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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	Jose V. Rojas to Maureen T. Shea at 19:03:33.00. Subject: Available. (2 pages)	09/08/1998	b(6)
002. email	USIA_Media_Reaction to [list] at 18:10:07:00. Subject: Daily Digest: Buenos Aires Action Plan 11/19. [partial] (1 page)	11/19/2000	P3/b(3)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
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WHO ([Menem])
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FOLDER TITLE:

[05/28/1998 - 11/11/1999]

2019-0157-F
ab1718

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas McMahon (CN=Thomas McMahon/OU=D/OU=WASHDC/OU=USIA/O=GOV [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:28-MAY-1998 14:37:44.00

SUBJECT: weekly

TO: Lisa J. Levin (CN=Lisa J. Levin/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
May 27, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Erskine Bowles
Chief of Staff, The White House

FROM: Joseph Duffey
Director, United States Information Agency

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

I. KEY USIA NEWS

PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY APPEARS ON &FORO INTERAMERICANO 8: Julio Maria Sanguintetti, the President of Uruguay, appeared live on WORLDNET ,s May 14 edition of its weekly Spanish series &FORO INTERAMERICANO. 8 President Sanguinetti discussed his visit to Washington, the Santiago Summit and Mercosur. His activities were also covered by NEWSFILE.

MANY MEXICANS LACK CONFIDENCE IN US-: Initial results from USIA's April

poll in Mexico, completed prior to the "Casablanca" banking scandal, show a public that is lukewarm to its neighbor to the North. Although half (53%) have a positive opinion of the United States and President Clinton, six-in-ten lack confidence in the ability of the U.S. to handle world problems. Half to three-quarters also lack confidence that the U.S. will act as a reliable partner when it comes to immigration, illegal drugs, environmental or trade issues. Yet, about two-thirds of the public do believe that : the U.S. has the right to control illegal immigration across its borders; a hemisphere-wide trade region would benefit Mexico; and Mexico should cooperate more with the U.S. on counter-narcotics programs.

WORLD MEDIA REACTION ON IRISH REFERENDUM: A number of observers in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa commented on the referenda vote last Friday in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland, which resulted in a resounding "yes" for the peace accord. Opinionmakers were congratulatory, saying that the Irish people should be "commended for their courage and vision." They also acknowledged "the help of outsiders," such as British Prime Minister Tony Blair and President Clinton, "whose efforts have been crucial to helping bring about the all-Ireland vote for peace." Many writers emphasized that the peace process, by dint of the vote last Friday, has now been "legitimized" by all sides to the conflict, and that the "momentum of peace" will be difficult to overturn. But most analysts went on to urge caution. Johannesburg's independent Business Day, for example, said: "It is too early for rejoicing. The settlement...is so complex and harbors so many potential stumbling blocks.

USIS WORKSHOP FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF YEMEN: On May 5, USIS

Sanaa conducted a workshop on the use of its information resource center and the Internet with senior staff from the office of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Since the workshop, the president's office has been using USIA and other USG websites to get official releases, statements and background material on United States policy in the region.

MEXICAN FIRES: USIS Mexico City responded to scores of media requests for information on U.S. forest fire specialists in Mexico who were assessing the potential for U.S. firefighting assistance in Oaxaca and Chiapas states. The smoke from unchecked fires throughout Mexico and Central America has prompted environmental alerts from Mexico City north into many U.S. states. USIS organized a dozen interviews with U.S. media representatives and Mexican television.

"AMERICAN ALUMNI" TO BE PART OF NEW PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT: While results are yet unofficial, it appears that several alumni of American universities or USIS exchange programs -- and close post contacts -- were victorious in the Philippines' May 11 national elections, in which USIS Manila's PAO, CAO and ACAO all served as official observers. Apparent Vice-President-elect Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was a classmate of President Bill Clinton at Georgetown University -- a fact that appeared frequently in her campaign literature. Newly-elected senators include former IV ("Benigno S. Aquino Fellow") Loren Legarda, FY'82 IV Aquino Pimentel, and FY'93 IV Blas Ople. Apparent President-elect Joseph Estrada's top choice for Secretary of Education is Fulbright alumnus Andrew Gonzalez, while his

designated press secretary is former Neiman Fellow Rod Reyes. Likely Presidential Legislative Liaison is Jose "Jimmie" Policarpio, another former IV grantee.

II. PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

COMPROMISE ON CUBA SANCTIONS: Radio and TV Marti provided extensive coverage to an agreement reached between President Clinton and European leaders on May 18 related to investments in Cuba. Announcing the agreement in London, President Clinton said the agreement would deter investment by European companies in properties illegally confiscated from American citizens in Cuba and around the world.

US POLICY IN CUBA: Though Worldnet, USIS Havana provided the Havana-based international press corps with the opportunity to interview Michael Ranneberger, Coordinator for Cuban Affairs at the Department of State, and Marete Evans, from the Office of Foreign Assets Control at the Treasury Department. The two officials answered questions from 25 journalists from 9 countries on the implementation of new humanitarian measures for the Cuban people. The participants outlined the new measures and explained how, some expectations notwithstanding, this is not a change in policy toward the Castro government. Wire services from France, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom, as well as newspapers and television from various other countries, including Japan and South Africa, provided broad coverage.

USIS CALCUTTA INFLUENCES LOCAL MEDIA ON NUCLEAR TESTING: Efforts by USIS

Calcutta have encouraged the local press to criticize Indian nuclear testing. USIS Calcutta has contacted reporters for leading English and Bengali dailies to discuss India's nuclear program, to provide them with information about the Glenn-Symington Amendments, and to give them reports about media commentary in other other countries. Of twenty-two articles dealing with nuclear testing that appeared in the Calcutta press from May 16 to May 18, fifteen were critical of the government's decision to test weapons of mass destruction. On May 21, Calcutta dailies carried five articles critical of the decision and only one in favor. The Executive Editor of "Ananda Bazar Patrika", a Bengali language daily (circulation 475,000), wrote in a May 20 article that India's actions will start a nuclear arms race in South Asia and that the common people of India and Pakistan will have to pay the price of the arms race in delayed economic development. The editor participated in a USIS - sponsored Traveling Seminar in 1997. Traveling Seminars bring together groups of influential private citizens from Pakistan and India Pakistanis and Indians to discuss issues dividing the countries and to consider solutions to those problems.

COUNTER-NARCOTICS: USIS Lima, Caracas and Santiago made good use of a Worldnet on demand reduction efforts in the United States to reinforce cooperation in the war on drugs. The Lima panelists were impressed with concerted U.S. efforts to dissuade young people from using drugs and next-day headlines played up ONDCP official James McDonough's praise of Peru's successful recent efforts to reduce coca cultivation. USIS Caracas said the program drew an audience of more than 50 people from government, academia, NGOs and the media. National TV network TELEVEN featured the

program on its evening news shows and a national news magazine plans to base on article on the program. Santiago's panelist (an FY-98 IV) stressed the importance of local-level involvement in prevention, and noted not only her strong agreement with ONDCP strategy as outlined during the Worldnet, but also her respect and support for the many prevention efforts she witnessed during her January IV program.

POLISH IV PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON U.S. ETHNIC CONCERNS: A Polish freelance journalist, a specialist in serious think-pieces, was in the U.S. in March-April on a program designed to expose him to American multiculturalism, the recent movement to promote civic journalism, and the U.S. media tradition of separating editorial from news content. He was particularly intrigued by current ethnic and multicultural issues and the debate between those who see "Balkanization" as America's future and those who believe the "American Center" will hold. He concluded that there remains a very strong assimilation force at work in the U.S., even among large and influential ethnic groups, and has written a six-page report on the subject for an influential Polish weekly magazine.

MONEY LAUNDERING: USIS Mexico City has been deeply engaged in responding to Operation Casablanca. The announcement of the undercover operation and the indictment of Mexican bankers by Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno earlier this week have rocked Mexico. USIS has been in regular contact with spokespeople at the Treasury and Justice departments to provide advance information on the public reaction and questions being raised in Mexico. The Information Section contributed to Mission reporting through daily press summaries and cable reporting on press play

and commentary in the Mexican media.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY: USIS Buenos Aires programmed Nobel Prize economist Douglass North as a target of opportunity speaker. North presented one of the best programs the post has been involved with during the past two years and spent an hour briefing President Carlos Menem. North was able to weave the Argentine past and present into an economic tapestry for the future. He spoke about global culture and the psychology of the individual at the Professional Council of Economics, arguing that Argentina must pay greater attention to distribution of wealth and dramatically increase the technical education of the poor so they could compete in a healthy market.

CIVIC EDUCATION: USIS Buenos Aires reports that with a decree signed by President Menem, the \$245,000 World Bank grant to Conciencia to carry out an ethics and civics education program has cleared its last bureaucratic hurdle. The funds, which will be disbursed to Conciencia through the Ministry of Culture and Education, will support civic education materials development and the strategic training of teaching staff in the areas of civic, legal, economics, and ethics education. The post and USIA have been closely involved in this project from the outset.

COSTA RICAN ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS: USIS San Jose arranged major press coverage for two anti-drug activities this week, both attended by Ambassador Dodd and Costa Rican President Rodriguez. The Embassy presented an \$80,000 patrol boat for anti-drug patrols on the Atlantic coast. Coverage in all other media was equally extensive. In a separate ceremony at the

Presidential House, Ambassador Dodd handed over \$28,000 in new computer equipment to the Costa Rican drug intelligence unit. At both occasions, President Rodriguez stated his administration's strong commitment to fighting drugs. Rodriguez also came out strongly in favor of a U.S.- Costa Rican maritime "shiprider" agreement that was proposed by the U.S. last year, but had not been actively pursued by the previous government because of public concern over sovereignty issues.

III. DIRECTOR ,S SCHEDULE

Director Duffey will speak on May 28 to a plenary session of the NAFSA 50th Anniversary Conference in Washington. On June 2, he will meet with the National Committee on US and China Relations.

V. PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRIES

CUBA BROADCASTING BOARD: Al Kamen's May 25 "In The Loop" column, THE WASHINGTON POST, surveyed the situation of the Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting. Kamen noted the Board's four vacancies, and that the five remaining members are serving in continuation of expired terms. Kamen had spoken with GC-Richard Werksman about the statutes governing the board members' term of office.

CRIME IN MEXICO: NBC's TODAY show May 21 aired a seven-minute piece on the current crime wave in Mexico City, the dangers to American tourists there, and the State Department's recent travel advisory. PAO Don Hamilton, as the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, gave an on-camera

interview for the story. Appearing several times, he offered precautions to visitors, and mentioned the limitations of the U.S. mission in influencing the quality of local criminal investigations.

