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SUBJECT: Early Report 2/21: ALBRIGHT IN MOSCOW: 'NO SURPRISES'

TO: Margaret A. Williams (Margaret A. Williams@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Secretary of State Albright's assessment early today of the "very

important

progress" made during her two days of talks on NATO enlargement with the

Kremlin came too late for most overseas media outlets. Therefore, despite

what

London's BBC Radio called the "very positive spin" she and her Russian

counterpart put on the talks, speculation as to the results was generally

cautious and expectations were low, owing to the strident anti-NATO

barrage

coming out of Moscow. The Moscow press set the tone, with reformist,

business-oriented Kommersant Daily declaring that "the first day

of...Albright's stay in Moscow brought no surprises. But then, neither

side is

going to back down, the only question being what price the West may wish

to pay

for NATO enlargement." Reformist Izvestia reported that "Moscow's

reaction to

American initiatives was extremely cautious," and reformist Rossiyskiye

Vesti

of the Russian presidential administration once more lashed out against

NATO's

"unwise policy," which it predicted will revive "the atmosphere of suspicion

and mistrust." Comment from Central European countries eager to join NATO appeared to derive comfort from Ms. Albright's determined stance that enlargement is on course. "There is no doubt now," rejoiced Ljubljana's left-of-center, independent Dnevnik (2/21). "Madeleine's word can be trusted."

In Minsk, however, official Narodnaya Gazeta echoed Moscow's anti-NATO charges

that the Alliance is seeking to "push Russia away" from Western Europe.

CHINA AND THE WORLD AFTER DENG XIAOPING

Foreign commentators continued to weigh in on the implications for Asia and the

world of the passing of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. A number of European

writers and the top-circulation, English-language Bangkok Post reminded their

readers that "despite all his achievements on the economic front, Deng's legacy

is stained with blood by his decision to brutally stamp out pro-democracy demonstrations in Tienanmen Square in 1989 and the subsequent crackdown on dissidents." Other Asian writers offered more favorable assessments of Mr. Deng's accomplishments. The independent Hong Kong Economic Journal provided

this circumspect judgement, "We believe he made a great contribution to China's 20-year reform. Who does not make a mistake? If a person who did a great job makes a mistake, the mistake must be a great one. However, today is not the time for discussing mistakes." In Taipei, the pro-opposition Commons Daily urged Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui to "send his condolences on behalf of the more than 20 million people in Taiwan." Other observers in the region characterized Mr. Deng as "an excellent military strategist" and a "successful economist."

BRIEFS

- Colombian Daily Calls On Samper To Resign
- Chilean President Frei To Washington
- U.S.-German Friendship Needs Nurturing

EDITORS: Mildred Sola Neely and Pat McArdle

ALBRIGHT IN MOSCOW: 'NO SURPRISES'

RUSSIA: "Day One: No Surprises"

Reformist, business-oriented Kommersant Daily (2/21) front-paged this

comment

by Rostislav Neverov: "The first day of Madeleine Albright's stay in Moscow

brought no surprises. But then, neither side is going to back down, the only

question being what price the West may wish to pay for NATO enlargement.

Moscow may seem to have ultimately lost a battle for Eastern Europe, and its

defeat may look even worse for the new U.S. proposals made to sweeten the bitter pill. But the Albright visit is only a prelude to the Helsinki summit.

Clearly, in Helsinki, Boris will ask Bill for a lot more than Albright is ready to offer today."

"NATO Policy Unwise"

Vladimir Zolotarev stated in reformist Rossiyskiye Vesti (2/21), an official

newspaper of the presidential administration: "NATO's haste to admit new members from among Eastern European countries is an unwise policy....

Putting

up new military-political walls in Europe will hardly contribute to European

nations coming together. The dividing lines now being hastily drawn will bring

Europe back to where it was on the eve of the Second World War, reviving

the
atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust."

"Moscow's Reaction Cautious"

Maxim Yusin of reformist Izvestia (2/21), citing a Western diplomat, said:

"The

Albright visit may be the last attempt by the West to talk Moscow into
accepting NATO enlargement in return for concessions and compensation....

Moscow's reaction to American initiatives was extremely cautious. Foreign
Minister Yevgeny Primakov refrained from comment pending his meeting with
Mrs.

Albright. His deputy Nikolai Afanasyevsky was more open, saying that the
secretary's proposals merited attention. A high-ranking official in the
Kremlin went even farther, 'There are several good ideas which may remove
some
of Russia's concerns.'"

"Washington Tired Of Playing Games With Moscow"

Vladimir Abarinov wrote in reformist Segodnya (2/21): "Moscow was
expecting

Mrs. Albright with poorly concealed concern, since, according to a Russian
diplomat, it has 'run out of counterarguments in the discussion with
NATO.'

Speculation about the Alliance's willingness to make considerable
concessions

is unfounded, as it contradicts facts and is nothing but a part of the ongoing

propaganda campaign in Russia. In more tranquil times and with a less temperamental secretary of state, the visit should have been called off.

But

Mrs. Albright is too ambitious and determined. She came to Moscow having secured full support from the NATO Council.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry is not at all interested in the American initiatives.... Evidently, the Americans are tired of playing games and ready

to add tough notes to the dialogue with Moscow. Moscow may understand that

kind of language better."

GERMANY: "Jacking Up The Price Of Enlargement"

Right-of-center Bayerische Rundschau of Kulmbach (2/21) remarked: "Time will

run out slowly for NATO if the government leaders want to stick to their plan

to seal NATO's enlargement in July. The hectic activities that have now broken out...are hardly conducive to the case. Like a street vendor, the Kremlin is now pushing up the price for an enlargement of the Alliance without

creating greater damage. It is certainly true that Russia is unable to prevent the accession of the former Soviet satellite states, but the West

does

not want and should not offend its newly won partner in Moscow."

BRITAIN: "Positive Spin"

BBC Radio noted (2/21): "Secretary Albright and Foreign Minister Primakov

have

both given a very positive spin in their (Friday morning) news conference."

"Titanium Lady Shows Her Mettle In Moscow"

The conservative Daily Telegraph pointed out (2/21): "Madeleine Albright,

dubbed the 'Titanium Lady' by Russian television for her supposed

toughness,

donned what looked like a black cowboy hat when she arrived in Moscow.

She

could have passed for a Wild West gunslinger trying to bring order to a

town

run by outlaws. Propaganda bullets were zinging her way practically all

day--from the Kremlin, from parliament, and even from the former Soviet

president, Mikhail Gorbachev.... The Russians made clear they were in more

of a

mood for a shoot-out than a parley."

FRANCE: "Will Albright's Proposals Persuade Moscow?"

Pascal Lervieux commented on France Inter radio (2/21): "Madeleine Albright is bringing three proposals to Moscow, the joint brigade...negotiations on the conventional arms treaty, and the creation of a consultative committee....

Will this suffice to eliminate Russia's opposition to NATO's expansion?

Nothing is less certain.... Until the last minute, diplomats, politicians and military officials have maintained that Russia will not tolerate the arrival of a military Alliance at its door. Until the last moment, voices will have been raised to warn of the dangers of isolating Moscow. Seen from the Kremlin, that is exactly the point."

"Who Is Afraid Of Madeleine Albright?"

In the view of Irina de Chikoff in right-of-center Le Figaro (2/22): "Who is afraid of Madeleine Albright?... Yeltsin approves her frankness...while it gives Primakov a cold sweat.... He has reiterated that Russia is against NATO's expansion and that it will insist on a 'legally binding treaty.' While Mrs. Albright will probably present him with 'intermediary possibilities,' she will concentrate on economic issues in her talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin."

ITALY: "West Has A Unified Strategy"

Moscow correspondent Enrico Franceschini wrote in left-leaning, influential La

Repubblica (2/21): "For a country accused for years of being the most pro-American among NATO members, the approach adopted yesterday in Moscow by

Foreign Minister Dini may appear revolutionary at a first glance--the indication of a turning point which is leading Italy to an independent foreign

policy, no longer faithful to or conditioned by U.S. foreign policy. In reality, Dini's strategy is probably part of a diplomatic offensive agreed upon

among NATO allies, in order to convince the Kremlin to accept an agreement that

will enable NATO to expand eastwards....and that will not make Russia feel humiliated, threatened or excluded from the European security structure.

It is

not by accident that Dini's visit to Moscow took place only a few hours before

that of Secretary Albright. Albright's deputy, Strobe Talbott, yesterday listened to Dini's report about his meetings with Russian officials.

There is,

in sum, a unified strategy on the part of the West, even though each diplomat

believes in his own means to achieve it."

BELARUS: "Who Is NATO Expanding Against?"

Nina Sheldysheva wrote in official Narodnaya Gazeta (2/21), "The United States

is hurrying to secure its leading role in the Old World and to establish there the monocentric American hegemony.... The question. 'Who is NATO expanding against?', is quite legitimate in the absence of the Warsaw Treaty and the Soviet Union. NATO strategists, however, cannot and

will not answer it as they have already set off pushing Russia away on its

western borders and in its 'soft belly'--the former Soviet republics in Central and Middle Asia.... A new security system for Europe will have to be

set up but not until the vicious monopolarity of the world is overcome.

As of

now, the expansion of NATO homes in on Europe and its security.... A secure

Europe may only be built if the interests of all states are equally and responsibly taken into account."

HUNGARY: "Best Offer Russia Will Ever Receive"

Leading circulation Nepszabadsag stated (2/21) that "the differences between

the U.S. and the Russian stance seem to be impenetrable." The paper's Washington correspondent filed, "Secretary Albright's proposals send a strong message to Russia that it must reconcile itself to the idea of being merely a power with nuclear weapons rather than a super or world power. In return it can keep a chair at the table where in the coming 50 to 100 years decisions will be made about the future of the world. It can also keep part of its former interest sphere, which it can only increase in cooperation with other states, for instance as a partner in Western operations similar to the mission in Bosnia. Finally, if Russia decides to accept the status quo, it will also receive US\$ 40 billion to help its economic transformation. The package bears a striking similarity to the Marshall plan offered to the losers of the Second World War.

"It is easy to see why all of this hurts Russian sentiments and self-esteem

but the Russian leadership must realize that this is the best offer they will ever receive. "

POLAND: "Albright's Symbolic Visit"

Center-left Gazeta Wyborcza (2/21) said in a commentary by Leopold Unger

"Naturally, it is not a coincidence that the bona fide 'pageantry contest' of

the arguments against the expansion of NATO took place a day before Mrs.

Albright's visit to Moscow. Not a coincidence but a mistake. The

commentators

fired all the ammunition and when the right time comes, it will be hard

for

them to make up something new and more 'explosive.' A mistake and

recklessness. The Western press has wasted its ammunition. As a matter of

fact, Mrs. Albright's first visit to Moscow is of a symbolic nature: It

is

not a debut but a general rehearsal on the road to the Clinton-Yeltsin

meeting

on March 20 in Helsinki. All subjects of negotiations lend themselves to

discussion. Only a few Western commentators have a fixed view on

disastrous--in their opinion--results of the expansion of NATO. Yeltsin

has not

yet come to this. Yeltsin is aware of the fact that NATO will enlarge

regardless of Russia's standpoint and that the results will not be

disastrous,

as there are more important issues."

SLOVENIA: "Everything Is Becoming All-Bright"

According to left-of-center, independent Dnevnik (2/21), "The new American secretary of state has a very meaningful last name...which means 'everything clear.' Her first trip...has undoubtedly contributed to the fact that her name has received a significant implication. After her trip, the question of NATO expansion...has become nicely framed and defined. While--before her trip--guessing and speculation were possible about why NATO would expand at all, there is no doubt now: NATO will expand because of America's vital and long-term interest.... This also erases any speculation about who has the final say in NATO and who appoints operational commanders. Madeleine's word can be trusted; also, there is no need to seek a secret meaning in her decisive move.....

"A different question is whether Madeleine Albright will also be persuasive enough for the Russians. The partnership offered to Russia by Albright is the most feasible...it means American-Russian supervision of European security....

There is no need to guess how the decisive Madeleine will continue the

process.

The next steps will be taken on the diplomatic level--if not in secret, at least hidden from the public. It is certain that the Americans will add

another bonus for Russia; so the most difficult first stage of NATO expansion

and the definition of its role will be ready for adoption before summer."

SPAIN: "Barren Efforts"

An editorial in conservative ABC held (2/21): "The efforts of the new

'iron

lady' of U.S. diplomacy have been, in any case, barren. In fact not even

she

expected any other result but stubbornness on the part of Moscow

regarding the

Atlantic expansion. A Russian stubbornness which is similar to that of

the

West, which envisages the expansion of its military organization

independently

from the Kremlin's position. Thus it will be very difficult to build a

new

European security system on solid pillars. The Russian position has not

changed during the last few weeks and will not do so in the next if NATO

does

not accept to sign a legally binding document which, as Yeltsin put it,

'would

reduce the negative consequences of the expansion to a bare minimum."

CHINA AND THE WORLD AFTER DENG XIAOPING

TAIWAN: "Taiwan Should Recognize Him"

According to the pro-opposition Commons Daily (2/21), "President Lee

Teng-hui

should evaluate Deng from a historical point of view and send his condolences

on behalf of the more than 20 million people in Taiwan. Of course,

Taiwan's

government should be prepared for any post-Deng Changes in China.

However,

there also should be an official message of condolence on the death of

Deng

Xiaoping, reaffirming his contributions to promoting economic reform in China."

HONG KONG: "Who Does Not Make A Mistake?"

According to the independent Hong Kong Economic Journal (2/20): "It is

difficult to comment on Deng Xiaoping's achievements and mistakes. He was the

leader of the Communist Party; thus, we may need to comment on the

Communist

Party before commenting on his early life. However, what he did for China

during the time of reform already transcends any one party or one group,
so it
is easier to comment. We believe he made a great contribution to China's
20-year reform. Who does not make a mistake? If a person who did a great
job
makes a mistake, the mistake must be a great one. However, today is not
the
time for discussing mistakes."

JAPAN: "Facing a China Without Deng"

Top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri (2/21) held, "A strong U.S.-Japan
alliance
and a stable U.S.-China relationship are also essential for the
stabilization
of Japan-China relations. The U.S. and China hope to improve relations
through reciprocal visits by their presidents over this year and next.
The
possibility of China becoming a threat to the rest of the world will
diminish
as the U.S.-Japan relationship of interdependence deepens."

AUSTRALIA: "China's New Long March"

An editorial in Sidney's national, business-oriented Australian Financial
Review
(2/21) said, "(A)s China's rapid economic growth continues, the emergence

of a
mass middle class with access to global information is likely to foment
pressure for political liberalization. If not immediately, the post-Deng
era
will soon give way to a younger generation of more politically liberal
party
leaders, who will have to relieve these popular pressures and who are
unlikely
to allow power to be so concentrated in one man as in the past."

MALAYSIA: "A Successful Economist"

Government-influenced, Chinese-language Kwong Wah Yit Poh (2/21)
observed:

"Deng Xiaoping was an excellent military strategist and politician, and a
successful economist. He left his glorious mark on the Chinese history by
achieving the economic miracle. The world recognized the great success of
his
economic reforms. Now the standard of living of the people has improved
and
China's status in the world has been greatly enhanced. We believe that
the
PRC will not make any substantial change in its internal and foreign
policies
after the demise of their paramount leader."

