secib.pmiraflores@cimabc.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Leslie.Bethell@brazil.ox.ac.uk (Leslie.Bethell@brazil.ox.ac.uk [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: bbuzenberg@mpr.org (bbuzenberg@mpr.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: coatswor@fas.harvard.edu (coatswor@fas.harvard.edu [UNKNOWN])
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CC: fbds@ax.apc.org (fbds@ax.apc.org [UNKNOWN])
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CC: c_lafer@uol.com.br (c_lafer@uol.com.br [UNKNOWN])
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CC: gr@edu.usp.br (gr@edu.usp.br [UNKNOWN])
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CC: aoppen@bellsouth.net (aoppen@bellsouth.net [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: fpajares@btconnect.com (fpajares@btconnect.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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TEXT:
Pastrana resta importancia a pol?mica entre Castro y Flores

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Henry Raymont
Corresponsal

Colombia.- A pesar de la nota disonante que el presidente Fidel Castro de Cuba imprimi? a la X Cumbre Iberoamericana, muchos de los 23 jefes de Estado y Gobierno consultados coinciden con el presidente de Colombia, Andr?s Pastrana, cuando dice "hay que dejar atr?s el pasado y forjar el futuro".

El mandatario colombiano, as? como los presidentes andinos y centroamericanos, consideran que debiera enfatizarse m?s los aspectos positivos de la Cumbre de Panam?, especialmente la Declaraci?n centrada en los grav?simos problemas que padecen los ni?os, una situaci?n que los gobiernos se han comprometido a remediar antes del a?o 2015.

"Lo importante es dejar atr?s el pasado y pensar en el futuro," declar? Pastrana en una entrevista con el enviado de El Panam? Am?rica.

"En la propia cumbre tomamos la decisi?n que esos son hechos del pasado, que la cumbre no puede volver a este tipo de hechos como los que se presentaron en Panam?", a?adi?, haci?ndose eco del enorme esfuerzo que realizaron los presidentes para borrar la pol?mica que estall? en la reuni?n entre Castro y el presidente de El Salvador, Francisco Guillermo Flores.

Sin embargo, algunos presidentes y observadores consideraron la tajante negativa del l?der cubano a suscribir un documento condenando el terrorismo de ETA, que por primera vez quebr? el consenso pol?tico en 10 a?os,

sacudió,
quiz s irremediablemente, la construcción de una comunidad entre España,
Portugal y las 19 repúblicas latinoamericanas, el objetivo esencial que
inspiró a Madrid a lanzar el proyecto de las cumbres en 1991.

El tema de las cumbres probablemente ser abordado informalmente cuando un
nutrido número de jefes de Estado, inclusive la presidenta Mireya Moscoso,
se
reunir en México el próximo viernes para la toma de posesión del
presidente
electo Vicente Fox. También asistir el embajador mexicano Jorge Lozoya,
secretario ejecutivo de las Cumbres Iberoamericanas con sede en Madrid.

En tanto, los duros choques verbales que se produjeron entre el líder
cubano
por un lado y los jefes de Gobierno de España y México, además de El
Salvador, por el otro, han dejado perplejos y preocupados a muchos de los
que
los presenciaron.

"Fidel está decrépito, está arrinconado en su propio país, pero resiste de
retirarse del escenario mundial", fue uno de los comentarios de un
presidente
que no ocultó su irritación por el tiempo que ocupó la política,
postergando
el almuerzo hasta las siete de la tarde. "Entonces tiene que protagonizar
situaciones dramáticas que sabe que lo convierten en el centro de
atracción,
mientras nosotros perdemos el tiempo".

A otros, que aún reconociendo de que Castro también fue objeto de atentados
terroristas, les pareció inverosímil que permitiera que la condena al ETA
se
convirtiera en una querrela con España y México, dos de los países que han
sido más solidarios con Cuba, resistiendo, en muchos casos, a claras
presiones de Estados Unidos.

Pero casi todos coinciden con las intervenciones de los presidentes Jorge
Batlle, del Uruguay y Hugo Chávez, de Venezuela, que consideraron que la
cumbre no era el lugar ni la ocasión para sacar a relucir las rencillas que
agitaban al Caribe y Centroamérica durante los últimos cuarenta años.

Pastrana, cuya primera formación fue en el periodismo, ponderó que mientras
los choques verbales son pasajeros, la trayectoria de las cumbres ha dado
importantes resultados tanto de concertación política como de importantes
obras de desarrollo, en un momento en la historia mundial en la que los
países, tanto por razones culturales como geopolíticas deben consolidar
relaciones con países afines para enfrentar los retos de una inevitable
globalización.

Un editorial en El País de Madrid, un periódico que tiende a simpatizar con
la revolución cubana, tuvo una apreciación similar cuando señaló: "Habría
sido deseable que el Gobierno de Cuba se sumara a la resolución contra ETA
que suscribieron los otros 20 países participantes en la Cumbre

Iberoamericana de Panamá. Pero es poco deseable que ese asunto se convierta en el eje de la reunión, al menos en su proyección en los medios, y especialmente lamentable que transmita la idea de que ETA cuenta con apoyos al otro lado del Atlántico".