FBI DIRECTOR IN SOUTH AMERICA: USIS Santiago, Caracas and Buenos Aires recently handled media support for the visit of FBI Director Louis Freeh.

USIS Caracas staged a press conference in the Embassy which was attended by 55 journalists. USIS Santiago arranged an exclusive interview with newspaper-of-record El Mercurio. The front page article allowed the Director to reach a large and influential audience on rule-of-law themes. He spoke about the threat posed by international crime and money laundering and the FBI's support for and cooperation with Chilean law enforcement authorities.

USIS-RUN EMBASSY HOME PAGE GETS OUT THE WORD IN JAKARTA: The State Department's Indonesia Task Force praised the U.S. Embassy Home Page, maintained by USIS Jakarta, as an important means of concerned Americans as well as Indonesians during the May 16-17 evacuation of Americans and in the days thereafter. For example, within minutes of their receiving President Clinton's statement on ex-President Soeharto's resignation, the USIS staff had the text on the Home Page. While the May 21 Soeharto resignation is seen as a positive step, Jakarta remains tense as the new Habibie government slowly takes shape.

USIS NAGOYA HELPS PUSH FOR GREATER U.S. ENTRY INTO JAPAN'S ECONOMY: USIS Nagoya provided public affairs support to last week's visit there by Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce Marjory Searing, who explained the

success of U.S. efforts to sell equipment to Japanese power suppliers while reiterating continuing U.S. desire to participate in the 6-billion dollar Central Japan International Airport at a May 21 press conference organized by the post. With the establishment of the airport corporation April 30, USIS Nagoya used this opportunity to draw local airport mission of 12 U.S. companies which will be led by Ambassador Foley. Searing's remarks were carried in May 22 editions of several regional dailies, including the Chunichi (circulation: 3 million), Yomiuri (200,000), and Asahi (450,000).

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: The Economist (The Economist <null@postbox.co.uk> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 4-JUN-1998 18:23:23.00

SUBJECT: Politics This Week May 30th - June 5th 1998

TO: economist-politics (economist-politics@postbox.co.uk [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Peter Rundlet (CN=Peter Rundlet/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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As the stand-off between India and Pakistan threatens to turn into an arms race, the world must strengthen its efforts to thwart the spread of nuclear weapons * Chemical and biological weapons may be just as hard to control * IBM under the microscope * Truth may preclude reconciliation in Indonesia * Whites flee South Africa's crime * Why the merger of Monsanto and AHP has not excited Wall Street * The economics of prejudice *

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ASIAN TENSIONS

- + China joined other established nuclear powers in an effort to persuade India and Pakistan not to build up NUCLEAR WEAPONS after their recent tests (five in India, six in Pakistan). Pakistan accepted, but India rejected, a Japanese offer to mediate in the disputed region of Kashmir.

- + The Indian government increased MILITARY SPENDING in its budget, but other measures to boost growth failed to impress investors.

- + Indonesia began an inquiry into the wealth of former PRESIDENT SUHARTO, whose family's extensive business interests have come under scrutiny since he stepped down.

- + An EARTHQUAKE in northern Afghanistan killed up to 5,000 people and left thousands homeless. Many had been living in tents since an earthquake devastated the area in February.

KOSOVO FLARES

- + Serbia, the main part of Yugoslavia, stepped up its war against separatist guerrillas in KOSOVO, its Albanian-speaking province. Thousands fled to Albania.
- + A party led by Milo Djukanovic, the reforming president of MONTENEGRO, the smaller of Yugoslavia's two republics, won the general election, humiliating the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic.
- + RUSSIA's financial crisis eased slightly; the plummeting stockmarket recovered a little. But foreigners offered no more than words of support.
- + Silvio Berlusconi, leader of ITALY's right-wing opposition, helped kybosh constitutional reforms that have been under debate for 18 months.
- + The American government said that five neutral countries -- Portugal,

Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Argentina -- had accepted \$300m-worth of
LOOTED GOLD from Germany's Nazi government during the second world war
in exchange for commodities that helped prolong the conflict.

+ Turkey's prime minister, MESUT YILMAZ, said he would resign at the end
of this year to give an interim government time to prepare for a
general election in April 1999.

+ Danes voted in a referendum to ratify the AMSTERDAM TREATY, which paves
the way for the European Union to expand.

+ At least 100 people died in a TRAIN CRASH in the German state of Lower
Saxony.

PRIVILEGE DENIED

+ President Clinton dropped his claim that EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE prevented
two top aides giving evidence to the Whitewater special prosecutor,
Kenneth Starr, about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Miss
Lewinsky fired her lawyer, William Ginsburg, and hired a new defence
team.

+ In CALIFORNIA, grey Gray Davis won the Democratic nomination for the governorship, beating rich Al Checchi, who had spent some \$40m of his money on the race. The voters approved a proposition to dismantle bilingual-education programmes, affecting mainly Latinos.

+ More Latino trouble for Americans. MEXICO urged the Organisation of American States to study admitting Cuba. An ARGENTINE judge signed international arrest warrants for four present or former IBM executives suspected of bribery. And CHILE denounced a Commerce Department call for "anti-dumping" duties on salmon.

+ COLOMBIA's presidential vote produced a huge vote for an independent, Noemi Sanin, third overall and first in the big cities. But the two candidates for the run-off on June 21st are the Conservatives' Andres Pastrana and, a nose ahead, the ruling Liberals' Horacio Serpa, whom pollsters had put far behind.

+ In ECUADOR's presidential vote, Quito's mayor, Jamil Mahuad, led banana tycoon Alvaro Noboa, a pal of (deposed) ex-President Abdala Bucaram.
Run-off: July 12th.

+ An ARGENTINE court ruled that President Carlos Menem could not run in

1999 for a third term. In PERU, where a law allows President Alberto Fujimori to do so in 2000, reformers produced enough signatures to require a referendum that could block him.

+ After a detailed recount, a Caribbean Community audit found no fraud in December's election of GUYANA's new President Janet Jagan.

ON THE HORN

+ A simmering border dispute between ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA exploded into fighting. Fears rose of a full-scale war between these former allies.

+ Iraq told the UN Security Council that it had no WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION left, or documents relating to them undisclosed, and that sanctions should be lifted. The UN's weapons inspectors, disputing this, listed in detail the actions that still remain for Iraq to take.

+ The MUJAHIDEEN KHALQ, Iran's armed opposition operating from Iraq, attacked a revolutionary court in Tehran. Three people died. Iran claimed to have foiled an attack on a military building.

+ Fighting broke out at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site in Jerusalem, when ULTRA-ORTHODOX JEWS did not like the way less orthodox Jews were praying.

+ Professor Geoffrey Gatera, former head of Rwanda's university medical school, was sentenced to death by a court in Butare for his involvement in the MASSACRE of hundreds of Tutsis in 1994 who had sought refuge in the hospital.

+ Heavy fighting continued in SIERRA LEONE between the West African peacekeeping force and men loyal to the ousted junta. Aid agencies said some 42,000 displaced people were without food.

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ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: The Economist (The Economist [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 3-SEP-1998 17:59:02.00

SUBJECT: Politics This Week August 29th - September 4th 1998

TO: economist-politics (economist-politics@postbox.co.uk [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Peter Rundlet (CN=Peter Rundlet/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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Russia has collapsed, the news from Asia keeps getting worse, and investors everywhere take fright: is a global economic slump inevitable? * Silicon Valley in troubling times * Why hundreds of thousands of Colombians are being driven from their homes * The science of smell * The revival of Britain's provincial cities * Asia and the West * Why crude comedy is in fashion *

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RUSSIAN TURMOIL

+ Russia's political and financial chaos continued, even as BILL CLINTON tried to encourage BORIS YELTSIN at a summit in Moscow. The Communist-dominated Duma refused to endorse Mr Yeltsin's appointee as prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, leaving the country without a government. The rouble went on sliding.

+ Politicians in NORTHERN IRELAND made concessions to their opponents: Sinn Fein said violence must be "over, done with and gone"; Unionist leader David Trimble agreed to a meeting at which republicans will be present. The British and Irish parliaments were recalled to pass new anti-terrorist laws.

+ WILLY CLAES, a former secretary-general of NATO and ex-deputy prime minister of Belgium, went on trial with several compatriots, all charged with taking kickbacks in the late 1980s on purchases of French and Italian arms.

+ In FRANCE, a trial began of 138 people accused of helping Algerian

terrorists. Most of their lawyers stayed away.

+ Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's president, and Ibrahim Rugova, who represents Albanians seeking independence for KOSOVO, agreed to put off a decision on the final status of the Serbian province. The draft deal cleared one obstacle to ending Serbia's war against the separatists.

+ POLAND introduced a new penal code that ends the death penalty and brings court procedures into line with those of the European Union.

+ A Swissair AEROPLANE CRASHED off the coast of Canada, with 229 people on board. There were no survivors.

+ Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish part of CYPRUS, proposed a confederation with the island's Greek south. Greece and Greek Cyprus rejected the idea.

ASIAN RAGE

+ North Korea test-fired, unannounced, a BALLISTIC MISSILE which flew over Japanese territory. Officials in Tokyo and Seoul expressed outrage

at the test and Japan stopped food aid and commercial flights to North Korea in protest.

+ Crisis continued in CAMBODIA as opposition parties and students protested in Phnom Penh's "Democracy Square" against the outcome of July's elections for the national assembly. The national election committee certified that the party of Hun Sen, the prime minister, had won. King Norodom Sihanouk offered to mediate between party leaders, who agreed to talks.

+ The AUSTRALIAN government called a general election for October 3rd.

+ In MYANMAR nearly 4,000 students protested at their campuses in Yangon, the capital, against military rule. Riot police were sent in. It was the biggest anti-government demonstration for two years.

+ SOUTH KOREAN riot police stormed factories owned by a car-parts maker to end a strike over mass layoffs.

+ Anwar Ibrahim, MALAYSIA's deputy prime minister, finance minister and presumed heir to the leadership, was sacked, sparking fears of political instability.