PHILIPPINES: "The Bond That Kept China's People Together"

The government-owned Philippine Journal (2/21) described Deng Xiaoping in its editorial as "the bond that kept China's 1.2 billion people together in their critical years when a lesser leader could have crumbled under the pressure from the military."

THAILAND: "The Long March Comes To An End"

The largest circulation, English-language Bangkok Post (2/21) remarked, "Despite all his achievements on the economic front, Deng's legacy is stained with blood by his decision to brutally stamp out pro-democracy demonstrations in Tienanmen Square in 1989 and the subsequent crackdown on dissidents since the n... Deng's death comes at the time when economic and social changes are unprecedented. And Jiang (Zemin) is seen by analysts to be susceptible to challenges from his rivals, a process which could take place over the next year or so. In any scenario where political instability is allowed to hold

sway, the process of reform could be stalled... Today, China and the rest of the region are partners in progress, and like the rest of the globe they are hopeful that stability is maintained on the mainland. The challenge for China and its leaders is to stay the course set by Deng which has brought prosperity, productivity, progress and hope for its people. A stable and economically strong China means the rest of the region will continue to prosper as well."

GERMANY: "Hypocritical And Dangerous"

Centrist Bonner Express (2/21) observed, "The world is bowing its head to a hangman. Deng Xiaoping, the father of the Chinese economic miracle--is also the one who is mainly responsible for the massacre at Tiananmen Square in 1989. This fact was not too much recalled when state and government leaders praised the great statesman' and colossus' yesterday. It is not only hypocritical but also dangerous to forget human rights by being blinded by the economic growth rate of this vast state. By showing consideration for profitable business deals, the West likes to look away when people are

tortured

and killed, when blood and tears flow. But this can come back to haunt

(the

West). The Beijing regime is becoming increasingly brazen regarding

Taiwan,

and there is not even an idea of releasing Tibet. And the small plant of

democracy is being crushed in Hongkong. Why should China be satisfied

with

less--if the West does not stop it?"

BRITAIN: "Albright: Building A Working U.S.-China Relationship"

On Secretary Albright's travel to China, BBC-TV (2/21) said: "Madeleine Albright is still going to China on Monday and her task will be to build a working relationship between the world's most powerful democracy and the world's most powerful one-party state."

FRANCE: "Washington's Concerned Wait"

Left-of-center Liberation (2/21) remarked: "Deng Xiaoping turned China into a

superpower. With Russia's disintegration, it becomes the only real potential

rival of the United States on the

international scene.... China's emergence will become the number one problem

for the United States and its allies...but it is too early to predict what direction Deng's successors will take: an accelerated integration into the international system, including a 'strategic dialogue with Washington,'

or

confrontation with the West, suspected of wanting to do away with the communist regime and of containing China as it did with Russia in the past.... American officials recognize that Deng's death represents two risks:

the first is the possibility of a period of political and chronic instability...the second is that China's foreign policy could turn to a nationalism founded on military power with views on becoming Asia's major power."

INDIA: "Uncertain Period For U.S. After Deng"

The nationalist Hindustan Times (2/21) held, "Deng Xiaoping's...death...marks

the beginning of an uncertain period for the U.S. with much speculation and

little certitude about which pace Beijing will now display to the West--confrontation or greater cooperation. The potential for confrontation is

present in the aftermath of China's takeover of Hong Kong and Beijing's possible attempts to shape the territory in the image of the mainland; booming

economy and oppressive political control. Other potential points of

contention

are the issue of Chinese entry into the World Trade Organization, and

Beijing's

predilection to sell nuclear technology to all and sundry, including Iran,

America's bete noire.... It is possible that major decisions in China

will be

postponed until the major party Congress in autumn, in which Jiang will

stand

alone for the first time with out Deng's protective umbrella, as he tries

to

consolidate his power by shifting around the other national leaders. If

he

succeeds, he could have the freedom to act more boldly, perhaps even

strengthening the opening to the U.S. that President Clinton is trying to

bring

about through high level visits."

BRIEFS

COLOMBIAN DAILY CALLS ON SAMPER TO RESIGN

COLOMBIA: "President Samper Must Be Forced To Resign"

Liberal Party-oriented second leading daily El Espectador wrote (2/20):

:"An

economic policy made of lies and falsehoods, to which we can add the

squandering of public funds, has us on the edge of an economic and

financial

disintegration.... The badly handled issue of public order has placed
hordes

of guerrilla vandals at the gates of our cities, allied with the drug
traffickers, backed by a corrupt political class that is supported and
sustained by the government."

"President Samper must be forced to resign by the people, since he hasn't
had
the republican dignity to resign. The constitutional solution lies in
calling
on Vice-President Carlos Lemos to make the sacred commitment of assuming
the
presidency in order to restore the political institutions, the moral and
justice-oriented order of the Republic, and the substitution of those who
are
responsible for the serious crisis we are going through."

CHILEAN PRESIDENT FREI TO WASHINGTON

CHILE: "Purpose Of Frei's Visit"

Mass-appeal, conservative, top-circulation La Tercera (2/20) said in an
editorial, "The upcoming visit that President Frei will make to the
United
States between February 23 and March 1 is part of the (Chilean)
government's

program for increasing the country's insertion in the international community,
and especially, in world trade."

"More Than Clear Signals"

Santiago's financial El Diario observed (2/20): "After a couple of failed attempts (by Chile) to join the North American Free Trade Agreement, it's possible that in the course of this year talks may resume that would allow Chile finally to get back on the road (to NAFTA integration), which certainly

has not been an easy one. Both the Clinton administration and the U.S. Congress have provided more than clear signals demonstrating their interest in

working together for the approval of fast-track (authority), an intention that

was confirmed by Thomas McLarty, president Clinton's special envoy for Latin

American affairs, during his recent visit to Chile.... The road to NAFTA integration will be a long one not lacking in obstacles that will have to be

overcome one by one. This time around it would seem that the United States

government appears to be more disposed (to overcome them) than in previous

attempts."

U.S.-GERMAN 'FRIENDSHIP' NEEDS NURTURING

GERMANY: "Friendships Must Be Nurtured"

The Albright visit sparked this editorial by Michael Rutz in

right-of-center

weekly Rheinischer Merkur of Bonn (2/21), "Albright is right: Germany

and the

United States are linked by a 'deep friendship.'... However, all the nice

words cannot obscure the fact that mutual relations require a reasonable,

new

orientation because the ideological opponent no longer exists.... 'Deep

friendship' is created in the minds of the people. But there is a

deficit not

so much in Germany as in the United States. The Germans continue to

consider

the United States to be our most important friend...but the Americans do

not

have too much time for Germany.... The 'freshmen' of the new Congress

have

shown an even smaller awareness of Europe and Germany than their

predecessors. And exchange programs of all kinds are about to dry out in

the

United States. America increasingly looks inward.

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

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Mail-Server (Mail-Server@CLINTON.AL.MIT.EDU@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:26-FEB-1997 21:22:00.00

SUBJECT: 1997-02-25 McCurry-Lewis briefing

TO: Jeffrey H. Cohen (Jeffrey H. Cohen@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

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For Immediate Release

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The Briefing Room

3:10 P.M. EST

MR. MCCURRY: Let me do a couple of things to start before we get to any other news you're interested in. First, let me say the President is pleased that the Senate has just voted 53-46 to release the FY'97 funds for international family planning programs. This is a victory for women, children and families all over the world, one which would not have been accomplished without bipartisan support.

For a generation the United States has led the world in support for family planning programs. The work that our country has funded in developing countries has been supportive of families, has improved women's health and has enabled generations of children to grow and be educated in safer, healthier environments. We applaud the action of the Senate today, and of course, the similar action taken earlier by the House.

A couple of other announcements. On the evening of April 15th, the President of the United States will attend the Mets versus Dodgers game up at Shea Stadium which will honor Jackie Robinson on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his first appearance in the Big Show. Mrs. Robinson and other members of the Robinson family are going to be there.

Tomorrow we have the Chilean state visit. A couple of

additions to the President's schedule: He's, I think you know, talking to the Business Council on Thursday -- that will be in the morning. That's a group of --

Q Here?

MR. MCCURRY: No, that's over -- here in town, local hotel. They have a meeting every year to kind of talk about economic and business-related issues and he'll speak to them. It's going to be in a small room, so it's a pooled event, I am told. And then Friday, we've got again in the morning, depending on the weather either inside or outside, the President will announce new teenage smoking regulations which will take effect that day and put some focus on our efforts to encourage children to avoid taking up the habit of smoking.

Q That was Friday?

MR. MCCURRY: Friday.

Q The Thursday Business Council thing --

MR. MCCURRY: Business Council.

Q -- is that a Democratic Business Council?

MR. MCCURRY: No, no, that's a private sector group that

meets annually called the Business Council. I think they've met in the past down in Williamsburg, if I'm not mistaken.

Q And where are they meeting?

MR. MCCURRY: They're meeting locally, outside -- off campus.

Q Mike, the smoking announcement, these are previously announced regulations that are going to be --

MR. MCCURRY: The President will talk about the proposed regulations, and the regulations scheduled to take effect.

Q What's new about it, though?

MR. MCCURRY: What's new is that they have concluded the period of review, the proposed regulations.

Saturday, the President, the First Lady and daughter Chelsea will go to New York to enjoy the city of New York for a private visit in honor of Chelsea's 17th birthday. They will stay overnight and they will return on Sunday. And then the President has got an event down here on Ford's Theater on Sunday night, which I don't think we had on our schedule earlier.

Q Are they staying at the Waldorf or a hotel?

MR. MCCURRY: They'll stay at a proper location in New York.

Q Do you expect certification then on Friday?

MR. MCCURRY: Say again?

Q Do you expect a certification decision on Friday since they've going out of town on Saturday?

MR. MCCURRY: We are working very hard toward that end, I am told, but I will know better tomorrow or the next day.

Now, I have some positive reinforcements here if you've got any other subjects you're interested in.

Q Are you trying to say that the lists of names you put out are all personal friends of the President?

MR. MCCURRY: No. Let me do a little bit at the top here just to talk about what we have done today. The President ran for reelection last year. At times, we forget that. He won, as I recall. A large part of his effort went to building a successful campaign structure. He did so knowing in the aftermath of the 1994 election that he had a very uphill fight, and he would likely be outspent and out-financed by the Republican Party and he put his

shoulder to the wheel to raise the necessary funds to conduct an effective campaign. And even though we were in the end outspent by the Republican Party, the President did put together an effective campaign. We've put together a lot of documentation today that is designed to explain further the circumstances under which we raised money for that campaign.

I think if you look at it, an observation that Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan once made, he wrote an essay entitled "The Iron Law of Emulation," which I think was a ripoff of Robert Michel, although he would not probably care to admit that, but he made the observation that organizations in conflict become like one another, and that's true if you think of navies or football teams or political institutions and political parties. And I think one of the things clear in these documents. As you look at the structuring of the various donor councils, the Democratic National Committee, the effort to do things to encourage and motivate supporters, a large part of what we did was similar to, in fact, in some cases mirroring efforts that were underway at the Republican Party.

I say that because this is in a fairly detailed release of information about the mechanics of the working national campaign. Now, questions have been raised about the Republican Party's fundraising for things like Team 100, the Eagles Club, the Season Ticket Holder Program. My strong guess is that when you see the documentation, the memoranda, the record of conversations between party officials about their programs, you'll similar kinds of

activity underway by the parties.

Now, if one makes a judgment that this activity is not the way we want our campaign finance system to work, then you have to inevitably arrive at the conclusion that we need to reform those laws. The President, as you know, has already arrived at that conclusion, remains a strong advocate of the McCain-Feingold legislation and will continue to press hard for passage of that legislation.

Now, Helen, in response to your question, the way we're going to divide up assignments here is, Ann Lewis you all know is the Deputy Director of Communications and has got more information available on matters pertaining to the Lincoln Bedroom. And we can start there if you would like. Mr. Lanny Davis, who you all know, the Special Counsel in the Office of White House Legal Counsel, can tell you more about other aspects of the documents.

Q I just want to ask one question. Don't you think there is a lot of hypocrisy in always advocating reform and doing exactly the opposite?

MR. MCCURRY: No, because we're not doing "exactly the opposite." The reforms the President is advocating would still allow for private fundraising activity, private contributions to support federal elections, including primary campaigns for President. The only exception is the national presidential campaign, which is

publicly financed.

No one that I am aware of, including those who are the strongest advocates of reform, suggests that we should have public financing of campaigns. And if you don't got that direction with reform, you have to restrict what are voluntary private contributions. We have made some restrictions voluntarily ourselves on behalf of the Democratic National Committee, but that is the system that we are trying to change -- a system of private, voluntary contributions and we're seeking support for the legislation now pending on the Hill that would accomplish that kind of reform. And the President will continue to do that.

We will have some restrictions that exist in the raising of so-called "nonfederal or soft" money, but that is a system that will be in place until such time as we outlaw or ban that type of contribution. The President, again, would suggest to the Republican Party that, voluntarily, both parties could give up those types of contributions. But we haven't heard back from the Republicans on that point.

Q The President is advocating campaign finance reform. Aren't there already laws on the books which prohibit the use of White House executive offices for any kind of political or campaign fundraising, number one? And number two, do you conclude or is it your contention that nobody in the White House used either the White House or executive offices for any political or campaign

fundraising during the last campaign?

MR. MCCURRY: You're misreading the law, because those are two separate sets of questions. Under the Hatch Act and the Hatch Act amendments, White House employees who are not covered in the same way as other federal employees can engage in political activity here in the White House; there is no legal restriction on that. The legal restriction applies to the use of government resources for that political activity. We are not, therefore, allowed to use taxpayer finance, phones, computers, hardware in order to pursue political activity. But there's nothing in the law that prohibits anyone from doing political activity here because, in fact, the law and the legislative history of the act makes clear that there was recognition by Congress that a large part of working at the White House is a political exercise. This is a political place. Many of you cover the beat as a political beat.

There's recognition in the law and the way the law is interpreted that there is a fair amount of politics that happens here at the White House. What we don't ask is for taxpayers -- again, same principle I just described -- we don't ask taxpayers to finance that type of political activity.

There is a separate restriction that exists for the solicitation of funds for political activities, which cannot occur on these premises, and what we say again and what I think the President's made clear and others have made clear is that we did not

solicit here at the White House or at the residence funding for our campaigns at the various events that are described in some of these documents.

Q What about funding for the DNC?

MR. MCCURRY: Or funding with -- there was no direct solicitation of contributions at these events.

Q But what is your interpretation of how the rule on solicitation would apply to using the White House as part of an overall incentive that eventually ends with the solicitation that occurs in some other building?

MR. MCCURRY: Look, I said to you two weeks ago and I've said from time to time these events were held knowing full well that the Democratic National Committee would likely approach those who attended to see if they had been motivated to give more funds or to give any funds or to, in some cases, get a response after a presentation by the President.

The President, I think I said not too long ago, would have been surprised if they had not done that kind of follow-up. That large part of the documentation that exists now and the discussions back and forth between Mr. Ickes and people at the party committee were about that type of restriction.