Al destacar algunos aspectos positivos de la reunión, Pastrana señaló la propia urgencia con que fue enfocado el tema central de la niñez, que él ya había tratado con la presidenta Mireya Moscoso, la autora de la iniciativa, cuando ella visitó esta magnífica ciudad colonial hace apenas dos meses.

Anotó que los informes que fueron presentados, precisaron que la mayoría de los países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe han logrado reducir las tasas de mortalidad infantil y prevenir enfermedades endémicas, aunque persisten en la región los altos índices de pobreza que han dado como resultado la marginación de cerca de 40 millones de niños. La Declaración de Panamá constata esta realidad y reclama a los gobiernos acciones de equidad y justicia social.

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TEXT:

George Bush nombra a Demócrata en su Gabinete

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Henry Raymont
Corresponsal

Washington.- El presidente electo George W. Bush finalmente logró incorporar a un legislador Demócrata, Norman Y. Mineta, como secretario de Transporte, a la vez que seleccionó a Linda Ch vez, una militante figura conservadora, a encabezar la secretaría de Trabajo.

El pasado mes de junio el presidente Clinton designó a Mineta secretario de Comercio en reemplazo de Bill Daley, quien dejó el gabinete para hacerse cargo de la campaña política del vicepresidente Al Gore.

En su nuevo cargo, Mineta, de origen asiático y un ex-alcalde demócrata de San José, California, un importante centro tecnológico, jugará un crítico papel en las relaciones con Panamá, en el caso de que el gobierno de la presidenta Mireya Moscoso decida solicitar el apoyo del Estados Unidos para las obras de ensanchamiento del Canal.

Ch vez, por su parte, que encabezó la Comisión de Derechos Civiles en el gobierno del presidente Ronald Reagan, se perfiló como una contundente luchadora del partido Republicano en todas las recientes campañas políticas.

En sus debates con demócratas de origen hispano como Bill Richardson siempre resaltó sus orígenes humildes para oponerse a la política de los demócratas de ofrecer privilegios especiales a las minorías, argumentando que esto era "poco democrático".

Bush también anunció la designación de Spencer Abraham al cargo de secretario

de Energía. Abraham, un ex-senador Republicano de Michigan que fue derrotado en la reciente elección, es de origen libanés. Con este nombramiento el presidente electo completó su gabinete de 14 secretarios, faltando sólo la designación del embajador ante las Naciones Unidas, cargo que lleva rango de gabinete.

Los primeros nombramientos que anunció el presidente electo fueron la de su secretario de Estado, el general Colin Powell, y la de la doctora Condoleezza Rice, ambos expertos en Rusia y China. Ambos están conformando su equipo para los cargos de subsecretario y secretarios adjuntos para otras regiones como Latinoamérica y África.

Una figura conocida en Panamá que se menciona como posible secretario adjunto de Estado para el Hemisferio Occidental es la del embajador John Negroponte, que estuvo a cargo de las fallidas negociaciones para el Centro Multilateral Antidrogas, después de ocupar varios altos cargos diplomáticos como embajador en Filipinas.

Otro candidato para el cargo que actualmente ocupa Peter Romero, es Chris Arcos, un ex-diplomático que estuvo a cargo de la lucha antidrogas en el departamento de Estado y también fue embajador en Honduras. De origen español, Arcos actualmente es vicepresidente de la prominente corporación de comunicaciones AT&T en Miami, aunque por un tiempo se le consideraba un posible candidato Republicano al senado por Texas. Otro candidato, también de Miami, es el abogado Alberto Mora, que es miembro de un destacado bufete de abogados al que perteneció Luis Laureda, actual embajador de Estados Unidos ante la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA).

Un tercer candidato sería Otto Reich, un líder del ala conservadora del partido Republicano que dirigió el programa de la AID para Latinoamérica durante el gobierno de Ronald Reagan antes de ser nombrado embajador en Venezuela.

Por lo pronto Bush, al incorporar a Chvez, Mineta y Abraham, continúa cumpliendo su promesa de gobernar con un gabinete de diversidad étnica y política para lograr "unidad y concordia" después de una de las campañas políticas más encarnizadas de la reciente historia política de Estados Unidos.

"Soy Demócrata de pura sepa, y nunca dejaré de luchar por mi partido", declaró Mineta haciéndose eco del impulso bipartidista que Bush destacó al anunciar el nombramiento desde Austin, Texas. "Pero la campaña es cosa del pasado, y el reto para todos los estadounidenses es construir un consenso

bipartidista".

Bush acompa  el anuncio de los nuevos cargos con otro gesto bipartidista, al elogiar el enorme esfuerzo de Clinton para reencaminar las negociaciones de paz en el Cercano Oriente, justo cuando el presidente se encontraba reunido con el l der palestino Yasser Arafat, que desde ayer se encuentra en esta capital.

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