LATIN HOPES

- + As world markets yo-yoed, COLOMBIA in effect devalued, BRAZIL'S president declared he saw no grounds to raise interest rates, and MEXICO'S said that, given sound policies and discipline, its economy could still grow by 4% in each of the coming two years.
- + Working groups began the long haul toward a proposed FREE-TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS. Separately, Central American leaders called for their exports to enjoy "NAFTA parity" -- the same trade terms as Mexico's -- in the United States' market.
- + In a referendum, PANAMANIANs rejected a proposed change to the constitution that would have let President Ernesto Perez Balladares run for a second term.
- + ARGENTINA's President Carlos Menem pushed through an overdue, but watered down, bill to loosen labour markets. Too strong, howled unions; too weak, groused the IMF.

+ The UN launched an appeal for \$20.5m in food aid to help those most affected by drought in eastern CUBA.

WAR PATH

+ CONGOLESE REBELS attempting to take the capital, Kinshasa, were battered by Angolan and Zimbabwean aircraft and hunted down by Congolese soldiers. The UN Security Council called for a ceasefire. South Africa's President Nelson Mandela, in a surprise change of policy, said that military intervention in Congo was justified.

+ ANGOLA lurched closer to full civil war when the MPLA, the dominant partner in government, expelled UNITA from cabinet and parliament, citing the rebel movement's failure to disarm. Senior members of UNITA said they were suspending their leader, Jonas Savimbi.

+ In its first conviction, the UN's tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania, found a Rwandan ex-mayor guilty of GENOCIDE.

+ By next June the world will have 6 BILLION PEOPLE, said the UN's latest population report, and about 10 billion by 2050. Richer countries will

have too many old people; the poorer countries of Africa and south Asia
will have lots of young of working age but not the work for them.

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002. email	USIA_Media_Reaction to [list] at 18:10:07:00. Subject: Daily Digest: Buenos Aires Action Plan 11/19. [partial] (1 page)	11/19/2000	P3/b(3)

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CREATOR: USIA_Media_Reaction (USIA_Media_Reaction@notes1.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-NOV-1998 18:10:07.00

SUBJECT: Daily Digest: BUENOS AIRES 'ACTION PLAN' 11/19

TO: [REDACTED] (b)(3)
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TEXT:

Commentators from Latin America and Canada, Europe and Asia weighed in with their assessments of the Fourth Conference of Parties (COP-4) to the UN Convention on Climate Change, which was held in Buenos Aires from November 2-13. The last-minute agreement on an "Action Plan," which sets a deadline of two years for adopting operational mechanisms to enforce the Kyoto Protocol, was viewed by a majority of writers as the best outcome to be expected, particularly given the rifts which had developed between industrialized and developing countries, as well as disputes within these camps--i.e., between the U.S. and EU and within the G-77 plus China. Although most papers had predicted that this Kyoto follow-up meeting was

unlikely to produce far-reaching results, many still admonished conference delegates for opting to postpone decisions on key points until the year 2000. [See Daily Digest, November 5, 1998.] Several papers continued to lament the fact that, with negotiators sidetracked by economic disputes and "haggling" over statistics and data, there was a "failure to see the urgency of the real problem" of global warming. Themes in the commentary follow:

NEGOTIATORS TAKE 'MODEST' STEPS: While a few papers characterized the meeting as "a failure," most were more circumspect, maintaining that, although it "yielded little concrete action," "modest" steps, in the form of the "Action Plan," were taken. Buenos Aires' leading Clarin summed up a typical view: "These kinds of meetings reveal an increasing awareness [of the problem]. Nevertheless, the indispensable commitments have yet to be reached, both in the North and the South." Noting that the "Action Plan" allows for key decisions to be postponed until 2000, Calcutta's centrist Telegraph warned, "Deadlines look good on paper, but are meaningless unless backed by effective mechanisms to reduce emissions." Among those taking a more hopeful view, a Danish paper held that while "the results (in Buenos Aires) were fearfully few...much suggests that the turning point has been reached.... The people of the world realize the problem." Others applauded both Argentina's announcement that it would accept "voluntary goals" to reduce emissions and the U.S. signing of the Kyoto Protocol as evidence of a renewed commitment on the part of developing and industrialized countries to address the problem of global warming. In the end, most pundits concurred with the judgment of a London writer: "Saving the planet from overheating was never going to be easy.... Formidable

difficulties lie ahead" which can only be resolved by "compromise" on all sides.

REACTION TO U.S. SIGNING OF KYOTO PROTOCOL: Commentators welcomed the U.S. decision to sign the Kyoto Protocol, announced during the meeting, as a "good will gesture," but also noted that it was largely a "symbolic" move since the accord's ratification by Congress is far from assured. Despite positive comment on the U.S.' signing, Washington came under editorial fire for both its market-driven approach to emissions trading as well as what many perceived as a "selfish" and "unjustifiable...refusal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol...until all other countries, including the least developed, have done so." Several concluded that it is time for "the United States [to] show world leadership on this issue."

This survey is based on 51 reports from 15 countries, November 6-19.

EDITOR: Katherine Starr

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

ARGENTINA: "Little Progress In Environmental Protection"

An editorial in leading Clarin read (11/15): "COP-4 has been a milestone in the international debate on...an economically and strategically important subject...but little progress was made.... One of the main points of discussion is finding ways to establish shared responsibility between industrialized countries and developing countries.... These kinds of meetings reveal an increasing awareness about the importance of the issue. Nevertheless, the indispensable commitments have yet to be reached,

both in the North and in the South, to guarantee sustainable development."

"Stormy Summits"

Leading Clarin carried this opinion piece by columnist Olga Viglieca (11/15): "Global warming has stopped being an exclusively environmental problem and become a political and economic problem as well. From the moment the air started to be a scarce good, the sale of clean or dirty air introduced global trade to unpredictable factors.... Global warming has led to an overheating of political tension between the North and the South. The UN has admitted that industrialized countries with high consumption have consolidated their wealth by releasing greenhouse gases."

"The Climate Problem: Without Solution"

Virginia Santana, environmental columnist for daily-of-record La Nacion, said (11/15): "Neither toasts nor big announcements were made at the closing of COP-4. After twelve days of exhausting debates...the delegates and ministers of 174 countries did not make the expected progress in the implementation of global warming mechanisms.... The achievement was moderate: Only a future action plan was agreed upon...establishing a schedule for the year 2000 to search for a solution to (global) warming.... Politicians were not able to smooth out their disagreements...regarding measurement of polluting gases, how technology will be transferred from industrialized to developing countries or how to penalize those countries not implementing their gas emission reduction requirements. Everything is left for the year 2000."

"Summit Closed Late, With Furious Environmentalists"

Left-of-center Pagina 12 had this by environmental columnist Mariana Carbajal (11/15): "The humble plan of action agreed upon in Buenos Aires... was received with harsh criticism from the main environmentalist organizations worldwide.... The pompously baptized 'Buenos Aires Plan of Action' proposes a maximum term of two years to define the mechanisms which will make the Kyoto Protocol a reality.... According to the [Plan] for COP-6, which will take place in the year 2000, three mechanisms [emissions trading, a clean development mechanism and joint implementation] will have to be outlined to help industrialized countries fulfill their commitments to reduce their emissions.... 'The real value of what was approved here will be measured in the next year if... progress is made in the Protocol's ratification,' said Maria Julia Alsogaray, President of COP-4. 'The urgency to prevent dangerous climate changes was lost in the Inaction Plan of Buenos Aires,' said the International Institution of Friends of the Earth."

"Climate for Change?"

An editorial in the liberal Buenos Aires Herald stated (11/15): "It would be simplistic to dismiss this summit as a failure. Even if the United States failed to send environmental standard-bearer Vice President Gore, they did pledge to sign the Kyoto Protocol next month.... And Argentina did take a significant lead in making a voluntary commitment to reducing its toxic gas emissions.... The Kyoto commitment to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions...marked at least a partial response to the dangers of global warming, however, the emissions trading system under study here has led to a scramble for loopholes. The failure to see the urgency of the real problems has been the bane of the 4th Conference."

"Little Progress At Climate Change Conference"

Leading Clarin carried a story by environmental columnist Carolina Brunstein (11/14): "After twelve days of deliberations, COP-4 made little progress.... One of the points discussed at the negotiations... was the responsibility of developing countries, identified as the G-77 and China.... From the start...antagonistic positions were apparent among the different parties. The G-77 demanded that industrialized countries take the lead in reducing gas emissions.... Argentina, together with a country from the old Soviet bloc, was one of the countries which committed itself to voluntary actions to reduce emissions. But...the United States and the EU were not able to reach an agreement [due to differences over] 'flexibility mechanisms.'... The confrontations between the parties became an obstacle to negotiations.... An agreement on a schedule to implement the Kyoto Protocol is the most which could be reached."

"No Answers At The Climate Summit Closing"

Virginia Santana, environmental columnist of daily-of-record La Nacion, noted (11/14): "No global answers came out of the climate summit that took place in Buenos Aires for two weeks. Only the agenda of an action plan... for future meetings was agreed upon, and no consensus between

industrialized and developing nations had been reached on any of the big issues [as of] last night.... NGOs...were not pleased with the outcome of the climate meeting and complained about the obscure language which obstructed every attempt to deal with the main issue: gas emissions reduction."

"Chronicle Of A New Environmental Failure"

Left-of-center Pagina 12 carried this opinion piece by Mariana Carbajal (11/14): "After eleven days of blocked discussions, this conference could not advance on key aspects of the Kyoto Protocol implementation. Last night, the meetings continued...[to] attempt to reach a minimal agreement...to define the mechanisms which will help industrialized countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions.... The COP-4 objective was making progress in the implementation of the treaty.... How instruments [including emissions trading, clean development mechanisms, and joint implementation] will be implemented, what their limits will be, how emissions will be measured, who will certify reductions, and how the country not fulfilling its duties will be punished, were some of the unanswered questions at the closing of this conference."

"U.S. Makes An Impact At Buenos Aires"

Left-of-center Pagina 12 carried this piece by environment columnist Mariana Carbajal (11/13): "The United States made an impact yesterday by announcing its signature of the Kyoto Protocol.... The announcement was received as a good will gesture from Washington, which is against ratifying

the treaty until developing countries commit themselves to reducing their emissions. Environmental organizations praised the announcement but demanded that the United States should go beyond that: 'Signing the protocol is like accepting a new job. But now it is necessary to start working,' said Greenpeace."

"It's An Ill Wind"

The liberal Buenos Aires Herald held (11/12): "Hurricane Mitch should...add a special sense of urgency to the COP-4 now unfolding here. Many people are baffled by such jargon as 'emissions trading' and 'carbon sinks.' But if they cannot grasp all the technicalities, nobody can be insensitive to the results of climate change in the form of the human suffering in countries like Honduras and Nicaragua.... The Kyoto Protocol...is not implemented by 3,000 experts, activists and lobbyists congregating at a global summit, nor even by parliamentary ratification, but often by very small, everyday changes which require the cooperation of everybody. Even if nothing else is achieved, this Climate Change Conference should mark the start of a national debate and educational campaign on clean development--while not forgetting the wretchedness of Central America."