Now, the important point is everyone knew what the boundaries were in the law, as I've just described them. And, Lanny, maybe you can help me with a little more clarity on that. But we've given you just now, among other documents, the guidelines that existed at the DNC. If you look at those, you will see that they also very clearly had the restrictions that existed on what they could properly do, what we could properly do with respect to these various events.

Q Mike, you insisted in recent weeks that you would not make public the list of overnight guests, that this was a private matter for the Clintons. What changed your mind?

MR. MCCURRY: What I've said -- if you look back at what I've said on many occasions, I said as a practical matter, it is very hard to separate out friends, supporters, those who have contributed to the political efforts of the President in looking at the list of people who stayed overnight as personal guests of the Clintons. And if you look at these documents, you can see exactly that. There are people who are clearly longtime friends of the Clintons, but are also well-known contributors to the Democratic Party. Maybe Ann can give you a couple of --

Q Yes, but my question is why are you shredding the Clintons privacy today when you said you wouldn't do it?

MR. MCCURRY: I think that it was important to do that

in light of some of the documents released today, and also to establish the difference between the types of individuals we're talking about who were there. The President has said on occasion that most of the people who have stayed there were friends and supporters, relatives, folks from Arkansas and also people who, partly because they were friends in many cases were also contributors.

Q Mike, along those lines, there's a memo from Evelyn Lieberman specifically says -- refers to the coffees as fundraisers. Is there something amiss there, or are you now acknowledging that the coffees were fundraisers?

MR. MCCURRY: No, they were not fundraisers, because fundraisers -- I've been to them, you've been to them -- you've been there when the President's been there, everyone in this room has been to fundraisers -- you buy a ticket, you sit down, you have a bad chicken meal and you listen to the speech. But you have to buy the ticket to get in. These were not events in which you had to buy a ticket to get in, nor was there any solicitation of funds made by the President at the occasion, and that's why they were not fundraisers.

Q And just to follow up on that, when the DNC documents show --

MR. MCCURRY: They clearly were related to the effort to build financial support for the party, and I think I've acknowledged

that all along.

Q When they show that they expect to get, say, \$250,000, \$300,000 from a particular coffee, that again doesn't turn the coffee into a fundraiser?

MR. MCCURRY: No, it doesn't turn it into a fundraiser, but it makes it part of the effort to build financial support for the party. Now, another important point to make, if you look at that list that we gave you a long time ago, those who attended fundraising coffees, if that's what you want to call them, you will notice that many of those people didn't give funds. At the end of the day, some of the people who attended those events did not wind up contributing for whatever reason of their own personal choice. So the notion that there was any specific requirement that they give money was not a feature of the coffees themselves, but they clearly were designed to get people motivated, interested in the President, his program, his priorities, and I think the President would have been surprised, as I've said in the past, if the DNC did not follow up and try to encourage those people to be supportive, including by giving funds.

Q But Mike, the DNC did more than that, and we talked about this yesterday. They've solicited up to \$50,000 from people prior to the coffees.

MR. MCCURRY: Right.

Q Now, is the difference only that the DNC asked for the money and then gave the coffee with the President and that the President didn't solicit the money here on the grounds?

MR. MCCURRY: No, the difference in that case would be if they did so, they did so directly contrary to the guidelines that their own employers at the Democratic National Committee had given them and as we said today they were also acting contrary to the wishes of the President, to the guidelines that we had in place here at the White House. The President, if that occurred, clearly would regret that type of presentation because that's contrary to the guidelines that we've just given you.

Q Mike, have you released all these documents today because Mr. Ickes's set of documents had been given to congressional investigators -- you would rather put them out now preemptively with your interpretation insofar as you can, than wait to have the congressional investigator dribble them out day after day after day?

MR. MCCURRY: I think our statement and the statement we put out earlier today speaks for itself. This is a matter of sufficient interest to you and sufficient interest to the public that we want the facts to be there. We're not characterizing these documents other than to say here's what happened. I think the President has acknowledged that there were shortcomings in the conduct of the 1996 campaign. Those have to be explored, but they have to also lead to some reasonable destination. The President also

hopes that that will build support as these matters are examined for the campaign finance reform measure that he advocates.

And, by the way, there will be additional -- these are not, and by no means would we represent these as being all the documents that exist. We have now pending document request from a variety of entities. We are compiling that information. We'll make that available to those that have requested it. And also in a similar fashion, make additional documentation available because that will lend more volume to your understanding of how the campaign was conducted.

Q But just in terms of the timing, you said earlier it was important to do this today in light of the documents that were released. Were you referring to Harold's documents?

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Ickes, through his representative, has sent these documents to the Hill and we even late last night had some notion that some discussion of those documents was beginning to occur, so we were prepared and had been preparing to release them.

But, first and foremost, going back to November when the President gave us all instructions to deal with these matters in a very candid, forthright manner, we had believed it was important to put out on the public record these materials. You'll also notice in the statement we put out today is that the President indicates that he will not assert any executive privilege against any of the

documents that would be provided or will be provided pursuant to the legitimate inquiries related to campaign finance.

Let me do maybe one or two, and then I want to turn it over to you guys.

Q Mike, can we go back to one thing that we were talking about earlier, the \$50,000 and Rosen and others apparently were violating the spirit here in the White House not to raise money going into this?

MR. MCCURRY: Paul, let me roll that back for just a second. I can't accept the premise of the question; I don't know whether that happened or not. Now, there have been a couple news reports saying that it happened, quoting unnamed individuals who said that it happened. I don't know whether it happened or not, but what I've given you are the guidelines that say specifically that that should not have happened.

Q Then that seems to counter with this memo in which Clinton is scribbling \$100,000 and \$50,000 -- and in the light -- I mean, why wouldn't people think, well, now, that's what we should ask?

MR. MCCURRY: Ann, in particular, has had a conversation with the President about that.

MS. LEWIS: I can talk a little bit about the President's many friends. Yes, he does have thousands of friends and perhaps it's only restraint that we've only had 958 so far. I think it's clear, if you look at the list that we've given so far, the number of people who have been to the White House during the past four years, to state the obvious -- the President and Mrs. Clinton enjoy spending time with their friends. They regularly asked people to stay at the White House. That was especially old friends and sometimes people they had met more recently and -- here's the key -- wanted an opportunity to talk to them in a personal and nonofficial setting when they could.

I would say, having talked to the President quite recently, it's very clear he feels it important as President that he continues to take the initiative to reach out, to see and talk to people beyond a small circle that he would otherwise see all the time, because it is frighteningly easy for a President to get isolated. And so he does try to take it and reach out.

And I'd also say, having gone over the list and having read through it this weekend, I can now see why the President and the First Family are proud of the people who came to the White House as their personal guests.

Now, moving on to the memo -- and I think Paul's question was about some of the President's comments. If you go back and look at the memo itself, it was in this context: Terry McAuliffe

told the President that many of his old friends and supporters from '92 and beyond, frankly, -- even earlier than that -- felt they really had been left out and that they hadn't heard from anyone in a long time. It was very much the President's decision that he wanted to see and connect to people who were his friends and supporters. As he has said, they were his friends; they had been with him and for him for a long time. He liked being with them, and he also felt when he talked with them he learned things about how the world was going on.

So there were three actions alluded to in that memo and those are in the notes that you will see. First, he said yes to the program recommended to Terry, which is let's bring people in, let's bring them in in small enough numbers that we can have real conversations. And I would add that you will see there is no reference in the memo by Terry of anybody coming to the White House, because as any of us know who work with the President, the White House is for personal guests. We would not have been involved in those decisions.

Second, the President asked for lists of his supporters -- not just the 10 biggest donors who are on the copy -- and that's where that reference comes to. He said, give me the lists of people who've helped raise money all the way down -- \$100,000, \$50,000, whatever -- I want to know who they are because when I see them, if I meet them, I want to thank them again. I don't want people to feel that I don't know who they are or what they've done. So that was the

request for the list.

Q Wait a minute -- that wasn't how much he wanted those people to donate, that's how much those people he thought --

MS. LEWIS: He was saying -- now, you are all writing professionals and I'm sure when you make notes on documents you write them in ordered paragraphs and they're always full sentences. But what you have here is the President, who has not been a writing professional, writing quick notes of what he wanted to do. And, as I say, three memos, three actions.

First, he has to go ahead with the program. Second, I want to see who those people are, the names of people beyond the top 10 -- because what's on the face page is give me the 10 -- he said, I want to see who these people are who have helped because when I see them again I want to acknowledge them, I want the ability to reach out with them.

And, third, he decided he wanted to see his old friends -- and this is important to this -- in settings that would enable him to have real conversations with people. And as he said before, just standing up and giving a speech to people isn't the same as talking to them and hearing from them. That would sometimes, not usually and certainly not always, but that might sometimes mean inviting some of these friends to stay.

One last point on this -- I'd say with all the discussion about the Lincoln Bedroom, I just want to make clear in the interest of clarity that there are several rooms at the White House; the people whose names you saw would have stayed in the Queen's Bedroom, I am told, the Lincoln Bedroom, and then several rooms on the third floor which apparently do not have names, but are called the third floor.

And one last point about this. This is a very special place and all of us who work here know that we are lucky to walk in here every day. And the President and Mrs. Clinton revere the White House. They know how fortunate they are to be able to live here and to be able to share that opportunity with their guests. And once again, this was never contingent upon a campaign contribution. These guests were and are their personal guests.

Q Ann, you characterized Terry McAuliffe's request as one to thank contributors. Yet, he clearly says this will be an excellent way to energize our key people for the upcoming year.

MS. LEWIS: I'm sorry, but I thought I said was that many of his friends and supporters from '92 and beyond felt they had not been well-treated, felt they'd been sort of left behind. So the President -- in terms of talking to them -- now I'm putting more language in --

Q But that's not the point that Terry McAuliffe

appears to make in this, it's to energize these key people in the upcoming year. And since they're major contributors, wouldn't it be fair to assume that what he's talking about is putting the arm on these guys for more money?

MS. LEWIS: No, that wouldn't be -- that would neither be fair -- but it would be fair to say, as Mike said, that there was going to be an election coming up. And we've always said that it was in that context. But I just want to go back and give the full context.

Q Ann, I would like to ask about the 10 names that were listed there. Those do not correspond to the top 10 contributors.

MS. LEWIS: I don't know -- I have not asked why they were listed as the 10 biggest supporters.

Q Could you find out?

MS. LEWIS: I will see how they gained that characterization.

MR. MCCURRY: On that one, why don't we -- if we can, we'll try to call Terry. Those are the 10 that he identified that he clearly wanted to -- they were key supporters that he wanted energized. And I think -- Mick, in response to your question, we

clearly -- the President clearly knew we had an uphill fight, he had just come off a fairly brutal defeat in 1994 and he knew he was going to have to energize our ranks of supporters, including those who were going to raise money and contribute money, if we were going to be successful in 1996. I think that's pretty self-evident.

Q A technical question: this is dated January '93.

Should that be --

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, on that we think that is just a type of -- you can see the materials attached to it and the sequence in which those documents are listed. All the documents that are attached to that related to requests for appointments are all in 1995. I think it's just a simple typo.

Q And just in terms of this being all just personal guests, I mean, during the campaign you guys made a really big deal about all the ordinary Americans who would always be on stage introducing the President. And in terms of the impression that this gives off, that basically you don't get to come here and spend the night unless you're pretty well off and have given money, I mean, can you point to some people on this list who are actually the ordinary people the President --

MS. LEWIS: I'm very surprised to hear you say that because the Arkansas friends --

Q No, no, I'm not talking about Arkansas friends.

I'm talking about in the category --

MS. LEWIS: All right. But in the -- of the people who have stayed at the White House, it's 958 people, many of whom which gave more than once, and I'll continue. The only way to look at who stayed at the White House is to look at this list. Of those, 370 are Arkansas friends. They would, I think, identify themselves in many cases as pretty representative people. And the next set, 155 are friends whom the Clintons have known, in some cases, going back to high school.

There is an article I saw recently in a Nashville paper of someone who had been to college with the President, a gentleman who was then the headmaster of a school in Nashville who was dying of cancer. And his wife wrote -- I believe he was very ill -- we aren't, you know, we aren't rich. Bill Clinton had been an old friend. He invited that friend to spend the night, and they talked about how much it meant to them. So I have examples of people who have spent the night. But I'd say again, if you look at Arkansas friend, if you look at long-time friends, which is more than half the list, if you look at friends and supporters, and then if you look at public officials, those elected officials, the dignitaries, that's a pretty wide mix of Americans.

Q Could you just help us in friends and supporters and the 111 -- who in there are people like those ordinary Americans

that he would --

MS. LEWIS: Well, go back and see -- again, I'm not sure why -- since they all stayed in -- I'm a little puzzled because if people stayed in '95 and '96, they might have been -- they were Arkansas friends, they were long-time friends and sometimes -- and we divided this to make it easier to see how many people he knew from when -- there were people he'd met in '91 and '92. So friends and supporters are going to be sprinkled throughout that. We were just trying to give you a sense of how long some of these friendships had come.

Q Ann, you made the classification, did the Clintons themselves get involved in designating people as old or new or Arkansas or post-high school?

MS. LEWIS: No. I worked people inside the staff. We were trying to find a way to present 958 names and make it easier to get a handle on it. And these categories we designed.

Q Can we get a clarification, please, on the question that Rita asked? There is one memo from Evelyn Lieberman, the date of which I don't remember --

MS. LEWIS: I think I will turn that over back to Mike.

Q -- I just don't have the date of it, I'm sorry.

Oh, January 19, 1996, in which Evelyn herself clearly refers to these DNC White House coffees as fundraisers.

MR. MCCURRY: Right. Look, I've answered that I think already, Mick. A fundraiser is the kind of event that you all have been to before.

Q No, no, I understand what your definition is --

MR. MCCURRY: That's clearly not what these --

Q -- but Evelyn Lieberman, in this memo, clearly designated these coffees as fundraisers.

MR. MCCURRY: They weren't.

Q Mike, is it better to characterize the coffees --

MR. MCCURRY: And, Mara, back to your question for a second, on one -- remember you all in this room by and large covered the campaign, and think of the quantity of time this President spent out in the country, countless hours he spent talking to people in ropelines. I mean, this, by no way, shape, or form, describes his contact with the American people during the period we're looking at here, from 1995 to 1996. And the category you're -- the one-ninth or so of the people that we're talking about in that list of friends and supporters, those are clearly the places where he included in people

that he wanted to acknowledge, thank, motivate, energize for the political year ahead.

Q Mike, can I ask you about the last 958 names, how many were actual donors? Because under arts and letters you have people like David Geffen, who are big fundraisers.

MR. MCCURRY: That's right. Or you had -- going back to what I said earlier, one of the reasons why it's hard to separate out contributors, friends, relatives, is because in many cases they're combinations of all of the above. In one case, long-term friends that were not from Arkansas -- I mentioned the Lawrences who everyone in Democratic politics knows for a long time, they are significant financial contributors to be sure. So there are people who overlap in every case. And I don't think we have -- you didn't run a number on how many were actually contributors?

MS. LEWIS: We do not have -- our list would not have, and none of the documents we have here indicates how any of the people who spent the night, whether they were contributors or not. That's exactly the point I've been trying to make. That isn't why they were invited and that isn't maintained here, so we didn't have it.

Q But, Ann, couldn't you have -- I mean, in the vaunted database couldn't you have cross-indexed it if you had chosen?

MS. LEWIS: No, because the database did not include, as I understand, such new information.

Q But would it be safe to say that --

MS. LEWIS: I don't think political information was inputted into it as it went along.

MR. MCCURRY: There was some.

MS. LEWIS: Some, but it was old. As I understand it that information --

Q But wouldn't it be safe to assume that almost every person on this list -- not every, but a high proportion -- gave some political contribution to the President by virtue of one or other of their associations -- old friends, official --

MS. LEWIS: No, I'd be surprised. Certainly, when you get to public officials and dignitaries, I'd be surprised. I see a fairly high number of governors, mayors and elected officials in here. You asked -- there was one name I remember that we had not known more -- under people in '92 whom they met, and that I believe would be the Dawsons. And Mr. Dawson was -- Joseph and Melba Dawson under 1992 was a veteran whom the President met, I think during the D-Day celebration and they invited to come back and spend the evening

and spend the night.

So it's going to be a mix. I talked today to somebody who was a college roommate of the President who said, you know, I think I contributed. Well, that isn't why he was invited. He was invited because he's been an old friend for a long time.

Q Ann, the McAuliffe memo -- the original McAuliffe memo to which the President responded suggested that the President give up to an hour of time to each of the people on the list. He mentioned breakfast, lunch, dinner, and he said, spend up to an hour. How did the --

MS. LEWIS: As I recall, he said spend an hour, but those were broken into events for 10 or 12 people at a time.

Q How did President's time pre to those meetings. That could be a meeting with 10 people, 12 people. But it was a chance for that kind of conversation I'm talking about.

Q In your conversations who did he --

MS. LEWIS: I did not ask. Again, those were his personal guests, and those are decisions he made as he looked at the list of people who had been friends and supporters for a long time who he would, as Mike says, hope would be helping him again in the future. And he decided how he wanted to see them.

MR. MCCURRY: I mean, he had -- remember, by that point in 1995, he had had lots of guests at the White House and enjoyed having lots of guests there. So he was not -- he was, I think someone would describe him as being enthusiastic about the idea of having people over. Now, I think what really -- that reference in Terry's memo is more about the genesis of what's now known as the coffee program, because he was saying, look, we've got to have a way of touching base in a setting that will allow people to have some conversation with the President, that will allow people to feel like that they're being encouraged to support and being listened to, being heard from.

Q Mike, I know you've released -- can I ask one more -- I know you've released some guidelines on access to the President right after the Inauguration, after the election. Has there been any change, though, in how overnight hospitality is -- is his thinking on whose going to be allowed upstairs been changed, altered at all because of all this?

MR. MCCURRY: I haven't seen any list of -- this list obviously runs only through 1996, but we know of some people like Reverend Schuller is an example, I think -- there have been people who have been staying overnight; he continues to enjoy having people in the residence as his personal guests. And I -- the First Lady and Chelsea do as well, too.

Q Excuse me if this has been asked, but could you run us through what happens, what are they accorded when they get in? Do they have meals with the President?

MS. LEWIS: I think the best way I can answer that is about if I'd asked it of people who come to your house. It's going to depend on the evening, it's going to depend on what your plans are; it's going to depend on what your schedules are. The key to this is, they are their personal guests.

Q Ann, this number of guests in this period of time, does this mean that the Queen's Bedroom and the Lincoln Bedroom are effectively occupied just about every night the Clintons are here by guests --

MS. LEWIS: No, not from the list I saw.

Q Would you say like --

MS. LEWIS: But the third floor rooms -- remember also there are third floor rooms and my list only says third floor rooms. I don't know how many there are, though. I guess I can check. No, it's not.

Q Do they tend to have overnight guests two or three times a week, or every night, or --

MS. LEWIS: Well, I'm sure it's not every night. I'll try to find a better way to characterize it.

Q Mike, on the coffees, are you saying the coffees were not fundraisers in the classic sense -- you pay a ticket, you get your visit -- but that they did take place in the context of a campaign where you needed to raise funds and there is nothing wrong with that legally, although perhaps some people may not like it, but that the place was used sort of as bait, but not in that classic sense?

MR. MCCURRY: There are a lot of characterizations there. Let me just stick with the facts. The facts are that the President enjoyed these encounters with the range of people he saw at the coffees, the list that you have seen. He has described these events as being opportunities for him to talk about his own vision for the future, and then also to hear from those who were there and participating. And obviously, he hoped that they would be motivated by his description of what he saw for the future of the country to be supportive of him.

Now, I've also said and made it pretty clear that we had no doubt that the DNC would follow up and try to encourage people to be supportive, including by giving funds. Everyone who has been to a fundraiser -- and everyone here has been to a fundraiser -- you buy a ticket to go, and that's not -- these events were not of that nature.

Q Would most of them -- slightly speculative -- but would most of them likely have taken place if there were not a need to raise funds, if this were not a campaign season?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, interestingly, they started -- the first coffees that were held were really used more for I'd call political purposes, not necessarily fundraising purposes. Some of the early coffees that were held were really run more by our political people; they were to put together the leadership of the campaign, state by state, in some cases. So they were held for purposes other than fundraising on some cases.

Q But then they were eventually used for fundraising, though not technically being fundraisers?

MR. MCCURRY: Technically used not for fundraising, but they became an element of the financial program that we were trying to pursue in connection with the campaign.

Q Well, isn't that really a distinction without a difference?

MR. MCCURRY: No, because the law is what counts, Bill. And, Lanny, why don't you step in. The law is the law. The law goes to the question of solicitation, and that's the issue. And there was no solicitation -- and that's the question.

MR. DAVIS: I just wanted to remind you that the law that we're talking about is the Hatch Act. And the Hatch Act permits political activities, as Mike indicated, and permits political activities that have a whole myriad of purposes. In this case, the guidelines were strictly followed regarding solicitation and a requirement to give money in order to come to the event. Those are the two words that legally are kept firmly in mind as these events are organized.

The memo circulated by the Democratic National Committee, which we gave out to you, if you look on page 9, we also see the DNC strictly informing its fundraisers of that access. And the two paragraphs that I would point out that we believe the DNC communicated to its fundraisers and if they weren't followed, it was contrary to these policies, state "special care must be taken to avoid giving any donor the impression that he or she will enjoy any special access to, or favor from any administration official or agency, whether in connection with the event or elsewhere" -- it goes on to say, "in no event should any DNC staff ever promise a meeting with or access to any governmental official or agency in connection with a donation, or ever imply that such contact or access can be arranged, or ever contact an administration official on behalf of a donor for any reason."

So, regarding the coffee events, we clearly told our people involved in organizing those events, no requirement to give; if you ask afterwards and the answer is no, the answer is no; and no

promise of special favor; and no governmental action or policy is affected by this President because somebody gave him a contribution.

Q Lanny, it's not just action, it's access. And implicit in the whole nature of these coffees is access.

MR. DAVIS: Well, I think the words used here are special access. Of course, people coming to the White House have access to the President by definition because he's there. But we regard the notion of special access because a contribution is made as something that is contrary to our policies.

Q Can you explain an August '96 memo on Texas fundraising where Harold Ickes explicitly says that there's a coffee -- a POTUS coffee that's expected to bring in \$350,000 as part of a three-pronged effort, including the birthday bash?

MR. DAVIS: I think Harold, in drafting that memo -- perhaps Evelyn Lieberman and others used those expressions as expectation, as hope, as wanting to accomplish something without any assurance that they would, because the people who came to these events had the option to say no when asked. Many of them said yes as would be expected because they were friends and supporters.

Q Was that coffee held in the White House? And if it was, is that appropriate when they're expecting that that coffee bring in \$350,000?

MR. DAVIS: It was expected, hoped; I'm not sure it did.

In any case, those events were perfectly appropriate if they were held, as they were, for friends and supporters of the President; afterwards we would have expected that political and financial support would result from hearing the President at those events.

MR. MCCURRY: Let me take a try at that question, too.

I mean, those of you who are familiar with campaigns know that fundraisers, the fundraisers that the DNC would have target figures that they might associate with any combination of activities that they were going to pursue. Now, they were sometimes met, sometimes not met. But they were working against for them what they hoped would be a general target figure that they were trying to raise based on various types of activities they had. Now, they had no way of knowing whether they were going to meet those targets or not because it would depend on how successful they were in going back to people and encouraging them to be supportive --

Q But the memo does suggest that target figures were set for these coffees that were held in the White House.

MR. MCCURRY: I think that you can see all throughout all of these documents the different ways in which they structured the fundraising program at the DNC, which -- and as everybody here knows, I think, that when you structure a fundraising program, you have different target figures associated with different events, you

have sometimes target figures associated with different people who are actually doing the fundraising on behalf of the National Committee.

Q Is it appropriate to set target figures for coffees held in the White House with the President?

MR. MCCURRY: I think it's appropriate to suggest target figures for those who are doing the fundraising, who have got the responsibility of going out and doing the solicitation. There were not --

Q Can I follow up? Senator Trent Lott, as a result -- partially as a result of these documents released today and the Lincoln Bedroom stuff, has now called for an independent counsel to investigate the improper campaign fundraising activities. Is the White House reconsidering its stance on this?

MR. MCCURRY: Our stance on this is as it always has been, that that is a determination made by the Attorney General, and she is the judge of the evidence and makes the determination.

Q Mike, you're standing here talking about the letter of the law and how carefully the letter of the law was observed. What's your response to someone viewing this from afar who says maybe the letter of the law was observed, but it's clear that this was a fundraising operation run through the White House?

MR. MCCURRY: I think it's clear from these documents that the President was engaged in raising money to conduct the political activity of the Democratic Party and to further his own reelection efforts in the period 1995 to 1996. He was a candidate for office, Bill. You would expect him to conduct himself as a candidate for office who, under our system of law, has a responsibility for raising funds for his own primary campaign and to help the party that he leads raise funds for the campaigns that Democrats across the board are going to run. I mean, I don't think people would be too terribly surprised by that.

Q Just to follow up, though -- you guys are here acknowledging today that the Democratic National Committee and the President's fundraising apparatus and the campaign organization set targets, however vague and unsure they might have been, set targets based on these White House coffees. You are acknowledging that.

MR. MCCURRY: Look, I want to -- on that particular question and as they relate to the coffees, these are internal documents that may have been reflecting the work they were doing at the DNC. I can describe to you how the President approached the coffees, how we here at the White House treated the coffees. Now, what they did with them at the DNC we would expect to be consistent with the guidelines we have put there. Now, how they raise the money off these events or how they went off to solicit people who were there, that's really their business and they should more

appropriately address it.

Q On a second follow-up, though, if a fundraiser or a volunteer acting on behalf of the Finance Committee of the DNC, or anybody involved in raising money for Clinton-Gore or the DNC, said in advance of one of these coffees, "Joe, I can get you into a coffee with the President on August 13th, there's an empty slot and I need \$50,000 to the party," you're saying that was an explicit violation of the President's wishes, of United States law, the policy of this White House?

MR. MCCURRY: No, specific violation of the President's wishes contrary to the guidelines that the DNC had laid upon those who were raising the money, so they would have been acting in contrary to their guidelines that they were supposed to be following as fundraisers for the Democratic National Committee. I'm not aware that that represents a violation of law. I don't believe it does, but, at the same time, it violates the spirit of the guidelines that were in place to govern this type of activity.

Q Just one final follow-up -- do you have any indication that's credible to you all that such solicitation/demands occurred?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, I mean, I've read articles in which people who are treated credibly by various news organizations have said that that happened. I don't know whether it did happen or not.

But we can -- we've seen the same news reports you have.

Q I've heard the description of the overnight stays here. How do you all explain the President's notation about getting started on the overnights?

MR. MCCURRY: You mean, just the history of it?

MS. LEWIS: I thought I had, but --

Q No, his response to the McAuliffe note.

MS. LEWIS: No. I think his response was, let's get started. Let me go back and look at those notes, but on the overnights, it says "ready to start overnights." That was, as I went back and said -- maybe I didn't do it clearly -- he looked at this, he'd had a conversation with Terry. Terry, in preparing to be finance chair of Clinton-Gore, as Mike has said, went around talking to people who had been very helpful to the President in the '92 campaign, found that some of them were feeling, frankly, left out and they hadn't been heard from, went back and reported to the President and then sent in a memo that said, I think we need a systematic way for you to talk with these people, that's why they're going to be supporters because they believe in you.

The President, looking at the list, said, yes, let's start that program, which is bringing people in, maybe an hour at a

time. Second, he said we will -- get me the list of other people, not just the top 10, I want to know who these people are; and third -- and this had not been in Terry's memo, but as he thought about it, he said, I want to spend time with people, I'm going to think about ways to do it. And he wrote the word "overnight" as a note that he was going to invite some of his old friends back in settings where they could have conversations. One of those ways -- not the usual, not as we can see the most frequent -- one of those ways would be to invite some people to come in and stay overnight.

Q As you just indicated, this was in response to dealings with supporters -- old friends, as part of the campaign, so there's no doubt about --

MS. LEWIS: Oh, no.

Q So there's no doubt about the fact that the President was setting up his overnight stays for political purposes.

MS. LEWIS: No. I'm sure the context is a President who had had literally hundreds of people staying overnight in the first two years. As I started by saying, he enjoyed having people come, he enjoyed having friends come, he enjoyed having lots of old friends come. When he heard that there were people who had been strong friends and supporters of his who he hadn't had contact with, he wanted to reestablish contact with them and he wanted to do so in personal ways. That was going to include asking some of them to stay

--

Q With respect, are you suggesting that this memo from Terry McAuliffe was an admonition to the President that he needed to maintain contact with old friends of his --

MS. LEWIS: No. I said --

Q -- that his social contacts were poor?

MS. LEWIS: No. I said exactly what I said and I did not suggest. I said that it started with Terry saying as he went around and talked to people who had been active in '92, found that some of them were feeling they just hadn't heard from the President, they hadn't been included.

Q The memo says nothing whatsoever about old friend with what's on the memo itself.

Q I'm trying to reconcile your explanation

MS. LEWIS: Well, I was trying to give you the context of what happened in that memo. Maybe every memo you write also substitutes for a conversation. But that memo was part of a larger conversation, and that was the context of the larger conversation. And I would say again, this is a President who had hundreds of friends coming to stay. This is one of the ways he likes to see people, talk with them, spend time with them. These were people, as has been made clear and as Mike has made clear, he hoped would be

active supporters on his behalf for the '96 campaign, financially and politically. They were going to be very active, he hoped, active supporters in his campaign, including financially; he was finding ways to reach out to them. And the example I can give of them --

Q These are the names of 10 people who were dissatisfied with the --

MS. LEWIS: No, that is not. And that's why this is being interpreted as line by line -- I cannot tell you that those 10 were dissatisfied. That was a list of 10 that were identified at the time as your biggest supporters. I would add the fact that the majority of those 10 were not invited to stay overnight suggests that there was not the clear connection that you're suggesting between, oh, let's move -- it's political, we'll move them in. That wasn't what happened.