"Gasses Impasse"

The liberal Buenos Aires Herald noted (11/12): "Almost inevitably, the Buenos Aires conference has become stuck at an impasse. While the United States--or at least its major business interests--claim nothing can be done without some input from the developing world, the developing world points to the actual emissions figures and protests its innocence.... The U.S.

position is at the heart of every delegate's calculations and concerns....

Between the economic and the environmental viewpoints, little currently appears to be shared."

"Inflated Emissions Permits"

Columnist Sibila Camps opined in leading Clarin (11/10): "According to the Kyoto Protocol, developed countries committed themselves to reducing their gas emissions by 5 percent from their 1990 levels.... To help them do so, different mechanisms were established. One of them, the emissions trading regime...is the most controversial point of the treaty.... The countries taken as examples are Russia and Ukraine which are suffering a strong recession, and, therefore, will not find it hard to return to their 1990 pollution levels.... Thus, they will be able to sell 'hot air' to other countries...under what environmentalists call 'inflated emissions permits.'... The delegations from developing countries are starting to resign themselves to only modest progress in negotiations. Real progress has been deadlocked from the start.... Developed countries demand that developing countries assume voluntary commitments to reduce their gas emissions. And, except for a few such as Argentina, the G-77 and China demand that the First World does as they say."

"A Disturbing Climate Change"

Pro-government La Razon carried an opinion piece by economist Juan Alemann (11/10): "Undoubtedly, climate change is one of the world's greatest issues.... The difficult thing is achieving coordinated global actions, because, even if developed countries reduced their gas emissions,

developing countries will generate more emissions as their economies advance.... Let's face a key issue: If all the world had the U.S.' economic level today, humanity would disappear, because we would have a remarkable warming, not to mention that in a short time oil and other natural resources would be exhausted. The gist of the climate issue...is the use of alternative energies. Oil is very likely to be just a transitional phenomenon in the history of humanity.... We should all be concerned about global warming...because...a catastrophe which might cause the total or partial extinction of humanity should not be ruled out."

"Climate For Change"

The liberal Buenos Aires Herald stated (11/9): "Not everybody...may be aware of the presence of COP-4 unfolding here this month...but the world's future is at stake in a very real way. If attention here...centered on the prospects of global warming bringing dengue fever and other ailments to Argentina, the ravages of Hurricane Mitch...are a far more terrible warning of greenhouse effects.... How to balance the differences, while implementing the Kyoto Protocol...has led to a bewildering welter of proposals--debt-pollution swaps, special credits, laxer emission requirements for those who export clean technology, emissions trading, etc. Yet rather than devising complex, costly and bureaucratic schemes and confusing everybody with the 'emissions trading' and 'Annex I' jargon, perhaps environmental zeal should...focus on seeking alternative sources of energy to fossil fuels. Surely, the key to saving the world from the hot air of carbon dioxide emissions is not to release another mass of hot air."

"Smog At The Conference"

Leading Clarin carried this opinion piece by columnist Norma Morandini

(11/8): "Representatives from all the world...who warn yearly about

catastrophes related to world temperature...have announced that...whole

populations will disappear...because of famine, plague, [floods] and

droughts.... (This is) a threat that this kind of conference has posed in

lengthy documents...but it is ignored by world governments. In speeches,

everyone agrees that the planet is on the verge of collapsing and that

economic progress should not be made at the expense of nature....

Nevertheless, when the time comes to spend money, there is no consensus and

old problems and trade inequalities arise."

BRAZIL: "The Advances In Buenos Aires"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo argued (11/18): "One cannot fail to

recognize that important steps were taken at the climate change meeting....

The U.S. decision to finally sign the Kyoto Protocol was an important

symbolic step. The meeting in Buenos Aires rejected proposals that

required the developing countries immediately to reduce gas emissions.

[Such proposals] do not consider the existing differences between the

already industrialized countries and the countries that are fighting to

overcome economic backwardness. Considering the climate of skepticism that

marked the beginning of the meeting in Buenos Aires, the advances made

there were not [insignificant]."

"The Failure Of The Buenos Aires Conference"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo had this piece by Jose Goldemberg (11/17): The [conference] did not meet any of its objectives and was limited to the postponement of any important decisions for at least one or two years. Even this mediocre result runs a serious risk of not being adopted because of U.S. and Argentine persistence in including in the work plan a new mechanism, not foreseen in Kyoto, i.e., the adoption of 'volunteer commitments' by developing countries.... The reduction of gas emissions would mean, in some cases, limiting the development of the country.... The reality is that the developing countries, especially China, India and Brazil, have already made and are still making significant efforts to reduce their gas emissions.... Actually, it is necessary to mention that part of the U.S. government is doing its utmost to continue concrete actions in the area of technological cooperation and even in projects to implement the reduction of gas emissions."

"Slow Going At Buenos Aires"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo opined (11/17): "As in other multilateral diplomatic talks, progress at the climate change conference was very little. The most the delegates managed to draft was a Plan of Action of Buenos Aires. It does not set any concrete goals.... That is the way such negotiations with huge economic and geopolitical interests are played out: very slowly. Buenos Aires had its dramatic moments such as Argentina's announcement that it would adopt voluntary goals to hold down the increase in gas emissions. The offer broke the monopoly of the developing countries.... Responsible for 25 percent of the gas emissions on the planet, the United States finally announced their agreement to the

Kyoto treaty. The coordinated move was seen as diplomatic agility on the part of Bill Clinton and Carlos Menem. However, the Buenos Aires message is that overcoming [global warming] requires not two but 176 partners."

"For Environmental Solidarity"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo had this commentary (11/9): "If international solidarity does not occur in the financial area, as we can see in the recent crisis, which involved less powerful countries in the international system...it should be the goal to be reached in the environmental area. Interdependence may appear as a paradigm to guide the decisions of the parties involved in the fourth conference. Brazil, due to the size of its biomass and its energy model based on hydroelectricity (therefore, less polluting than the other countries)...should influence other countries to move in this direction."

CANADA: "Hot Air In Buenos Aires"

The leading Globe and Mail observed (11/16): "The chief product of the Buenos Aires meeting...seems to have been abundant hot air.... Several industrial countries, including the United States, however, feel that...the problem is a global one.... As long as governments keep a tight lid on the issuing of permits, and economic growth continues, the value of permits will rise with the demand for emission capacity, constantly improving the incentive not to pollute, rather than to buy new permits. The real question is whether or not governments can be trusted not to 'debase' the permit currency.... The current climate change agreement will only reduce

annual greenhouse-gas emissions by 5.2 per cent of 1990 levels by 2012.

If the science of global warming proves correct, that will be far too small to make an appreciable difference. When will we start figuring out how to adjust to a warmer planet, if that, in fact, is our destiny?"

"Meeting Grinds To Blessedly Inconclusive End"

Peter Foster wrote in the new conservative National Post (11/13): "The Buenos Aires [meeting] ground to a blessedly inconclusive halt this week, leaving inhabitants of the UN wonkasphere to plan further exotically-located confabs. Global warming hysteria has cooled since Kyoto, despite allegations that the hand of man is behind every extreme weather phenomenon.... Nevertheless, one unlikely place in which the issue seems to have established a firmer foothold is the corporate boardroom....

The problem is that some observers appear to believe that the level of corporate interest in the goings-on at Buenos Aires gives credence to the science of global warming. It rather reflects a growing realization of the potential costs of unwise policies. [And] alleged solutions are more costly and damaging than the original problem, if there is one at all....

The global warming debate is at least as much an ideological issue as a scientific one. Global warming is embraced and ceaselessly promoted by the undead left, for whom it represents an apocalyptic nightmare."

"Climate Summit Sputters To A Halt"

Columnist Eric Reguly observed in the leading Globe and Mail (11/12): "The Buenos Aires summit...sputters to a halt tomorrow after two weeks of apparent non-progress.... Barring a last-minute breakthrough orchestrated

by the environment ministers...Buenos Aires will be a bust. This may not be a disaster, though, because negotiators need more time to fix the global emissions-trading scheme drafted last year in Kyoto. The scheme, whose details were supposed to be hammered out in Buenos Aires, is a good idea in theory, but is open to abuse and manipulation to the point that it needs an overhaul.... Although the trading plan looks like a winner on paper, it has several loopholes. One is that emission allotments were based on 1990 data.... Another problem is the lack of requirement on the credit seller's behalf to invest the income on pollution-control technology.... For the sake of the environment and the world's devastated economies, the emission-trading plan needs a careful rethink before it's implemented."

URUGUAY: "U.S. Position Is Major Obstacle To COP-4 Progress"

Top-circulation, conservative El Pais published this editorial (11/12):

"As we envisioned, the [COP-4 meeting] has been, up to now, more a forum in support of national interests than a meeting of nations willing to take important measures to protect the future of humankind.... The difficult question to answer is about the interests at stake here. The major obstacle to clear in the COP-4 is the position of the United States. They have announced that without a commitment of the developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Kyoto Protocol will not be presented to the Congress for its ratification. If the United States is responsible for 25 percent of gas emissions in the air, does it make political sense to continue with negotiations? It seems very unfair that while a few countries consume the major part of the world's energy to maintain an unsustainable and inequitable level of development and emit 80 percent of

greenhouse gases, the majority of the countries of the world...should be obliged to take some of the responsibility. The fair thing to do in this regard would be for each country to make a proportionate commitment to its participation in the problem."

EUROPE

BRITAIN: "Warm Work"

The independent Financial Times opined (11/10): "Saving the planet from overheating was never going to be easy.... The most important issue is the role of global trading in emissions quota certificates. Establishing a credible system is vital, if only to keep the United States on board. This system would allow the advanced economies to meet their targets relatively painlessly, by buying quotas from less efficient energy users.... [But] formidable difficulties [lie] ahead. Foremost is the question of how emissions quotas could be allocated fairly. A simple per capita quota will hardly be accepted as fair, considering the huge disparity in carbon dioxide emissions. Some compromise is needed. Then there are suspicions that the United States wants to use a trading system mainly to buy certificates for pollution cuts in Russia.... If the scientific consensus is right, deep long-term cuts in the emission of greenhouse gases will be needed over many decades. This process cannot be costless. It makes economic sense to tackle the easiest tasks first, wherever they are. A trading system could greatly help to achieve this. But if such a system is to be politically acceptable, all nations must carry their share of the burden, not simply buy their way out of trouble."