Q How did the notation "overnights" get put on that memo?

MS. LEWIS: The President, in looking at it, said, I ought to ask some of these old friends to stay overnight, and that was a note to remember that that was what he wanted to do.

Q That was Nancy Hernreich's note, right?

Q You're saying that he's only doing this for

personal reasons, they have nothing whatsoever to do with politics?

MS. LEWIS: No, I didn't say that.

MR. MCCURRY: I think he indicated earlier that he recalls having a conversation with his staff in the Oval Office, and they wrote that. And then when he jotted his own notes following up on it, he said he was ready to start including these people in as guests at the residence.

Q And have you had occasion to review your own statements about this? As I recall -- and I haven't looked up the quote today, but at the time this came out in August, it was a Common Cause report that suggested there was a clear linkage between fundraising and stays in the bedroom, and you reacted with outrage at that time saying there was no relationship between, as I recall, no relationship between money and stays.

MS. LEWIS: There was a report that said the people -- that, literally, the people were -- I'm trying to think of the words, it was for rent. That was an outrageous statement, it was wholly untrue. I reacted then; I will react now. That's absolutely wrong. Any suggestion that stays at the White House in any room were contingent upon a political contribution are wrong, factually wrong, and I thought it was important to say so then, think it is important to say so now. As I started by saying, this is a wonderful building. It's something -- that's what we --

Q Well, that's why a lot of people were invited, because they contributed -- or they had collected at least \$50,000 or \$100,000.

MS. LEWIS: Well, then, you didn't hear everything I just said until now, because what I said is these are personal friends. And if you look at a list of 958 people, they were his friends. If you look at the language of overnights, in context of getting together with people who had been my friends and supporters before and who I hope to see again in '96, that was part of their program.

Q Ann, there's a memo from Harold Ickes to the President in which he, Harold, suggests that the President invite Vernon Jordan and think it's --

Q John Rockefeller --

Q -- John Rockefeller and somebody else -- three people -- and sit them down and tell them the importance of fundraising and asking them, I think each to raise \$3 million for him. Is that a fundraising discussion, and is that the kind of thing that goes on in the White House?

MS. LEWIS: That is a little just off my specialty, so I'm going to go back.

Q -- and did that breakfast actually happen?

MR. DAVIS: I don't know whether the breakfast actually happened. I believe that it did. But, Rita, there were meetings in the White House in the Ward Room regularly to discuss the fundraising programs and plans and activities of the campaign --

Q But we're talking about asking, calling these outsiders and asking them to raise money. And I wondered if that, as you define it, is a legal -- that's not fundraising, even if the President asks somebody to raise money for him?

MR. DAVIS: It is not fundraising under any definition you can find under the Hatch Act, and it's certainly not illegal in our opinion, and it's not inappropriate.

Q Could you find if that breakfast in fact actually occurred?

MR. DAVIS: I will check on that.

Q And you used the phrase, "friends and supporters." Are you saying that all friends were supporters and all supporters were friends, or are there some friends and some supporters and some who were both, and what's a supporter who is not a friend?

MS. LEWIS: I'm saying they were all personal guests.

The vast majority were friends. In a few cases, there were people the President and First Lady wanted to spend more time with -- weren't friends yet, but hoped -- had met and wanted to spend time with. And this would be true sometimes of an entertainer who had come in, some of the elected officials who came in, and that we know that among those friends were people who were supporters. Many of the President's longtime friends were supporters of his campaigns.

Q Were there supporters who were not friends who were brought in --

MS. LEWIS: No, these were personal guests. No, you're drawing a conclusion again -- that's why I'm trying to say that the reason we wrote it that way is some of those friends will include supporters. They were all personal guests. And the difference is, they may not -- not necessarily the length of time, but the fact that they knew them and wanted them as their personal guests in the Residence, and that part was wholly unconnected to whether or not they were supporters.

MR. MCCURRY: This is in response to Rita's earlier question. We got a note saying the breakfast that was suggested did not happen, the President did not make those individual calls. I'll see if I can get anything further on that.

John, to follow up on your question, too, I mean, one

problem in releasing this list is that there are a lot of people who are supporters who are not -- and significant supporters of the Democratic Party who were not included in this expression of gratitude. And not all people who were active in the financial life of the Democratic Party were invited to be personal guests of the President at the residence. It goes without saying.

Q Does that mean he's going to have a harder time raising money now or --

Q Is he still going to have coffees, Mike, so he can bring people in and forward his agenda?

MR. MCCURRY: The President is going to continue to look for ways that he can talk to people and have human interaction with them, as opposed to the stale kind of events where he stands in a receiving line and shakes -- and doesn't get an opportunity to learn anything. Over and over again, the President said, look, I enjoyed having people over to the residence to stay overnight on occasion. I enjoyed having these smaller, more intimate gatherings because I could listen and learn something.

Most of the time when you're out working in behalf of the political effort of your own campaign or your party, you're giving speeches, you're shaking a lot of hands and you're smiling for the camera, and you don't really get a chance to engage with people and learn anything. So he will continue one way or another, whether

it's related to fundraising or not, and he will continue to talk to people and look for opportunities to engage with them.

Now, I suspect that we're going to be conducting the President's participation in the fundraising aspects of the Democratic National Committee's effort in a much different fashion. Chairman Grossman and Chairman Romer have both said as much. And that's proper for them to decide, but this President will look for ways to continue to treat people like people.

Q One of the memos in here -- I have not seen it yet -- is Ickes to Cardozo, describing that union members were making contributions -- I think these were AFSCME members making contributions to the legal defense fund? Does this ring a bell?

MR. MCCURRY: That doesn't ring a bell. And I know that the trustees of the President's legal expense fund, who have also been asked to produce some documents I believe with respect to their work, also have an interest in some of Mr. Ickes documents. You may wish to contact them directly on that point.

Q Some people would look at this set of documents and say it's clear here's a President who's very determined to raise a lot of money for his reelection campaign. And that sent a message to people working for him, that they need to raise a lot of money and the message that it needed to follow these strict legal and ethical guidelines might have gotten lost in that message that you need a lot

of money. Do you think that's a fair analysis?

MR. MCCURRY: I think that's possible and that is one of the dangers and one of the facts of life of being a Democrat is that you always are looking over your shoulder at a Republican Party that is better financed, better equipped to raise money. And those of us who have worked in the life of our Party for a long time always feel like doing a better job at pulling together the resources necessary for the conduct of a campaign.

But the guidelines are clear. The President would have expected them to be followed. Frankly, the superiors of the people involved raising the money at the DNC should have expected the guidelines to be followed. And if they weren't -- and, again, we're relying in most cases on you to give us the examples of where they may not have been followed to the letter of the guidelines -- the President clearly would regret that that happened.

Q Mike, before these copies the President got briefing material about who was going to attend, what their interests were, that kind of thing. I want to make sure I understand -- in that briefing that he got before he walked into the coffees, was he given information about the DNC fundraising targets for that group also?

MR. MCCURRY: No. in fact, if I'm not mistaken, you see in some of the documents we've given you samples of some of these

briefing memos. They tended to be memos saying, here's so and so, he runs an auto dealership, he's been active in the party, or he's a member of the Business Council, or he's a member of our Business Leadership Forum. Sometimes there was no biographical information at all. But some of those types of documents are in the material that you've been given.

Q So Mr. Ickes or Mr. Rosen wouldn't have pulled the President aside and said, we hope we can raise \$350,000 out of this group?

MR. MCCURRY: Not to my knowledge, they would do that. The President -- frankly, they would not have -- they would have been more interested in trying to describe here's so and so, here's where he's from, here's what he does for a living, you may want to talk to him about subject X, or you might want to ask him about this or that or the other. It was more that type of briefing.

Q Why would that have been inappropriate even if it did happen?

MR. MCCURRY: To?

Q To have informed him of the wishes about the targets, the expectations, the hopes --

MR. MCCURRY: I just don't know that they did. I don't

know that that --

Q I know, but I'm just asking -- sorting out what is actually wrong here and what isn't.

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know that there would have been anything wrong. If they said, look, we're going to try to go back to this group and collectively over time generate X amount of money. I just don't think they did that because I don't think the structure of these events were such that you could do that.

Q Can I go back to the scribbled note -- and I understand Ann's contention that this was all about massaging old friends and making up for lost contact, but do you reject outright that when Clinton says, let's start the overnights right away, give me the top 10 list back along with the 100, that that doesn't leave a rational person to assume that he's quantifying people by donation?

MR. MCCURRY: He wanted to see -- I think it's fair to say -- I mean, Ann answered that earlier. He wanted to see the universe of people out there, because he did not mind having people, hosting people in the residence, he enjoyed having them over. Frankly, he's told several of us it's one of the things he likes about the job, because it would be a chance to sit and talk with people and see people in circumstances you wouldn't normally encounter when you're whisked in and out of events and you're in and out of motorcades and in and out of stale hotels for events.

Q But when he puts the numbers in dollar figures there, it leads you --

MR. MCCURRY: He's trying to get a sense of the universe of people that we could go out and talk to. Obviously, not everybody was included in those, and some people who gave little amounts of money were included and some people who gave large amounts of money were excluded, for whatever reason -- but those are personal decisions they made because they were personal guests.

Q But he's not asking -- he's asking for a list which is all inclusive.

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, who's out there who's been helping us that I ought to consider having over.

Q When you say not everybody was included, not every large giver or every small giver -- why wouldn't they have been if he asked for the list of \$100k and --

MR. MCCURRY: Because it was his own choice. Some of the people may have been --

Q But he didn't choose the names.

MR. MCCURRY: You know, I know some of these people and,

frankly, I wouldn't want to have them over to my house. (Laughter.)

Q But he didn't choose, he asked for a list of names.

MS. LEWIS: From which he'd choose.

MR. MCCURRY: From which he chose. He extended the invitation.

MS. LEWIS: He asked for the list from which he would make the choice. He didn't say, we will invite everybody at X to X event. He said, give me the list. That's exactly Mike's point.

MR. MCCURRY: He would eventually extend the invitation on behalf of the First Lady. He and the First Lady got to invite people to come stay. And as I indicated and hinted, there's some people who I think are going to miffed that they didn't get invited.

Q Mike, has the United States government discussed with or made a deal with the Chinese on bringing the North Korean defector, Mr. Hwang, from Beijing here?

MR. MCCURRY: We are aware that there's a news account that suggests that. I've found no reliable information to indicate that that is, in fact, the case -- and we will check further with Secretary Albright with respect to that. But we're not aware, based on any reporting from her trip so far that such arrangements

occurred. I would not rule out the possibility she had discussions related to that matter, but I'm not aware of any arrangement of that nature.

Q Lanny, in that last section of documents on the legal defense fund, are those all Harold's notes?

MR. DAVIS: Yes.

Q -- and the Trie stuff, is that the Trie stuff we already knew about --

MR. DAVIS: Yes.

Q -- or was Trie involved in fundraising for the --

MR. MCCURRY: First of all, I want to take a poll here. How many people can actually read that handwriting? Not finding many takers here. I think it's accurate to say most -- those are notes that are reflective of the discussions that have already been briefed by Michael Cardozo related to legal expense fund.

Q Senator Murkowski came to the White House today to meet with the Chief of Staff, and I was just trying to find out more information about that meeting, whether or not it dealt with Yucca Mountain and what's the status on that?

MR. MCCURRY: It was a good meeting. They had a good exchange of views. It did deal with the question of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain. I don't know that any views were changed, but it was a good opportunity for us to hear the Senator's thinking on the issue, for perhaps the Senator to hear a lit

MR. MCCURRY: I haven't heard anything new on that. They're still -- they're nearing selections, but no final decision is made.

Q Since this will be -- with the continuing Turkish violation and threats -- is going to proceed with a well-known expected U.S. initiative for a peace in solution to those problems?

MR. MCCURRY: The President will continue to proceed with meticulous effort to address the problem of Cyprus in the bilateral context we have with both governments. And those are ongoing. As you know, we have had opportunities to exchange views with representatives of both the Turkish and Greek governments. Cyprus has been high on that agenda. We will continue to look for opportunities for the United States to play an effective role in bringing this long standing dispute to a conclusion.

Q One more question. It was reported -- that President Clinton -- invite the Turkish Prime Minister, -- will the Greek Prime Minister be invited, too?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, the President would always look

forward to such an exchange, but I'm not aware of any scheduling decisions that have been made at this point.

Q Mike, can I follow up on the China response? You said you were going to check with Albright. Obviously, she's not out of pocket. I mean, an issue like this, isn't that something --

MR. MCCURRY: If you had made that flight all the way through and landed at Elmendorf and gotten home in mid-afternoon, out of pocket is about where you are. (Laughter.)

Q Well, wouldn't it be safe to say that if such a proposal were extended and discussed that you would have already known about it?

MR. MCCURRY: I think it's safe to say yes.

Q Is the Pena nomination at all a factor in the nuclear waste discussion?

MR. MCCURRY: I think Senator Murkowski has good principled reasons to be concerned about the status of radioactive waste disposal. I wouldn't want to suggest that.

Q As long as we're on foreign policy, anything in particular on the agenda for Friday?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes. I'm glad you asked. Unless you want to talk about the Chilean state visit tomorrow -- no. This will be President Frei's first visit of the second term. It marks the beginning of really a 13-month period that leads up to the second Summit of the Americas, which will be held in Santiago in March of 1998. The President's agenda reflects much of the work he'll be doing with respect to the hemisphere in coming months. He's got a trip, as you know -- very important trip to Mexico. He will then be going to other countries in the region in May. And it will build on the foundation that the President set by hosting the Summit of the Americas in Miami just over two years ago.

The summit process will advance the hemisphere's remarkable progress towards trade liberalization, towards democracy, towards the promotion of human rights. Major items on the agenda tomorrow are going to include hemispheric market opening, strengthening democracy, cooperation on law enforcement, insuring that members of society share in the benefits of economic growth, which is increasingly a subject that we see in bilateral dialogue we have with all the governments in this hemisphere.

Chile, as you know, is a member of APEC, the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, so we have interests in our common efforts with respect to the Asian community that will be under discussion as well. They are a relatively new member -- they are now a new member of APEC. We'll discuss that. There are also aspects of the Ecuador-Peru boundary dispute that will be under consideration.

And certainly not the least of the subjects to be discussed, Chile is an excellent candidate for the first use of fast-track authority, given the progress that Chile itself has made negotiating free trade agreements with other governments in the hemisphere. And I suspect that free trade and the liberalization of trade will be an item very high on the agenda.

Q Do you expect a specific timetable for enlargement of NAFTA to come out of this meeting tomorrow?

MR. MCCURRY: I suspect they will talk further on the subject. I do not expect, based on what we've heard and what President Frei himself has said before arriving in the United States, that you would have any discussion of a specific timetable.

Q Will they discuss the arms sales to Latin America -- the American policy towards arms sales?

MR. MCCURRY: Regional security issues will be on the agenda. I'm not aware that we've got any plans to get to deeply into that subject, but we'll give you a readout after the meeting tomorrow. Of course, the two presidents will jointly address your questions after their meeting.

Q On the Saudi visit, did you hear anything today to ease your concerns about the Khobar bombing investigation?

MR. MCCURRY: There of course is an ongoing investigation. It's really more appropriate for the FBI to give you some sense of the status, but we have been working with the Saudis and there have been cooperative exchanges between law enforcement counterparts. We've received some cooperation with respect to the investigation. The President made clear today we expect to receive more. He was delighted to have assurances from Prince Sultan that reflect the assurances previously given by the King and by Ambassador Bandar that there would be that cooperation.

Q On drug strategy, there are reports that Constantine -- had information on General Gutierrez Rebollo, and that this was not given to General McCaffrey. Is there a turf war that is hurting the U.S. effort, the anti-drug effort?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't have any information to that respect, and General McCaffrey addressed a question pertinent to that earlier.

Q Mike, any comment on Senator Landrieu's announcement that she'll support the Republican balanced budget amendment?

MR. MCCURRY: I think she made a principled decision based on what she felt was in the best interests of her constituents. She is a very strong believer in the balanced budget; so is the President of the United States. And we look forward to working with

her as we actually balance the budget. Obviously, we have differences on the question of the amendment, but she will be a strong supporter of this President, and we will work closely with her as we actually do the hard work of balance the budget.

Q Are you worried that your ability to block a balanced budget amendment --

MR. MCCURRY: It's obviously going to be a very close vote, and we will continue to work hard to express our point of view.

Q Do you have a date on the Ted Danson-Mary Steenburgen -- do you know if it was before or after when they got married?

MS. LEWIS: I don't.

MR. MCCURRY: And, Paul, don't make assumptions that you shouldn't make.

Q Well, they weren't here after it.

MR. MCCURRY: Or -- go talk to Peter.

Q Were they in different rooms?

MR. MCCURRY: Go talk to Peter.

Q -- legal defense fund is going to have a news conference tomorrow essentially saying that -- policy doesn't work and they're going to drag out service members to essentially -- what's your assessment of --

MR. MCCURRY: I believe -- did Ken do that today? Did he talk about that?

MR. JOHNSON: No, we expect him to do that tomorrow. I think that announcement is not out by the group to which he refers.

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, the group that you're referring to is expected to make that announcement tomorrow. I believe that the Pentagon, they're going to be prepared to deal some of that. Obviously, they have strong views on the implementation of the policy and the importance of the President's policy and they'll be talking about it more and as needed we will here, too.

Q In your view, has it worked, though?

MR. MCCURRY: I believe that -- there have been different experiences in different places with implementation of the policy. But on balance, the President believes that it represents the right policy.

Okay, thank you.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

4:20 P.M. EST

#320-02/25

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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26 Feb 1997 21:22:33 -0500 (EST)

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Document-Id: PDI://OMA.EOP.GOV.US/1997/2/26/8.TEXT.1

Keywords: Arkansas, Business, Central-America-Caribbean, Crime, Culture,
East-Asia, Economy, Election-Campaign, Energy, Environment, Explication,
Fiscal-Policy, Foreign, Government, International-Cooperation,
International-Economy, International-Security, Legislation,
Mid-Atlantic-Region, Middle-East-North-Africa, Nevada, New-York,
North-America, Personnel, Plains-States-Region, Political-Party, Pollution,
Press-Briefing, Regulation, Security, Social, South-America, South-Region,
Staff-Briefing, Texas, West-Region, Western-Europe

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

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Mail-Server (Mail-Server@CLINTON.AL.MIT.EDU@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:28-FEB-1997 19:50:00.00

SUBJECT: 1997-02-27 Remarks to Business Council

TO: Jeffrey H. Cohen (Jeffrey H. Cohen@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 27, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

TO THE BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Park Hyatt Hotel

Washington, D.C.

10:32 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you and good morning. Thank you, Larry. Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I want to thank the other officers and all of you who are here today for inviting me to come by. There are a lot of members of my administration here. I know Secretary Rubin spoke earlier, and Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles is here; Gene Sperling, the Director of the National Economic Council; and Maria Echaveste, who is my new Assistant for Public Liaison and Alexis Herman's successor -- some of you may not know here. Maria, where are you? Stand up there. I wanted you to know because she'll be relating to you. (Applause.) I want to thank you for the support that so many of you have given to Alexis Herman in the job that she held and in the job that I'm confident she will hold as the Secretary of Labor.

Over the last four years, I have worked with many of you in this group to grapple with a lot of great issues facing our nation from reducing the deficit to expanding trade, to investing in new opportunities for a new century. The Vice President talked about the record that our people together have amassed in the last four years and it is an impressive one and one we can all be proud of.

I understand you had a panel earlier this morning speculating on what has now become the conversation that we all have, which is, can it be possible that we have repealed the business cycle? Or, if it hasn't been repealed, has at least it been shaved a little? And I think there is some argument for that if you look at the better inventory control, the changing nature of the economy, the more service jobs, the nature of global competition and technology, and the greater sophistication of the Fed. I mean, there are a lot of reasons for it, but I think there are some indications that we have had some real ability to manage this. But I think the most important thing to remember is that the underlying fundamentals has been good because of the productivity of the American people and our willingness to compete. And I think that if we want this to continue, which is the real question, we have to continue to do the things that will make it likely that success will prevail for another ??four years and into the next century.

It is relatively rare for a country to have both peace and prosperity, and the opportunity to shape its own destiny at a time when there are so many fundamental changes in the way we work and live and relate to each other and the rest of the world. You go back to the history of the country; that is a relatively rare opportunity. And when it comes along it's easy to miss because when things are going generally quite well, people are either complacent or they tend to -- one of the unfortunate aspects of human nature -- they tend to either be complacent or to be all heated up over small

things, not big things, to fall out over petty divisions, not larger ones.

And so I think it is quite important that the business leadership of our nation keep our country focused on the big questions: What will it take to ensure the long-term prosperity of America; what will it take to assure that America continues to be the world's leading force for peace and freedom and security in the new world of the 21st century? What will it take to guarantee a whole new generation of Americans, not a certainty, but at least a fair opportunity, to be a part of this enormous, new, exciting age? What kinds of things do we have to do?

It seem to me clear that we have to finish the job of balance the budget, to keep the interest rates down and the investment up, and to keep the economy growing. And it seems clear that we have to do a lot more than we have done to dramatically improve education at every level.

I'd like to talk about those two things and then mention one or two others today. I realize that whenever I talk about the skill levels of the work force of this group I am preaching to the saved, but I think it is worth pointing out that between 1992 and 2000, 89 percent of the new jobs created in this economy will require post-high school levels of literacy and math skills. And virtually 100 percent of those jobs will pay what is now an above average wage. But only half the people entering the work force are even nominally

prepared for these jobs. Our education system is still turning out millions of young people who simply are not equipped for the new world of work.

We know that we lag behind the rest of the world in math and science, and that this poses a severe and growing competitive disadvantage for our country. We know that our young people have to do a better job of learning basic things and of developing the capacity to learn for a lifetime. That's why in the State of the Union address I challenged our nation to establish national standards in every school, in every community, in every classroom in the country, and to be willing to measure whether every child has met those standards in learning, beginning at the beginning with a test of every 4th grader in reading and a test of every 8th grader in math by 1999.

Now, this may seem strange; for all of us who have had children come up through schools we know that there are a lot of standardized tests out there. But what many people don't understand is that there are not tests to national standards. That's very different from a standardized test. If you have the right -- if you have standards that every child should know in a subject and every child is tested, then that's a test everybody could pass. There's no curve grading. You either know what you're supposed to know or you don't. And how you rank in an average is utterly irrelevant unless you know what you are supposed to know.

And it is appalling that we have hidden behind a good idea, local control of our schools, to advance a very bad proposition that algebra is somehow different in Alaska than it is in south Florida; that geography is different in the northern part of Maine than it is in San Diego. This is not true. And no other country which seeks to do well in the modern economy would permit its children to keep coming up through an educational system that could not tell you whether our children know what they are supposed to know.

This is especially important now that so many of our young people come from other countries. Just across the river here in Fairfax County, there is one of the four school districts in America where the school children's native tongues number more than 100. And if -- there are 40 percent of our kids in the 3rd grade today who cannot read a book on their own. And we will never change this until we, first of all, say what the standards are, and then, second, find a way to measure everyone.

Now, today, we've made some progress in this in the last 10 or 12 years. And some of you have helped me to work on it when I was a governor. Today, through the National Assessment of Education Progress, for example, we can measure how states are doing or how school districts are doing, but, still, no parent can learn if a son or a daughter is actually meeting tough national standards. Our goal should be not to drive these children down, but to lift them up.

Today, the Department of Education is releasing the annual assessment of math performance through the National Assessment of Education Progress. It is based on a sample in the states that participate -- and most states do participate now. Across the country and in almost every state our math performance has improved in the 4th, 8th and 12th grades. Secretary Riley will release the full results today. The scores are getting better, but they also show you why every child should be tested based on these standards, for about 30 to 35 percent of the children tested still have not mastered basic math skills, those which must be known in order to continue to learn for a lifetime.

So what I'd like to do is to just remind you of how you couldn't function if you couldn't measure, and how things that you take for granted in the day-to-day operations of your business have literally been avoided in education under the guise of preserving local control. This has nothing to do with local control. Dick Riley, since he's been the Secretary of Education, has done more in four years, I believe, than any of his predecessors to try to relax unnecessary federal rules and regulations that hamstring how local school districts spend federal money. This is not what this is about. This is about whether you really believe if a child reads The Little Engine That Could, it's the same in New Orleans as it is in Minneapolis. No election to a school board or no state legislative action can change the fundamental elements on a chemistry table. And yet, we have never been willing to subject ourselves to this sort of rigorous examination in an appropriate way.

We should begin at the beginning with 4th grade reading test and the 8th grade math test, and then build it up. I think it is highly unlikely that we can do this unless we have strong support from the business community. I know that the Business Roundtable last month endorsed the concept of tests. I am grateful for that -- I am profoundly grateful for it. But what I want you to understand is, we're going to go and make sure that they're developed. These tests -- the standards-based tests that are out there now, which are basically the Third International Math and Science Survey and the National Assessment of Education Progress, are very good. We just have to find a way to either take them or a variant of them and then fix it so all the -- so a state could get them and give them to school districts and all the students could take them, and they could be properly scored.

But what I need you to know is that we still need your support. Right now, there's a lot of enthusiasm for this. The Vice President and First Lady and I, we're going to go make a lot of state legislative trips, we're going to try to advocate this around the country. But we still do not have the power to require states to do this. This must be a voluntary thing. But the business community can create the conditions in which every state will have to embrace this challenge and no one can run away.

And again I say, we have to create the mentality that failing is not bad. What is bad is hiding the truth. What is bad is

not taking the available tools to find out what the truth is.

Because we know that way over 90 percent of the kids in this country can learn what they need to know, but you have to start with where you are. And we know that if we high expectations and then we measure them, we will eventually see people rise to them.

So I thank you for the endorsement, but you've got to stay with us and you've got to help us. And when we need business leadership to help convince this state or that state or the other state to do this, we've got to have you there, because it won't work unless all 50 states do it and everybody recognizes that this has nothing to do with local control and everything to do with international competitiveness and giving our children -- every single one of them -- a chance to live the life that they ought to have the chance to live. And we need you very much.

Let me also say, with regard to the balanced budget -- we don't have to have a long conversation about this today -- but it now seems clear that the balanced budget amendment will not pass. I think that is a good thing, for the reasons that I have said elsewhere. But I think it must also be clear to the American people that we must make sure that a balanced budget does pass, passes this year and passes as soon as we can reasonably pass it. We have to now go beyond the constitutional debate to get to the specifics. I am convinced that if we pass a balanced budget plan this year it will moderate interest rates, spur more investment and keep growth going. I believe that.

All the indicators we see that have been shown to me by Frank Raines and the Office of Management and Budget, supported by Secretary Rubin, indicate that if we can pass a balanced budget this year, dealing with the fundamentals that we're talking about -- trying to better manage the Medicare program, the Medicaid program, looking at the long-term health of all the other programs -- that we could keep it more or less in balance for two decades, based on what we now know. Obviously, there will be differences from year to year, depending on the performance of the economy. But you can look at the fundamentals and the demographics and things over two decades and pretty well know where you are. So it is very important that we do this.

Now, I believe that we've shown, this administration, that we care about this and that we're willing to work with the Congress. Before I took office the administration's budget projections had usually been an illusion to avoid the difficult decisions that administrations didn't want to make so that Congress would have to make them. Of course, very often, Congress didn't make them, either, and each side took what the other wanted. So if one wanted tax cuts and the other wanted spending programs and, oh, by the way, they wanted to control spending, the tax cuts and the spending programs took preference over the controlling of the spending and we wound up with a \$290 billion a year deficit and a quadruple federal debt in 12 years. Last year the deficit was \$107 billion, proportionately the smallest of any major economy in the

world; 63 percent lower than it had been in 1992.

So this is working. We have been working together first with the Democratic Congress, then with the Republican Congress, always driving it down. What has made it possible are conservative, realistic budget projections that every year have been more conservative for the deficit than what actually occurred. In other words, the deficit was even lower than we projected it to be in every year with our economic assessments.

And sometimes when you read in the press, there's a difference between the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget and it looks big in one year, the truth is that we have narrowed these differences dramatically now. They're not breathtaking differences, and it's enabled us to get together and work together to have budgets that make sense.

The other thing I think is important is, you hear a lot of criticism saying, well, whenever they have one of these plans, all the savings are in the out years. That's not quite true. But if you look at the way Medicare or Medicaid works -- particularly in the Medicare program -- if you look at the way some of these other programs work, the savings, by definition, compound themselves in a way that will always make the savings look bigger in the out years. The trick is to pass a plan that legally locks in tomorrow's savings today, and that places strict limits on the amounts of money Congress can spend each year. If you do that, then the framework will be

created which will permit us to get to balance in 2002. And it will have great credibility in the market.

I know that's true because of things we've tried to do with entitlements, including placing a cap -- per capita cap on Medicaid, and extending the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for a decade by having very rigorous spending controls that will facilitate the movement to managed care, have elicited so much criticism. And I know that, therefore, they're likely to work. I mean, it's just -- it's not easy to do this. You all face these kinds of decisions all the time.

But I do want to say, you will see a lot of our differences aired publicly -- the executive, the Congress, the parties within the Congress. But this budget is well within reach. This is well within reach. And it's well within reach in a way that also would permit us to create a bipartisan process to deal with the long-term challenges of the entitlements in Medicare and Social Security as well.

So you should feel positive about that. But my advice would be here and my appeal to you is to tell every one of us, every time you get a chance to say it, that you cannot celebrate Thanksgiving this year without a balanced budget. Get the job done this year. We need it done this year. If you don't, it will have a destructive impact on the markets. If you do, it will have a positive one.

But you should know, when you hear all the debates, it is in the nature of the things for the differences to be amplified. The fact is that we are well within range of being able to get this done if we'll all just hunker down and kind of turn down the rhetoric and treat each other with good faith. We can get this job done in a way that I think is very good for the economy.

Let me just mention two other things I'd like to ask for your help on. The first is to help in getting a budget out and in supporting a policy in both parties that fulfills our responsibilities in the world today as the world's indispensable nation.