"Cooling A Hot Planet"

The liberal Guardian had this lead editorial (11/9): "One year on from Kyoto, the international community meets again this week in Buenos Aires to tackle global warming. Surely we should all be celebrating this new international commitment to save the planet? It would be comforting, but far too complacent. Each step has been dogged by discouraging fudges, missed deadlines and disappointing targets.... Buenos Aires will be consumed by highly technical arguments over legitimate and illegitimate carbon credits. One danger facing the conference is getting bogged down in detail... A second challenge facing Buenos Aires is to pay more heed to the need to help states adapt to existing climate changes. Dreadful though Hurricane Mitch's devastation has been, the threat from future disasters is of a much grimmer dimension: whole populations displaced as deltas--like the Nile, Mekong and Ganges--are submerged. Who will house, clothe and feed the displaced? Never have scientific warnings been more serious."

FRANCE: "Beneath The Climate, A New World Order"

Herve Kempf observed in left-of-center Le Monde (11/19): "The failed Buenos Aires conference...is certainly very disappointing. But considering what is at stake--the creation 'ad nihilo' of a world market, which would change the concept of economic growth and organize a system of equality between nations--the failure is understandable.... Buoyed by its economic success, the United States wants to extrapolate and use the market to resolve problems stemming from climate change.... Washington's policy is (also) based on the fact that 20 years from now, emissions from emerging nations

will equal those from developed countries, and that China's emissions will rival with those of the United States."

"A Commitment Not Met"

Left-of-center Le Monde asserted (11/16): "The U.S. attitude at the Buenos Aires conference has been to do everything possible to avoid its responsibility.... Once again, under pressure from private lobbying, the United States has refused to implement international agreements it had committed to.... The U.S. attitude clearly hinders progress in the fight against climate change and weakens the legitimacy of a nation which claims to speak up in the name of morality. A commitment has been made and it must be respected."

GERMANY: "A Fresh Political Breeze Out Of Buenos Aires"

V. Bommert aired this commentary on regional radio station Norddeutscher Rundfunk of Hamburg (11/16): "A fresh political breeze has developed (in Buenos Aires). And all indications are that the negotiating atmosphere will change at future conferences. The new political situation in Germany is also responsible for this change. And Hurricane Mitch has certainly also contributed to this rethinking process. It showed what it means to oppose nature.... Mitch demonstrated to the world what it will cost if climate change really occurs. And it has probably also helped the participants imagine that it will be cheaper for the world to re-balance the climate than to wait until it will be buried under the debris of a misguided global climate policy."

"The Buenos Aires Bazaar"

Centrist Leipziger Volkszeitung judged (11/16): "Little is better than nothing.... It is a shameful policy of minute steps against global warming that was agreed upon in Buenos Aires at the last moment.... Instead of seriously fighting an increase in air pollution, a haggling about climate policy has taken place that resembles the trading in a bazaar. This has little to do with climate protection. In Buenos Aires one seed has been sown. The future must show whether it will bear fruit or whether it will dry up in the drought of negotiations."

"Spirit Of Rio Has Faded"

Centrist General-Anzeiger of Bonn penned this editorial (11/14): "[Any] progress [made at the Buenos Aires meeting] is mitigated by the fact that global warming will now be reduced by only 0.06 degrees Celsius. This resembles the touching of the brake without the brake lights even flashing on. The world does not accept the challenge. It either ignores the dangers or pushes them aside. Irrespective of whether it was Buenos Aires or Kyoto: the spirit from Rio de Janeiro has faded.... What is left is the understanding that the industrialized nations are mainly responsible for the construction of the green house Earth, while the threshold and developing nations will turn it into a sauna if nothing happens."

"U.S. On Wrong Track"

Right-of-center Mittelbayerische Zeitung of Regensburg held (11/16):

"While the EU states...have set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse emissions in their own region, the United States has gotten on the wrong track. The Americans are focussing on the loophole in the minutes that allows the trade with emission certificates. This is no more than an international 'selling of indulgences' between the poor and the rich. It is disgraceful because the poor countries are the ones who mainly suffer from the looming climate change. As far as climate policy is concerned, it is ineffective and will neither have a positive or a negative result."

"Economics, Not Environment, At Issue"

Left-of-center Berliner Zeitung carried this editorial (11/12): "While the stock markets reacted in a testy way to each turnabout in the Lewinsky affair, international climate conferences seem to have no effect at all.

But--as the Buenos Aires conference showed --what is really at issue now is not the environment, but economic policy. Should the industrialized nations really implement the reduction of five percent mainly within their own borders? Or should they comply with their commitments by trading emission rights with country that do not pollute the environment? The answer to this question will decide how fast the economies of the rich countries must slow down their energy consumption. In Buenos Aires, this answer was not found, because the United States is blocking it, not keeping in mind how expensive a delay in climate protection will be."

"Slogan For Lobbyists, Politicians: 'Apres Nous Le Deluge'"

Right-of-center Frankenpost of Hof stated (11/9): "An old proverb says; He who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind. In view of the horrible

hurricane disaster in Central America, please allow us to change this proverb as follows: He who sows the thunderstorm will reap tornados. Of course, we cannot present evidence that these bad storms of the past weeks and months have something to do with the rapidly progressing climate change on earth. But...those who change the balance of weather factors will also change the weather itself. Why unscrupulous lobbyists and submissive politicians act according to the slogan 'apres nous le deluge' should now be clear to everybody."

"Action Instead Of Hot Air"

Right-of-center Mindener Tageblatt opined (11/6): While thousands of people in Central America died because of the eruption of a volcano, a hurricane and floods, the participants at the climate conference are meeting in Buenos Aires without achieving a result.... The delegates should be confronted with pictures from Central America until they have agreed to a result allowing the fastest possible reduction of the emission

of greenhouse gases.... The time for unsuccessful talks at conferences...must be finished as soon as possible. Action instead of hot air."

ITALY: "U.S. Prevailed: Market Rules Will Dictate The Game"

Antonio Cianciullo observed in left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (11/15): "In the end, the United States prevailed: It will be the market establishing the rules of the environmental game.... The reduction of gases responsible for the greenhouse effect will continue...but with the pace set by industries, not by an international agreement.... The [U.S.]

representatives...had a difficult task: to defend the interests of a country which has four percent of the total world population but is responsible for one fourth of greenhouse gas emissions. Yet in ten days of negotiations they managed to divide the front led by China and India...and to corner the EU. No agreement has been reached on rules and everything has been postponed until next year. But all problems will really be resolved only after the November 2000 U.S. presidential elections: a Senate less influenced by the Republican oil lobby seems to be the necessary condition for Washington to ratify the Kyoto Protocol."

"Results Disappointing From EU's Perspective"

A report from Buenos Aires in leading business *Il Sole-24 Ore* judged (11/15): "Behind the curtain of official communiques, the results of the Buenos Aires conference were rather disappointing, at least from a European perspective.... The scheme supported by the United States has prevailed."

"Ronchi: 'Greenhouse Effect, Limits From The U.S.'"

In an interview in centrist, influential *La Stampa* (11/15), Italian Environment Minister Edo Ronchi was asked which countries oppose limiting emissions of greenhouse gases. He responded: "OPEC nations, for example. But the policy of the United States is also very articulated. The U.S. administration is highly aware of the problem but I suspect that, no matter what decision it may take, Congress would stop it. The fact is that American citizens, i.e., voters, are not willing to give up their energy-oriented life style.... And simply hinting at a reduction of energy

consumption would mean a decline in political support. Hence, the understandable caution in making commitments." Ronchi concluded by admitting that "every agreement will be useless if the energy policy of the United States does not change."

"U.S. Signs Agreement"

A commentary in PDS (leading government party) L'Unita' observed (11/13):

"The giant has finally given in and signed an agreement it did not want to sign. Or, at least, not without receiving something in exchange.

Instead, notwithstanding the fact that the nations gathered in Buenos Aires have conceded nothing to the United States so far, it seems that Clinton will sign the Kyoto agreement.... [The question is]--Will Clinton's commitment promote dialogue between the North and the South?"

"Delegates Act As If Greenhouse Effect Still Not Devastating Reality"

Franco Foresta Martin reported from Buenos Aires in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera (11/6): "As experts list statistics and data, delegates to the conference proceed slowly in their discussion of the mechanisms to reduce carbon dioxide, as if the greenhouse effect were still a theoretical model rather than a devastating reality."

RUSSIA: "Haggling"

Vladimir Abarinov and Vladimir Mikheyev commented in reformist Izvestiya (11/14): "America's consent to sign last year's Kyoto protocol is perhaps

the only accomplishment of the Buenos Aires forum. But even that is a symbolic gesture, since the Senate majority refuses to approve this document until the Third World nations join it.... In many respects, the forum looked more like haggling than an academic discussion--with what this or that country would lose or gain by having hazardous productions phased-down replacing common human values as the basis for discussion."

BELGIUM: "No Kyoto II"

Xavier Ducarme observed in conservative Catholic La Libre Belgique (11/16):

"The fourth UN conference on climate change....has not resulted in a Kyoto II as some were expecting.... A fiasco according to some, small progress according to others, everyone agrees to recognize that the crusade undertaken by mankind against the greenhouse effect is still at its beginning."

"Environment Summit Ends In Misty Promises"

Independent De Morgen noted (11/16): "The UN environmental conference has yielded little concrete political action. The summit was supposed to draft the Kyoto promises of last year into a well-defined action plan, but it got bogged down in a series of unclear promises, and postponed political action until the next meeting.... The summit was overshadowed by contradictory interests. The United States, which is responsible for approximately one-quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions, continues to be a strong supporter of the 'trade of emissions.'... In contrast to the United States, the EU wanted to allow this trade only with strict conditions and

within clearly defined limits. The solution was postponed to the next summit at the end of 1999."

"U.S. Becoming Increasingly Isolated"

Environmental affairs writer Antoon Wouters maintained in independent Catholic De Standaard (11/16): "The U.S. government is in a precarious position and is becoming isolated worldwide. At home it feels the hot breath of the Senate which does not want to ratify the Kyoto Protocol as long as the developing countries are not willing to make efforts. The hard core of 77 developing countries is unwilling to give in.... The conference in Buenos Aires did not manage to close the gap.... The Americans want the mechanisms of the free market to play in an unfettered manner and without limitation.... Europe does not want to hear about that. The elimination of the largest part of the emission of greenhouse gases must take place at home. No agreement was reached on that in Buenos Aires."