We had a bipartisan foreign policy during most of the Cold War because we knew our neck was on the line and politics stopped at the water's edge. Now, it is more difficult to build a bipartisan foreign policy because the elements of it are more diverse -- for example, economic policy and trade has a lot more to do with it than previously, or at least we're aware that it does. I think it was always a big part of our foreign policy -- and because no one perceives that our neck is on the line. But the truth is that the whole world is looking to see whether America will fulfill its responsibilities to lead in an increasingly interdependent world -- not only economically interdependent, but environmentally interdependent, and politically interdependent.

Increasingly, the security threats we face are those that cross borders, like terrorism and narco trafficking. And this is a very complex time. We are in the process of building new structures, new understandings, new ways of working together. And it is important that America lead. That begins with trade.

We had great victories in 1993 with NAFTA and with the GATT, and in the last four years we've had 200 separate trade agreements. We had a great victory the other day for the cause of global trade and for the American economy; when Ambassador Barshefsky concluded the Telecommunications Agreement, it was a great thing. But we have been now two years without fast-track authority for the President.

Latin America is looking at us. President Frei in Chile -- they just had -- three Asian heads of government paid visits to Chile in the last three or four months. And the whole world in Latin America is looking to see what we're going to do. The same thing in Asia. So we really need to pass the fast-track authority. We need to do it this year, and we need to do it as soon as possible. And I hope that all of you will help us do this.

I think most members of Congress understand -- let me just give you two examples -- how China defines its greatness over the next 20 years will shape the next 50 years of life in America and the world. I think most members of Congress understand that how we work through this business of trying to create a united, democratic

Europe and a relationship between NATO and Russia, that that will have a lot to do with the way we live in the next 50 years.

But we must understand that our neighbors to the south of us are still our greatest opportunity for the future. All but one of them are democracies. They are committed to free market economics. Other people around the world are looking to them and we cannot pass up the chance to build closer trade ties with them. This will benefit America and will help us to deal, as I said, not just with economic matters, but with political matters, with environmental matters, with a whole host of other issues. So I implore you to do what you can to help us get this done this year.

Beyond that, we have to pass a balanced budget plan that still has a diplomatic budget for the United States. We have continued to lower our spending on diplomacy dramatically, in a way that I think has been very counterproductive for our interests. Our request is simply to give us one penny of every federal dollar to promote peace, to fight problems like drug trafficking and terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and to meet our obligations to the international community through the World Bank, the IMF, the other international financial institutions.

My budget does reverse a downward spiral in foreign affairs spending that's been going on a long time. But, you know, our embassies around the world are working around the clock, we've had to close a lot of our consulates, we've had to weaken the efforts

that we were making to help American firms win contracts and protect intellectual property rights and fight unfair business practices. We live in an interdependent world. We cannot afford to say that we just simply will see the United States government quit the field. And I feel very strongly about this. I know that many of you do. But I ask you to help us do that. It's not a big deal in the budget, but it's a part that always, always gets cut, and it's not in our interest to cut it.

The last thing I would like to do is to ask you, as I have before, to help us finish the job of welfare reform. Over the last four years, with 11.5 million new jobs in the economy, about 2.25 million people moved off welfare. That's the largest reduction in the welfare rolls in history. There are now 4.6 percent of the population, about 10 million people, on public assistance. That is below the historic average since 1972. From 1972 to 1990, the historic average was 4.8 percent of the population on public assistance. In 1994, we got up to 5.4 percent. So in a booming economy, we got down to 4.6 percent, and of that, 2.25 million people who have moved off welfare, approximately a million of them moved into jobs. Depending on whose study you read, the average welfare family has between 2.3 and 2.8 people. There are very few families where there's a single mother with a zillion kids. It's mostly one child or two children in the families.

Now, in the new law, the new law says that the states can let people who are able-bodied stay on welfare for five years and

no longer; that they're not supposed to stay on welfare more than two years at a pop without being in the work force; that the states can establish sort of a contingency fund of about 20 percent to take care of people who are not physically or mentally able to work, or who live in areas of very high unemployment.

It is obvious to me that if you look at all the studies -- and the Council of Economic Advisors gave me a report on this, by the way, estimating that of the 2.25 million people that moved off the welfare rolls, about half of them moved off because of the good economy, about 30 percent of them moved off because 43 states were making extra efforts to move people from welfare to work, and about 20 percent of them moved off for -- we don't know why -- maybe because there was a 50-percent increase in child support payments, collections. And that will always lift some people off welfare. Maybe there are other reasons.

But the point I'm trying to make is that to meet the requirements of this new law, which is graduated in the standards that it applies to these timetables I just mentioned, we have to move another million people into the work force from the welfare rolls in the next four years. And there is a law that requires it, so we have to do it whether or not the private economy produces 11.5 million jobs.

Now, five companies, including members of this organization -- Monsanto, Sprint -- who else? -- Federal Express,

United Airlines, and Burger King, I think -- agreed to head up a national coalition to get other companies to hire people from welfare to work. If you look at what's been done in Kansas City, you see that every state has the option to offer companies the welfare check as a cash subsidy for people who will pay well above the minimum wage as an employment and training subsidy. We're trying to get more small businesses into this. We are also trying to pass through Congress a 50-percent tax credit for salaries of up to \$10,000 a year, tied much more tightly than any of these jobs tax credits have in the past to just people who move from public assistance -- that is, from welfare to work, or single men who can't welfare who move from food stamps to work.

There are a lot of things which can be done which lower the marginal cost to companies of hiring new people. But in the end this must be assumed as a mission by business people. You know, we've all complained for years that the welfare system leaves people on it that are permanently dependent and they get used to receiving a check and don't go to work. Well, the truth is, that was never true for half the people. For half the people the welfare system worked just fine. They got in a tough spot, they needed a little help, they got the help and they got off welfare and they went on with their lives. But it is true that about half the people were more or less permanently dependent on it. Those are the ones that will be harder to place. So we've got to get another million people and they're going to be harder to place. And we have got to have your help.

So that's the last thing I will say. I want you to help us balance the budget. I want you to support the education standards movement, not just in the Congress, but asking the states that you operate in to embrace these tests, not letting anybody run away. I want you to help us continue to lead the world with fast track and a decent diplomatic budget. And I want every one of you to ask yourselves personally, what can we do in our company to end the cycle of welfare dependency. If we do this we will have done a thing of historic significance for the American people, because it will end the culture of poverty. There will always be people who are out of work, but no one will be looked at as a permanent dependent of the state if they're able-bodied, if you do your part and we do ours.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END 11:00 A.M. EST

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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Explication, Federalism, Fiscal-Policy, Foreign, Government, Healthcare,
International-Security, Legislation, Legislative-Process, Monetary-Policy,
President, Remarks, Security, Social, South-America, Topical-Remarks, Welfare,

World-Order

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ARMS Email System

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CREATION DATE/TIME:28-MAR-1997 10:43:00.00

SUBJECT: REMARKS BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER SAMUEL R. BERGER

TO: susan e. walitsky (susan e. walitsky@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Announcement NO. 97-127

Date: March 28, 1997

Origin Office: C; tc

REMARKS BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER SAMUEL R. BERGER

SUBJECT: THE SECOND CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

WASHINGTON, DC

11:10 A.M. EST

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1997

TRANSCRIPT BY: FEDERAL NEWS SERVICE

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Attached to this email is a Word Perfect document containing a transcript
of remarks by National Security Advisor Samuel R. Berger.

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

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THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT.

MR. BERGER: (Applause.) Thank you very much, Zbig.

I'd like to think there were some similarities between Dr. Brzezinski and I, because I think he was an outstanding national security adviser. But there certainly, clearly, is one difference, which is that these days we don't keep diaries. (Laughter.)

I'd like to thank CSIS for sponsoring this forum and this opportunity. And to Dove Johnson (sp), David Absure (sp), who's not here; distinguished members of the diplomatic corps and my friends who are here from that community; and to all of you; it is a pleasure for me to be here. Feel free to write on those cards questions such as: Why has the Clinton foreign policy been so successful? (Laughter.) I can assure you we'll take those questions.

Last month, in the first State of the Union address of his second term, President Clinton issued a challenge to the American people. "Fifty years ago, he said, "a far-sighted America led in creating the institutions that secured victory in the Cold War and built a growing economy. Now we stand at another moment of change and choice, another time to be far-sighted and to bring America another 50 years of security and prosperity."

To meet that challenge, we must first understand the nature of the change that surrounds us. It's been 11 years since glasnost, eight years since the Berlin Wall fell, six since Germany's reunification, and five since the Soviet Union's dissolution. But because the Cold War ended with a crumble, not a conference to mark the moment, and because the transition to democracy among Europe's newly freed countries, while revolutionary in its consequences is evolutionary in its timetable, the dialogue of foreign policy has for too long been frozen in the rhetoric of the post-Cold War era.

I have come here today not only to praise the post-Cold War era but to bury it. That phrase describes what has ended, not what is beginning. What has been dismantled, not what we are building. Today, closer to the start of the 21st century than to the end of the Cold War, we are embarked upon a period of construction based on new realities but enduring values and interests. The blocks and barriers that divided the world for 50 years largely are gone. Now our challenge is to build up new institutions and understandings and adapt old ones that strengthen our security and prosperity for the next 50 years and beyond.

For the past 50 years, with containment as the guiding principle of our foreign policy, we saw a world map with advancing and receding lines dividing red from blue, separating those living under the brutal hand of communism from those who weren't, the latter running the range from democracies to more or less authoritarian regimes bound together by their anti-communism.

Because we stood firm for half a century, that guiding principle is now obsolete. Instead, this new time increasingly is shaped by the forces of integration. They create unprecedented opportunities for progress. But we should have no illusions; they do not eliminate all the dangers and despots of the world, and they can help fuel new

threats to the security, peace and prosperity we seek to build.

If we could look down on the Earth from a distant planet, one of the most powerful phenomena we would observe are the effects of economic integration, reinforced by a communications and technological revolution that telescopes time and distance.

With a tap on a computer keyboard and a \$50 modem, ideas and information span the planet in a nanosecond. Traders, buyers, investors move \$1 trillion around the world every hour.

I will never forget arriving late one night in my hotel room in Islamabad, half a world away, turning on CNN, and seeing George Stephanopoulos and Bob Reich debating who wrote "Primary Colors." Now men and women of good faith can have -- can debate whether that's progress, but the fact of it is transforming the way we work, live, and interact.

Or consider the famous images of the ancient Li (sp) River, portrayed in the Chinese wall hangings. If you looked a photograph today, you would see that the houses that line the Li River have satellite dishes in their backyard.

The forces of integration also spread values, and the ideas increasingly -- albeit not universally -- being embraced today are the central ideas that define America: liberty, free enterprise, democracy.

For the first time in history, more than half of the world's people live under governments of their own choosing. In this hemisphere, where just three decades ago almost one-third of the countries were under authoritarian rule, every country but one today is a democracy. From the Philippines to Chile, South Africa to Estonia, Korea to Guatemala, people with little -- who little more than a decade ago lived under oppression are building their democracies. We can see with more clarity today than ever before that freedom is not only an American birthright or a Western ideal; it is the aspiration of human beings everywhere.

These forces of integration -- economic, technological, political -- find practical, if imperfect, expression in international rules of the road that are becoming the true Berlin Wall between

countries,
those that opt into the community of nations and those that remain
outliers. These norms -- alliances of like-minded countries,
adherence to the rule of law, open and competitive trade rules,
major
regimes to control dangerous weapons -- are important in and of
themselves.

But they're also important because brick by brick, they form a
structure for security and prosperity for all those who choose to
live
within them, and they define the terms of isolation for those who
stay
outside. And as the world grows closer, the cost of exclusion
from
the community of nations will grow higher.

But we must also understand that these powerful forces
toward
integration are not without down sides or dangers. As borders
become
as easy to breach as lines in the sand, nations become more
vulnerable
to transnational tidal waves. Witness the peso crisis, which
threatened not only Mexico's economy but jobs in America and
stability
in developing countries around the world.

The forces of integration also lubricate the counter-forces
of
disintegration: terrorists, organized criminals, drug
traffickers who
form international networks of corruption and destruction. They,
too,
benefit from technological change and the free flow of goods and
information. And they often are supported by rogue states like
Iran,
Iraq, Libya and Sudan, which remain outside the community of
nations
and frequently seek to destabilize it. Further, integration can exacerbate
disparities among and
within
nations. More than half the world's people are two day's walk
from a
telephone, literally disconnected from the present and the
future. In
many developing and developed countries, the gap between rich and
poor
has grown wider, even as overall wealth has increased
dramatically.

In short, integration is not inherently good or inherently
bad,

but it is, I believe, inherently a fact of modern life, and it will take place with us or without us. The fundamental question we must answer is this: Will we use our unique position as not only the world's most powerful country, but also the world's most powerful idea, to continue to lead the struggle for a more peaceful, prosperous and secure world, or be left behind. As President Clinton has put it, the enemy of our time is inaction.

The challenge this president has undertaken is to encourage, to the extent possible, the positive forces of integration, while preventing the forces of disintegration from dominating the future. His vision is driven by six key strategic objectives: working for an undivided, peaceful Europe for the first time in history; forging a strong, stable Asia-Pacific community; embracing our role, prudently but not fearfully, as a decisive force for peace in the world; building the bulwarks against transnational security challenges; creating jobs and growth through a more open and competitive trading system; and maintaining a strong military and a fully funded diplomacy to get these jobs done.

These ambitious and achievable objectives, not the lift of a driving cliché, provide America's road map in the world. Let me describe each briefly.

The first strategic goal is working for an undivided, peaceful, democratic Europe. Twice in this century, war in Europe has drawn Americans into deadly conflict. Now we have an opportunity to create a durable European peace by replacing the divisions that have plagued the continent in the past with ties of partnership to shape a common future. With our allies, we are helping Europe's new democracies grow strong, encouraging their integration with the West, forging a productive partnership with a democratic Russia, and importantly, adapting NATO to take on new challenges. America has taken the lead in opening NATO's doors to new members. Rather than either abandoning the anchor of our engagement in Europe after the Cold War, or freezing the alliance within the

amber of the Cold War. NATO can do for Europe's East what it did for Europe's West: strengthen the forces of peace and stability.

The process of NATO enlargement will take a leap forward in Madrid this July when NATO invites the first potential members to start accession talks.

There are three key challenges ahead. The first is deciding which countries to admit. Naturally, we'll start with those best prepared to shoulder the burdens of membership, but the doors will not close behind them.

So our second challenge is bolstering the security and confidence of countries not in the first wave, which we will do by expanding the role of the Partnership for Peace and giving every partner a voice in coordinating joint activities.

The third challenge is the most highly debated. How do we heal the scars of Europe's past without creating new wounds? Some fear the process of NATO enlargement will shut Russia out from a rightful place in Europe and undercut Russia's nascent democracy.

Others worry that Russia's cooperation will come at the expense of Central and Eastern Europe and the alliance's ability to shape its own destiny. Navigating this Scylla and Charybdis of NATO enlargement is the most critical test of our commitment to forge stability across the Atlantic.