DENMARK: "Results Few, But Turning Point Nevertheless"

Left-wing Information commented (11/16): "The results (in Buenos Aires) were fearfully few. Nonetheless, much suggests that the turning point has been reached. Gradually, the international community appears to be realizing that change is imperative.... The people of the world realize the problem. A recent opinion poll suggested that 70 percent of Americans support the Kyoto Protocol."

"Small But Important Steps Taken"

Center-right Berlingske Tidende concluded (11/15): "A number of small but important steps were taken. Also on a psychological level, the climate was improved. A number of contradictions between industrialized and developing countries were addressed; the United States gave up a number of special standpoints and agreed to carry its part of the burden."

SPAIN: "Clean Air--Buenos Aires"

Liberal El Pais pointed out (11/10): "The United States is responsible for emitting one-third of all the carbon dioxide in the world at a per capita rate that doubles the EU median and is 100 times more than the least developed countries. It is only fitting that those countries which have caused the problem and most contribute to its worsening should be the ones obliged to alleviate the situation. The U.S. refusal to ratify the protocol adopted in Kyoto...until all other countries, including the least developed, have done so is unjustifiable, notwithstanding the fact that emissions by Asian and Latin American countries will increase as they further develop. In the long run, a more global commitment [than the one which now binds only 38 developed countries] will be needed. However, the industrialized countries lack the moral authority to oblige future remedial actions by others if they do not commit themselves to those actions now."

EAST ASIA

CHINA: "Climate Talks Face Tough Task To Reach Set Goals"

The official English language China Daily noted (11/16): "Negotiators who reached a deal early on Saturday to keep the Kyoto global warming treaty alive after two weeks of arduous talks face a much tougher task to make it work. The United States, the world's leading polluter, insists that the developing world agrees to curb its emissions growth before Washington ratifies the deal, a demand many poor countries reject. Some environmentalists worry these issues could destroy the treaty, and urged the United States to back off those demands."

SOUTH KOREA: "Climate Change And U.S. Responsibility"

Moderate Hankook Ilbo argued (11/13): "It is very unlikely that any results will come out of [the climate change meeting]. The developing nations are still opposed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.... Climate change is certainly a factor that will most likely determine the global course in the new century, so it is almost pointless to emphasize how important the whole issue is.... As significant, is to recognize that the role and responsibility of the U.S. are enormous.... The sheer amount of the gas that the United States has emitted, which amounted to 23 percent of the world's total last year alone, explains the enormity of its responsibility. After all, it is the United States and also Europe that caused the whole issue by having accumulated the gas emissions for the last 150 years. Nevertheless, the U.S. attitude has been rather selfish so far, especially compared to that of Europe.... Climate change has the potential to force all of us into a total disaster. The United States should show world leadership on this issue."

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: "Hot Air"

The centrist Telegraph concluded (11/17): "The results from the global climate change meeting can at best be described as modest. It has been clear from the beginning that this year's summit would mainly be devoted to fleshing out the bare bones of the Kyoto Protocol.... Deadlines look good on paper, but are meaningless unless backed by effective mechanisms to reduce emissions.... This was the scenario a year back in Kyoto and is still the scenario now. One aspect of the Kyoto Protocol received maximum attention at Buenos Aires...the trading of emission credits.... This puts fossil fuel rich countries like India in a situation in which they have to compromise their developmental requirements. Expectedly, fingers have been pointed at China and India.... But what will worry environmentalists the most is the way in which the summit agenda has been dominated by economics rather than the environment.... Amid claims and counter-claims, the central issue of honoring commitments to reducing emissions has been conveniently forgotten."

"Weathering Pressure"

An analysis in the right-of-center Indian Express by Damandeep Singh held (11/13): "One of the thornier issues to be addressed...will be emissions trading. Industrialized countries...are hoping to meet the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol without harming their economies by purchasing credits from countries that are below their targets.... Industrialized countries

that want to preclude any domestic action are pushing these moves hard....

Excessive allowances, sometimes referred to as 'hot air', are very tempting

for industrialized countries.... Adding to the confusion in Buenos Aires

was the proposal by Argentina to include the concept of 'voluntary

commitments' as a part of the convention.... India along with the G-77

and China opposed these moves. 'We are conscious that we cannot rush into

anything which will lay down the ground rules for years to come,' said

[Indian] Union Environment Secretary Vishwanath Anand."

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SUBJECT: 1999-01/11 POTUS and Menem remarks at arrival ceremony

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TO: Peter Rundlet (CN=Peter Rundlet/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Philip J. Crowley (CN=Philip J. Crowley/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
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TO: Phillip Caplan (CN=Phillip Caplan/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Rajiv Y. Mody (CN=Rajiv Y. Mody/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Renee C. Riley (CN=Renee C. Riley/OU=OA/O=EOP [OA])
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TO: Reuben L. Musgrave Jr. (CN=Reuben L. Musgrave Jr./OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Robert S. Weiner (CN=Robert S. Weiner/OU=ONDCP/O=EOP [ONDCP])
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TO: Robin J. Bachman (CN=Robin J. Bachman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Robin M. Roland (CN=Robin M. Roland/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Roger V. Salazar (CN=Roger V. Salazar/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Sarah E. Gegenheimer (CN=Sarah E. Gegenheimer/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

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

TO: Sean P. Maloney (CN=Sean P. Maloney/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Serena C. Torrey (CN=Serena C. Torrey/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sheyda Jahanbani (CN=Sheyda Jahanbani/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Steven J. Naplan (CN=Steven J. Naplan/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
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TO: Sylvia M. Mathews (CN=Sylvia M. Mathews/OU=OMB/O=EOP [OMB])
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TO: Tanya E. Martin (CN=Tanya E. Martin/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])
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TO: Thomas D. Janenda (CN=Thomas D. Janenda/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Thurgood Marshall Jr (CN=Thurgood Marshall Jr/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Toby C. Graff (CN=Toby C. Graff/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Todd Stern (CN=Todd Stern/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Tracy F. Sisser (CN=Tracy F. Sisser/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Tracy Pakulniewicz (CN=Tracy Pakulniewicz/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Victoria L. Valentine (CN=Victoria L. Valentine/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Virginia Apuzzo (CN=Virginia Apuzzo/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Virginia N. Rustique (CN=Virginia N. Rustique/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Wayne C. Johnson (CN=Wayne C. Johnson/OU=OA/O=EOP [OA])
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TO: William C. Haymes (CN=William C. Haymes/OU=OA/O=EOP [OA])

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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

JANUARY 11, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

AND PRESIDENT CARLOS MENEM OF ARGENTINA
AT STATE ARRIVAL CEREMONY

Grand Foyer

9:45 A.M. EST

PRESIDENT CLINTON: President Menem, members of the Argentine delegation, distinguished guests. It's a very special pleasure for me to welcome President Menem to the White House for this first state visit of the new year. The United States is proud of its strong relationship with Argentina, and I am grateful for the personal and national partnership that President Menem and I have developed together.

Mr. President, over the last decade, the Americas have turned a page in our history. Our future has never been brighter. Last year, Argentina and the United States helped to resolve a border dispute between Peru and Ecuador that had persisted for decades. This year, we are a hemisphere at peace, essentially without international conflict, moving beyond historic animosities to discover

new opportunities.

In every nation but one, democracy has replaced dictatorships, open markets have replaced command economies, a marketplace of ideas has replaced the battle zone of ideologies. From Point Barrow to Patagonia, the peoples of the America are greeting a new American century with a conviction that this will be our best time yet.

Mr. President, under your leadership Argentina has been at the forefront of Latin America's resurgence. You have built trust with neighbors and strengthened relationships with nations around the world. By courageously examining their past, the Argentine people have set an example for other nations seeking to bolster human rights. Argentina's wise economic policies are helping the region to recover from economic challenges and to restore confidence in open markets.

We are also particularly grateful for Argentina's leadership beyond the Americas. Day in and day out, your peacekeepers promote stability in Haiti,

Cyprus, Bosnia, the Persian Gulf and other trouble spots, often working side-by-side with our troops. President Menem has consistently worked to encourage constructive dialogue between nations, and to oppose those who would intimidate their neighbors through military aggression.

Finally, he has shown real vision and courage before one of the great challenges of the new century, securing his people's prosperity while protecting the environment for future generations.

In 1999, our two nations will continue to work together closely, building a vibrant, open international economy while preserving natural resources; forging international peace and stability; honoring individual rights along with the larger community to which we all belong.

Mr. President, our two nations have come far together over this past decade. But, thanks in no small measure to your leadership, there is no limit to our progress in the century ahead. Bienvenidos, welcome to America. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MENEM: Mr. President, my friend in the United States of America, President Clinton; distinguished Mrs. Clinton; Mr. Vice President of the United States of America, Mr. Al Gore;

distinguished Mrs. Gore; Madam Secretary of State; military officials, representatives of the U.S. Government, and distinguished delegates of the delegation that has come with me; ladies and gentlemen.

This is the beginning of my second state visit to the United States of America, and it is at the beginning of my 10th and last year in my second term of office as President of Argentina. I would like, Mr. President, to thank you very much for the praise that you have showered upon me and the good words you have said about me personally and my country. It has been an honor for me, together with you, to build this new relationship between our two nations. Our joint agenda is full of positive events.

To give you an example, Argentine meat is once again on the American market. We have been appointed major non-NATO allies of the United States. And we have jointly performed activities in space and in environmental protection. The trust you have showed, Mr. President, and the mutual respect that we feel for each other, has been the basis of the many points of agreements in our life together and also have been the basis for the solutions to be found to our rare moments of dissent.

What we have been able to build, Mr. President, is solid enough so that future generations, both of Argentines and Americans, will be able to enter into the next century with a glorious future in sight. And that future that we will share, it will be based on

peace, justice, the preservation of the environment, the respect for human rights, the full-fledged application of democracy and all the peace that we want for the world.

In the name of my people, Mr. President, and in the name of my own person, I would like to congratulate you for the strong position of leadership that you have shown, not only within your country, but in the world as a whole. You, Mr. President, and your people, are the friends of Argentina; and the Argentines, and this President, are also the friends of the United States of America. We are friends and, of course, allies.

Before closing, I would like to warmly congratulate the Argentine School in Washington, that is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. They have been educating 300 students a year, one-third of them being Argentines. I would like very specially to underline the fact that this community effort is done with no subsidies, and based on the work of professors, students and parents. For all the delegation of that school here present I would like to propose a round of applause. (Applause.)

President Clinton, Mrs. Clinton, thank you for this invitation, and I thank you for this visit. And I want you to know that you have in me a true friend. I may be the President now, I will be a citizen in the future; but I am sure that we will be still working together to promote peace in the world, to promote equality among the inhabitants of the world, to work for the greatness of each

one of our nations and for the happiness of our people.

I thank you and may God bless you. (Applause.)

END

10:00 A.M. EST

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: The Economist (The Economist [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 4-MAR-1999 21:53:16.00

SUBJECT: Politics This Week February 27th - March 5th 1999

TO: Jonathan E. Smith (CN=Jonathan E. Smith/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

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TEXT:

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

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Cheap oil may be a danger as well as a boon * Microsoft is losing its

antitrust battle * The French start worrying about an assertive new

Germany *

The cold diplomacy between America and China * More blood in Israel's

insecurity zone * Nigeria elects a president * America and the EU go

bananas

over trade * A guided tour around Saddam Hussein's monuments to himself

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articles each week.

DEMOCRACY, AGAIN

+ Olusegun Obasanjo was elected NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT, after 15 years of military rule. He promised to lead an "open and fair" government. His defeated opponent, Olu Falae, charged him with vote rigging. The outgoing military government pardoned nearly 100 people alleged to have plotted coups against the late General Sani Abacha.

+ Thousands of Ethiopians celebrated in their capital, Addis Ababa, when the government claimed victory in its WAR WITH ERITREA. Eritrea had agreed to peace proposals after Ethiopian soldiers seized disputed border territory.

+ After the murder of eight foreign tourists in UGANDA, the president, Yoweri Museveni, ordered troops into neighbouring Congo. More than 100 Rwandan Hutu guerrillas had crossed into Uganda from Congo and abducted the tourists.

+ SOUTH AFRICA said it would hold a general election on June 2nd.

+ An Israeli brigadier-general was killed by ambush in occupied SOUTHERN LEBANON. Israeli politicians, their minds on the coming election, competed with each other to respond suitably. A grassroots Israeli movement is beginning to call for unconditional withdrawal.

+ Reformers topped the polls in IRAN's local elections after the failure of a bid by the conservative authorities to bar many of the more liberal candidates from standing.

+ After American aircraft bombed radio-relay stations in northern IRAQ, the pipeline carrying Iraqi oil to Turkey briefly went out of operation. The Iraqis repaired the stations but the oil-for-food programme is endangered.

DEDICATED CASH

+ House Republicans put forward a plan to use America's SOCIAL SECURITY trust fund surplus only for Social Security payments and for paying off the national debt, rather than -- as now -- for miscellaneous projects. The Congressional Budget Office accused the Clinton administration, correctly, of breaking the budgetary spending caps.

+ Pat Buchanan, a Republican brawler, announced that he would RUN FOR PRESIDENT a third time "to heal the soul of America". Governor George Bush of Texas, the hot Republican favourite, set up an exploratory committee.

+ Despite pleas from the German government and the World Court, the second of TWO GERMAN BROTHERS convicted of murder 17 years ago was put to death in Arizona's gas chamber.

+ In her first television interview, MONICA LEWINSKY apologised to Hillary Clinton, Chelsea Clinton and the whole country. The president, she said, had been her "sexual soulmate", but was now merely "100% politician".

+ In ARGENTINA, President Carlos Menem, having strongly hinted that he might run for a third consecutive term -- which the constitution forbids -- then said firmly that he would not. Not the first time he has done it. Nor the last?

+ Four leading CUBAN DISSIDENTS were tried for sedition. Many friendly foreign governments protested. Verdict and sentences after the one-day

trial will follow later.

DISUNION

+ Relations between GERMANY and FRANCE were tense, after a meeting of EU leaders near Bonn ended with no agreement on how to reshape the EU's budget, in particular its support for farmers. The supposed deadline is a special summit in Berlin on March 24th and 25th.

+ With peace talks on KOSOVO suspended until March 15th, fears grew that the Serbian army might renew an offensive against ethnic-Albanian separatist guerrillas in the province. Meanwhile, the guerrillas sacked their political leader, Adem Demaci, in a move which increases prospects that their Kosovo Liberation Army would accept a western peace plan.

+ The European Commission approved a new CODE OF CONDUCT for its commissioners and civil servants. It deals with such issues as payments for giving talks, travel expenses, and recruitment of friends and relations.

+ Russia's president, BORIS YELTSIN, returned to hospital for further

treatment of a stomach ulcer.

+ A new coalition government emerged in MOLDOVA, with Ion Sturza, a right-winger, as prime minister.

CAMBODIA'S PAST

+ The Cambodian government said it wants KHMER ROUGE LEADERS accused of genocide to face a "truth and reconciliation commission" similar to South Africa's, rather than an international tribunal proposed by the United Nations.

+ Madeleine Albright, America's secretary of state, tackled China on its HUMAN RIGHTS record on a visit to Beijing before the opening of the National People's Congress.

+ Much of the city of Ambon in eastern Indonesia was in ruins after renewed fighting between MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS. The government sent in 3,000 soldiers to try to restore order. More than 160 people have died in religious clashes since January.

+ Embarrassed by taking only six months to approve Viagra, an anti-impotence drug, Japanese health authorities at last agreed -- after 40 years of deliberation -- to recommend the CONTRACEPTIVE PILL can be distributed to women.

+ A South Korean government agency said that up to 800,000 people each year may have died recently in NORTH KOREA from malnutrition and related diseases.

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CREATOR: Erik Brand (Erik Brand [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:11-NOV-1999 13:39:03.00

SUBJECT: Thursday's Latin America Advisor

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

READ:UNKNOWN

Maria Alexandra Arriaga (CN=Maria Alexandra Arriaga/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

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TEXT:

TODAY'S TOP NEWS STORIES

Argentina Facing \$10 Billion Shortfall

U.S. Senate Lambasts Peru's Fujimori

Guatemala's Portillo Sees Marxist Ties

As Key To Presidency

Uruguay's Centrist Candidates Unite

Against Leftist Alliance

Tensions Arise In Advance Of Havana

Ibero-American Summit

PDVSA Workers Threaten Strike To

Speed Up Negotiations

Chile's Largest Copper Mine To Launch

\$1.4 Billion Expansion

TODAY'S QUESTION

Peronist candidate Eduardo Duhalde's defeat in Argentina's recent presidential elections leaves outgoing president Carlos Menem as the undisputed leader of the Peronist party -- a position with considerable clout given that neither the Alliance nor the Peronists have an outright majority in Congress. How and for what purpose do you think Menem will use this power? Is it feasible that he could make a political comeback in 2003 at the ripe age of 73?

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TODAY'S TOP NEWS STORIES

Argentina
Facing \$10 Billion Shortfall
U.S. Senate Lambasts Peru's Fujimori
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PDVSA Workers Threaten Strike To Speed Up Negotiations<
/a>
Chile's Largest Copper Mine To Launch \$1.4 Billion
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TODAY'S QUESTION

Peronist

candidate Eduardo Duhalde's defeat in Argentina's recent presidential elections

leaves outgoing president Carlos Menem as the undisputed leader of the Peronist party -- a position with considerable clout given that neither the Alliance nor the Peronists have an outright majority in Congress. How and for what purpose do you think Menem will use this power? Is it feasible that he could make a political comeback in 2003 at the ripe age of 73?

Yes: 43%
No: 14%
Other: 43%

"Yes" vote commentary: Peter Egon de Svastich: "In the wake of Duhalde's humiliating defeat, Menem will wield some power within Peronist ranks but not as much as originally thought. There are several key Peronist governors who want the mantle of the next candidate for president (Ruckhaus and Reutemann among them). However, never underestimate the old fox. Age matters little with national leaders who have proven track records. If scandal revelations are limited and punishment for a couple of high profile cases do not deeply and directly scar Menem, then he could once again be a presidential candidate in 2003 and beyond. After all, the tango is all about nostalgia!"

"No" vote commentary: Allen M. Rodriguez: "Menem's age in 2003 is really not the issue. The undeniable fact, though, is that he is a spent force regardless of his age. Over the last year, he was mired in the polls at low double-digit levels, in large part because he is intimately associated in voters' minds with the pervasive corruption which has recently plagued the country. It is doubtful, even if Menem were to play a very constructive role as leader of the Peronist party, that he would be able to resurrect himself. More likely, he will drag the Peronist party further down during his tenure by blocking any legislation which might enhance De la Rúa's presidency."

"Yes" vote commentary: Geoffrey Milton: "Menem's record as a leader puts him well ahead of most by global standards. Sure he has ambitions for 2003; and 73 should not be an impediment to him -- but for the Constitution
,
he would no doubt have been re-elected for a further term."

"Other" vote commentary: Ken Frankel: "Menem has been planning his return well before the ballots were cast or counted in the recent election.

I'm not so sure about the supposition that he is the 'undisputed leader' of the Peronists. Duhalde can still count on the loyalty of a number of Peronist diputados whom he will use to help thwart Menem's pretensions to the crown. This is payback time for Duhalde; he will reciprocate for Menem's ambush of his campaign. The path will be cut for De la Sota, Reuteman and Ruckauf to contest the leadership."

"Other" vote commentary: James R. Jones: "Anything is possible. Menem is not likely to buy a rocking chair and watch the world go by. He'll be actively involved in the politics of Argentina."

"Other" vote guest commentary*: Rogelio Ramirez de la O: "No doubt this is one of the top items on his agenda. He will use his power to maintain himself as a credible leader and later on to be the candidate of the Peronists again."

"Yes" vote guest commentary*: Jonathan Kandell: "For Menem, everything
g
is going according to script: 1) Do everything possible to make Duhalde lose, without incurring too much blame for the debacle; 2) Emerge as party leader and thus get an inside track as the next Peronist presidential candidate
;
and 3) Count on De la Rúa's lack of charisma and decisiveness to make him

vulnerable in 2003."

*Rogelio Ramirez de la O, President,
Economic Analysis for Company Planning (Ecanal)
*Jonathan Kandell, Independent Journalist

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to top of page.

Thursday, November 11, 1999

Economic News

Argentina Facing \$10 Billion Shortfall

Argentina's Vice President-elect, Carlos Alvarez, said Wednesday that his country must cut costs by \$5.5 billion next year if it hopes to comply with laws requiring a balanced budget by 2003. In citing the figure, Alvarez points to a projected \$10 billion government shortfall despite legal limitation

s on deficits over \$4.5 billion. A \$10 billion gap would be 3.3 percent of GDP and more than twice next year's target. The new vice president's remarks add to a string of public accusations by the incoming Alliance administration that the Alliance is being left with a fiscal situation far worse than the outgoing Peronist government has been projecting. The new administration is hoping to have a revised budget pass through Congress before taking office December 10. In any event, Alvarez said, "There are going to have to be some modifications to this project because the provinces aren't going to accept a spending cut as big as that proposed by (outgoing Economy) Minister Roque Fernandez." Current Finance Undersecretary Miguel Kiguel has said the new government can count on a \$900 million loan payment from multilateral lenders and the proceeds of several bond sales for a total of \$2 billion or about half what the government will need for the first quarter. The country sold over \$1.12 billion in Treasury bills on Tuesday in its monthly auction. Nevertheless, because Argentina will exceed its budget targets, the country will have to negotiate a new credit line with the IMF or a waiver and still faces the need to raise about \$17 billion to cover its needs for 2000.

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Thursday, November 11, 1999

Political News

U.S. Senate Lambasts Peru's Fujimori

The United States Senate by unanimous consent Monday night passed a resolution condemning President Fujimori of Peru for interfering with his country's judiciary, harassing its press and manipulating its democracy in his attempt to stay in power. The resolution laments the "blatant intimidation" of journalists and the "erosion" of independence in Peru's judicial and electoral systems. Although he has not publicly stated his intentions, Fujimori is widely expected to run for re-election; and his supporters in Congress have passed a law clearing all legal obstacles to an unprecedented

third term. The Senate resolution points to "manipulations" of Peru's National

Council of Magistrates and the country's National Election Board to ensure Fujimori could seek a third term in office. The resolution also said government

intelligence agents allegedly orchestrated a campaign of spurious attacks by the tabloid press on independent publishers and journalists. Although the "sense of the Senate" resolution is non-binding, the State Department will be asked to send copies to the Organization of American States and to multilateral lending institutions.

Guatemala's Portillo Sees Marxist Ties As Key To Presidency

Alfonso Portillo, presidential candidate for Guatemala's conservative Frente Republicano Guatemalteco (FRG) party, in an interview with Excelsior</i>

newspaper Wednesday, pointed to his Marxist schooling as the key to gaining 47.82 percent of the popular vote in last Sunday's presidential elections.

Portillo will face Oscar Berger, of the Party for National Advancement (PAN) who won 30.31 percent of the vote, in a run-off election December 26. Asked how he was able to reconcile his Marxist sympathies with the conservative underpinnings of the FRG, Portillo responded: "The solution is to choose the best of socialist thinking and of capitalist thinking.

That is why, from an economic and political point of view, I identify with the social democrats." Portillo has reached an agreement with the Guatemalan business class, he says, on the management of fiscal and monetary policy whose effects would be to lower interest rates, stabilize the exchange rate, improve the trade balance and stabilize prices of the basic basket of goods. Nevertheless, Portillo is counting on an alliance with the left to guarantee victory in the December election, and guarantees that 65 to 70 percent of the left will unite with him in the second round vote. Despite the fact that the left still "think(s) their enemy continues to be General Efraín Ríos Montt," the former Guatemalan dictator and founder of the FRG, "the FRG has more in common with the left than the left does with the PAN," Portillo said. Some sectors of Guatemalan society fear Portillo will be a mere proxy for Ríos Montt.

Uruguay's Centrist Candidates Unite Against Leftist Alliance

Uruguay's centrist parties, the ruling Colorado Party and National Party,

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Thursday, November 11, 1999

Company News

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TODAY'S TOP NEWS

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QUESTION OF THE DAY

Peronist candidate Eduardo Duhalde's defeat in Argentina's recent presidential elections leaves outgoing president Carlos Menem as the undisputed leader of the Peronist party — a position with considerable clout given that neither the Alliance nor the Peronists have an outright majority in Congress. How and for what purpose do you think Menem will use this power? Is it feasible that he could make a political comeback in 2003 at the ripe age of 73?

YES: 43% NO: 14% OTHER: 43%

"Yes" vote commentary: Peter Egon de Svastich: "In the wake of Duhalde's humiliating defeat, Menem will wield some power within Peronist ranks but not as much as originally thought. There are several key Peronist governors who want the mantle of the next candidate for president (Ruckhaus and Reutemann among them). However, never underestimate the old fox. Age matters little with national leaders who have proven track records. If scandal revelations are limited and punishment for a couple of high profile cases do not deeply and directly scar Menem, then he could once again be a presidential candidate in 2003 and beyond. After all, the tango is all about nostalgia!"

"This is payback time for Duhalde; he will reciprocate for Menem's ambush of his campaign."

-- Ken Frankel

"No" vote commentary: Allen M. Rodriguez: "Menem's age in 2003 is really not the issue. The undeniable fact, though, is that he is a spent force regardless of his age. Over the last year, he was mired in the polls at low double-digit levels, in large part because he is intimately associated in voters' minds with the pervasive corruption which has recently plagued the country. It is doubtful, even if Menem were to play a very constructive role as leader of the Peronist party, that he would be able to resurrect himself. More likely, he will drag the Peronist party further down during his tenure by blocking any legislation which might enhance De la Rúa's presidency."

"Yes" vote commentary: Geoffrey Milton: "Menem's record as a leader puts him well ahead of most by global standards. Sure he has ambitions for 2003; and 73 should not be an impediment to him — but for the Constitution, he would no doubt have been re-elected for a further term."

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Toyota Motor Corporate Services*

Economic News

Argentina Facing \$10 Billion Shortfall

Argentina's Vice President-elect, Carlos Alvarez, said Wednesday that his country must cut costs by \$5.5 billion next year if it hopes to comply with laws requiring a balanced budget by 2003. In citing the figure, Alvarez points to a projected \$10 billion government shortfall despite legal limitations on deficits over \$4.5 billion. A \$10 billion gap would be 3.3 percent of GDP and more than twice next year's target. The new vice president's remarks add to a string of public accusations by the incoming Alliance administration that the Alliance is being left with a fiscal situation far worse than the outgoing Peronist government has been projecting. The new administration is hoping to have a revised budget pass through Congress before taking office December 10. In any event, Alvarez said, "There are going to have to be some modifications to this project because the provinces aren't going to accept a spending cut as big as that proposed by (outgoing Economy) Minister Roque Fernandez." Current Finance Undersecretary Miguel Kiguel has said the new government can count on a \$900 million loan payment from multilateral lenders and the proceeds of several bond sales for a total of \$2 billion or about half what the government will need for the first quarter. The country sold over \$1.12 billion in Treasury bills on Tuesday in its monthly auction. Nevertheless, because Argentina will exceed its budget targets, the country will have to negotiate a new credit line with the IMF or a waiver and still faces the need to raise about \$17 billion to cover its needs for 2000.

Political News

U.S. Senate Lambasts Peru's Fujimori
The United States Senate by unanimous consent Monday night passed a resolution condemning President Fujimori of Peru for interfering with his country's judiciary, harassing its press and manipulating its democracy in his attempt to stay in power. The resolution laments the "blatant intimidation" of journalists and the "erosion" of independence in Peru's judicial and electoral systems. Although he has not publicly stated his intentions, Fujimori is widely expected to run for reelection; and his supporters in Congress have passed a law clearing all legal obsta-

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"Other" vote commentary: Ken Frankel: "Menem has been planning his return well before the ballots were cast or counted in the recent election. I'm not so sure about the supposition that he is the 'undisputed leader' of the Peronists. Duhalde can still count on the loyalty of a number of Peronist *diputados* whom he will use to help thwart Menem's pretensions to the crown. This is payback time for Duhalde; he will reciprocate for Menem's ambush of his campaign. The path will be cut for De la Sota, Reuteman and Ruckauf to contest the leadership."

"Other" vote commentary: James R. Jones: "Anything is possible. Menem is not likely to buy a rocking chair and watch the world go by. He'll be actively involved in the politics of Argentina."

"Other" vote guest commentary¹: Rogelio Ramirez de la O: "No doubt this is one of the top items on his agenda. He will use his power to maintain himself as a credible leader and later on to be the candidate of the Peronists again."

"Yes" vote guest commentary²: Jonathan Kandell: "For Menem, everything is going according to script: 1) Do everything possible to make Duhalde lose, without incurring too much blame for the debacle; 2) Emerge as party leader and thus get an inside track as the next Peronist presidential candidate; and 3) Count on De la Rúa's lack of charisma and decisiveness to make him vulnerable in 2003."

¹**Rogelio Ramirez de la O, President, Economic Analysis for Company Planning (Ecanal)**

²**Jonathan Kandell, Independent Journalist**

cles to an unprecedented third term. The Senate resolution points to "manipulations" of Peru's National Council of Magistrates and the country's National Election Board to ensure Fujimori could seek a third term in office. The resolution also said government intelligence agents allegedly orchestrated a campaign of spurious attacks by the tabloid press on independent publishers and journalists. Although the "sense of the Senate" resolution is non-binding, the State Department will be asked to send copies to the Organization of American States and to multilateral lending institutions.

Guatemala's Portillo Sees Marxist Ties As Key To Presidency
Alfonso Portillo, presidential candidate for Guatemala's conservative Frente Republicano Guatemalteco (FRG) party, in an interview with *Excelsior* newspaper Wednesday, pointed to his Marxist schooling as the key to gaining 47.82 percent of the popular vote in last Sunday's presidential elections. Portillo will face Oscar Berger, of the Party for National Advancement (PAN) who won 30.31 percent of the vote, in a run-off election December 26.

Asked how he was able to reconcile his Marxist sympathies with the conservative underpinnings of the FRG, Portillo responded: "The solution is to choose the best of socialist thinking and of capitalist thinking. That is why, from an economic and political point of view, I identify with the social democrats." Portillo has reached an agreement with the Guatemalan business class, he says, on the management of fiscal and monetary policy whose effects would be to lower interest rates, stabilize the exchange rate, improve the trade balance and stabilize prices of the basic basket of goods. Nevertheless, Portillo is counting on an alliance with the left to guarantee victory in the December election, and guarantees that 65 to 70 percent of the left will unite with him in the second round vote. Despite the fact that the left still "think[s] their enemy continues to be General Efraín Ríos Montt," the former Guatemalan dictator and founder of the FRG, "the FRG has more in common with the left than the left does with the PAN," Portillo said. Some sectors of Guatemalan society fear Portillo will be a mere proxy for Ríos Montt.

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