Last week in Helsinki, President Clinton and President Yeltsin took an important step forward. They agreed to disagree about enlargement. Russia objects, but it will proceed. But they also agreed that the vital relationship between the United States and Russia, and the benefits to all of cooperation between NATO and Russia are too important to be jeopardized. NATO and Russia will move forward as quickly as possible to try to complete negotiations on a charter for NATO-Russia partnership and cooperation. Russia will have a voice, not a veto.

At the same time, the two presidents made extraordinarily significant advances in arms control and economic cooperation. Helsinki, in my judgment, was a turning point. It demonstrated that the goals we share -- building a secure future in Europe, reducing even further the nuclear danger, increasing our ties of trade and investment between the United States and Russia -- outweigh our differences.

Our second strategic objective is building a strong, stable, integrated Asia Pacific community. Little more than a decade ago, the conventional wisdom saw Asia, North America and Europe emerging as three rival power blocs competing head-to-head.

President Clinton had a different vision based on America's enduring place as a Pacific power. Soon after he became president, he convened the first-ever Asia Pacific summit meeting, where leaders from China to Indonesia to Australia agreed to a common goal: to define our futures not just in Asian or American terms, but increasingly in Asian Pacific terms as well. It's an evolutionary process; more open trade, continuing American security engagement in the region, and appreciation in an environment where regional rivalries are still dangerous, we provide a balance wheel for stability that helps all of us grow and live in peace.

To succeed, we must meet three immediate challenges. First, we must deepen our partnership with Japan, the cornerstone of America's engagement in Asia, by strengthening even more our security alliance and enhancing our diplomatic cooperation, and continuing the market-opening initiatives that have helped create a 41 percent surge in our exports to Japan since 1993.

Second, we must continue to work closely with our ally, South Korea, to reduce tensions on the Cold War's last frontier; vigilance against the vagaries of a North Korea in distress; pursuing a more stable peace on the peninsula through the four-party talks; ensuring the dismantlement of North Korea's now frozen nuclear program.

Third, we must deepen our strategic dialogue with China. A

China
that evolves as a power that is stable, more open politically and economically, and non-aggressive militarily -- in short, moving toward
not away from a secure international order, is profoundly in our interest. Ultimately, China will define its own destiny. But
one way
or the other, we will help shape its choices.

Our strategy of engagement with China is not a reward for
good
behavior.
It is a vehicle for expanding areas where we can cooperate to
advance
our shared strategic interests, such as on the Comprehensive Test Ban
Treaty or stability on the Korean Peninsula, and where we can
deal
directly with our fundamental differences such as human rights,
market
access and some of China's weapons sales.

There is no guarantee that engagement will succeed in
pulling
China in the direction of the international community, away from
a
more nationalistic, self-absorbed course. But seeking to isolate
China or to isolate us from China almost certainly will push
China in
the wrong direction and undercut the stability that America,
China and
the entire Asia-Pacific region need for the future to be secure
and
prosperous.

Our third strategic goal is to neither shrink from nor be
enthralled by the inescapable reality that American can often be
the
decisive force for peace in the world. America's greatness flows
not
only from our size and strength, but also from the wealth of our
diversity and the power of our ideals. We have a unique ability
to
stand with others around the world who seek to bridge their
differences and build a stronger foundation for peace, security,
and
cooperation. When, where, and how to make a stand for peace has
no
"one size fits all" answer, as Secretary Albright has said.
While we
have been freed from the compulsions of containment, we have
inherited
a more demanding task, particularly in a world where conflict
instantly is thrust upon a global stage.

We must balance interest and risk, achievability and cost, clarity of mission and support from others in what ultimately is an exercise in prudent judgment. We can't be everywhere and we shouldn't do everything. But we must be prepared to engage when important interests and values of the United States are at stake and we can make a difference.

Often our engagement is diplomatic, remaining an unrelenting force for peace -- from the Middle East to Northern Ireland to Central Africa. Sometimes, with caution and care, our diplomacy must be backed with force. In Bosnia our use of air power through NATO, combined with determined diplomacy, stopped a war that threatened Europe's stability. Now our continuing presence through SFOR, the NATO force, is giving Bosnia's fragile peace a chance to take hold. In Haiti, where a brutal dictatorship forced tens of thousands to flee for our shores, we caused the dictators to step down peacefully and gave democracy a new lease on life.

There are other places where our engagement is more important than ever. Let me cite just three. South Asia remains not only a flash point for conflict but an enormous opportunity for cooperation. The great resource potential and strategic location of the Caucasus and Central Asia gives us a strong stake in working with others to enhance their stability and build up our ties to the region. And it is profoundly in our interest to help Turkey, at a strategic and cultural crossroads, remain anchored in the West, committed to democracy, and working to resolve its differences peacefully with our Greek ally.

Our fourth strategic goal is to deal with the new transnational security threats I mentioned earlier -- terrorists, international criminals, drug traffickers -- and to stand against the enduring danger of rogue states. There are times when we must that we will act alone. To get others to follow, sometimes we must lead by example. And there is behavior so egregious that we must act even where

others
won't.

But our fight against these forces, that often cut across nations, compels us to seek the advantages of collective action. Whether it is the threat of terrorism or the scourge of drugs, we must intensify our efforts to achieve a broader sense of urgency about the dangers and a willingness to launch a collective defense to thwart them. That is why we are working to build international coalitions to take on these new challenges: arms control agreements that ban chemical weapons; greater international law enforcement cooperation against drug traffickers and criminal cartels; intelligence sharing to root out corruption; and a more concerted strategy against terror. Some see cooperation as, at best, an illusive goal, at worst, a sign of weakness. Against threats that have contempt for borders, it is a source of strength.

America's fifth strategic goal is to build a new open trading system for the 21st century. Our nation's economic well-being is tied to the rest of the world. Eleven million Americans depend on exports for their jobs. We should not fear the challenges of a global economy. Our workers and businesses can compete just fine so long as the contest is open, the field is competitive, and the rules are fair and enforced.

Historians will look back at this period and see the most far-reaching changes in the global trading system since the days of Harry Truman. We completed the most sweeping round of the GATT, forged a comprehensive trade agreement with our two neighbors, tore down barriers in high-tech sectors where America leads the world, and launched a process for more open and competitive trade in this hemisphere and the Asian Pacific.

These efforts have paid off for our people. The global economy is not a zero-sum game. We are creating good jobs at home by nurturing markets abroad. The president is determined to pursue this

course, navigating the false choice between protectionism and unbridled free trade. Protectionism simply is not an option in today's global economic arena. If we walk away, the process of integration won't stop; it will simply continue without us.

Others in Europe and Asia and elsewhere will benefit. Turning inward would mean turning our back on 95 percent of the world's consumers and forfeiting our stake in the markets of the future.

But while protectionism is not an option, neither is ungoverned free trade. Competition causes dislocation, especially among those without adequate training and skills to compete in the global economy. We cannot walk away from them. We have an obligation to enforce the agreements we make and to make change work for all, with education and training, so that the benefits of progress are not enjoyed by some while its burdens are carried by others.

To sustain our strong momentum, we need the authority to conclude smart new market-opening trade agreements. In Latin America alone, our exports in 1995 were greater than our sales to Japan and Germany combined. We need to complete the job we have begun, to open markets in this hemisphere and globally; to share that growth, not to turn our backs on it.

Finally, we cannot harness the forces of integration without the strength and resources to get the job done, and without sharing those burdens with other like-minded nations. We have the finest military in the world. It is the steel that makes America's leadership credible and, if necessary, our freedom secure.

This president is determined to maintain our ability to dominate any battlefield of the future. That is an indispensable investment in our peace and security.

It also means fulfilling our commitment to fully fund America's diplomacy. Our foreign affairs budget for the current fiscal

year is
50 percent lower in real terms than it was a decade ago. This is
simply foolish. We must make the investments to advance
America's
interest for the next 50 years, as we have for the past.

President Clinton's budget reverses the dangerous downward
spiral
in international affairs funding. Our request -- about 1 cent of
every federal dollar -- bring benefits to every taxpayer,
strengthening our ability to promote peace, fight drugs, track
down
terrorists, combat nuclear proliferation, boost exports, and meet
our
obligations to the community of nations.

We must resist a false choice between going it alone or not
at
all. It's simply common sense to spread the costs and risks of
leadership by working with others, like the World Bank and the
U.N.
Now is the time to push for progress, promoting tough reform,
paying
our bills, and putting the U.N. and the multilateral development
banks
back on sound financial footing.

Ladies and gentlemen, a child born today will grow up not
just in
a new century, but in a new world -- one in which people can be
united
more by their hopes than by their fears. America's new foreign
policy
agenda -- ambitious, but within our reach -- reflects the promise
of
this time, a sober awareness of its perils, and the conviction
that
America must lead if we are to shape change to our benefit.

This is a pivotal moment. Let us make the most of it,
confident
that our cause is right, our course is sound, and the future is
ours
to seize.

Thank you very much. (Applause.) MODERATOR: Mr. Berger, thank you ve
ry much for that tour de
force and the challenges that you've posed.

We're going to begin the question and answer period now, and
the
cards, as they come forward, I will --

MR. BERGER: Do you have the one about why the Clinton

foreign
policy is such a big success?

MODERATOR: Right, that's the first question, why is --
(laughter).

I'd like to begin with an initial question on Bosnia. It
has
almost become conventional wisdom today that until such time as
the
more flagrant war criminals are brought to justice, that the
enormous
investment in time, energy and treasure that's been put into that
whole affair will be for naught; and there's an uneasy feeling
that
time is running out. Could you comment on this, please?

MR. BERGER: Well, I think it's very important that we
support
the work of the War Crimes Tribunal and that those who have been
indicted by -- the war criminals are brought to justice. This is
one
of the most important elements of reconciling the need for
justice and
the need for building peace for the future.

We have been the strongest supporter of the work of the War
Crimes Tribunal. We will continue to be. The president has made
clear that he does not believe that the NATO force ought to be
door-
to-door policemen going in a manhunt for war criminals. That's
not
what they're trained to do, that's not their function, and I
think the
president's judgment on that is right. Nonetheless, I think we
do
have a responsibility to pursue this actively. We are looking at
various options to strengthen our ability to do that and to
continue
to provide support for the work of the War Crimes Tribunal, which
I
agree is very important to a peaceful future for Bosnia.

MODERATOR: Thank you.

In light of the difficulties experienced by your predecessor
in
the confirmation to become the DCI --

MR. BERGER: I'm not declaring for DCI. (Laughter.)

MODERATOR: I understand.

MR. BERGER: I supported George Tenet.

MODERATOR: -- a lot of people are concerned about the prospect of foreign policy without true bipartisanship to support it. What can we do to improve that?

MR. BERGER: Well, it's a very good question. Let me sort of disconnect it from its predicate. We have done the most and the best in this country when we have proceeded in a bipartisan way in foreign policy. The periods of the greatest explosive, creative opportunity and progress have been at times when often there has been a divided executive and Congress -- Truman and a Republican Congress, for example -- but where they have worked together.

The president has made absolutely clear to all of us, and it is something that I believe in firmly, as Secretary Albright believes in firmly -- not -- one need not say that Secretary Cohen believes in it firmly, as a Republican in this team -- Secretary -- Ambassador Richardson -- that we have to proceed here to get these six strategic objectives accomplished in a bipartisan way.

And we have been very aggressive in working together with the Congress over the past three months. We've worked very closely with Republicans and Democrats on getting a Chemical Weapons Convention ratified by the end of April, a convention that was negotiated by and signed by Republican presidents, submitted to the Congress by this Democratic president. And we're working with Leader Lott and others to try to bring this to a vote.

We worked on a bipartisan basis on -- recently on Mexico, where the president's decision to certify Mexico, to proceed with cooperation rather than taking an action that he believed would undercut that cooperation, was controversial. But in the end, particularly in the Senate, with people like Senator Coverdell and Senator McCain and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, we worked out a compromise that enables us to move forward in a way that is cooperative with Mexico.

There is not a single item on this agenda that we can accomplish without bipartisanship. The last I would just mention is that Senator Lott on Sunday proposed a senatorial commission on NATO enlargement that would work closely with us as we proceed to Madrid. And, as I said over the weekend and I've said to Senator Lott, I think that's an extremely constructive proposal. It's one that we intend to work with him on.

And all of these things have to be done in a bipartisan way, and I am hopeful that -- that we can -- that we can do that. There's too much at stake on these issues to make them partisan issues. That doesn't mean there won't be fundamental disagreements, but they ought to be principled disagreements, not partisan disagreements.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

Going to Europe, what is the administration planning to do to reduce tensions with our allies over Helms-Burton?

MR. BERGER: Well, the president signed the Helms-Burton law in the wake of an action by the Cuban government, which shot down some American planes in international air space, killing several American citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

We have had a consistent policy for many years of promoting a democratic evolution or democratic change in Cuba. It now is the only non-democracy in our hemisphere.

The president was given, in Helms-Burton, a waiver in applying the external sanctions. And he used that to say let's take six months, let's work with our allies, and see whether we can develop a more concerted approach toward promoting democracy in Cuba -- a goal that we have in common.

Ambassador Eizenstat very skillfully went to Europe, Canada,

other countries involved. And as a result of that, the Europeans and others have taken a number of steps to advance a common agenda for democracy in Cuba. On the basis of that, the president has said so long as we are moving down that road together, he will presumably continue to suspend the Title 3 section of Helms-Burton. But we have -- while we may disagree on Cuban policy, we should not disagree on the question of whether we should be working together for democracy in Cuba.

MODERATOR: Two related questions on China. Is the "Donor-gate" scandal having any negative impact on the administration's willingness to improve relations with China? And what will the administration do to limit the damage to U.S. China relations caused by the Chinese campaign contributions?

MR. BERGER: I love the phenomenon by which if you put "gate" at the end of any phenomenon you've elevated it to a -- you know, historic scandal. (Laughter.)

I will proceed here with "CSIS-gate" as I proceed in answering this question. (Laughter.)

MODERATOR: Fair enough.

MR. BERGER: The allegations that have been made and have been reported in the press with respect to potential actions by the Chinese, the Chinese government, Chinese individuals to influence American political campaigns are serious allegations. They are under investigation by the Department of Justice, where they belong, and we will continue to let the Department of Justice proceed with that investigation. Obviously, if it turns out that they're true, then appropriate action would need to be taken. But I would really caution us to remember that these are allegations.

At the same time, we have an extraordinarily important interest in developing a broader, deeper dialogue, a strategic dialogue with China. How China develops and evolves over the next decade, over

the
next 20 years, will have a profound influence on our children, on
the
kinds of lives that they live, on the stability and peace not
only in
the Asian region but globally.

Our policy of engaging with China is a policy that is not,
as I
said in my remarks, a reward for behavior, all of which we agree
with.

We have some significant differences with China, as we do with
many
other countries with whom we have relationships. But engagement
is a
vehicle both for expanding the areas of cooperation -- and we
have had
a number of those areas. We have a Comprehensive Test Ban
Treaty. We
are not testing nuclear weapons, and China is not testing nuclear
weapons. This is an agreement we reached with China and others,
with
Russia and other nations in the world. We have been working with
China on stability in the Korean Peninsula. We reached a very
important agreement with China on intellectual property. We have made
some progress with China, for example, in their agreement not to
assist unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, as they may have in the
past.
There have been areas of cooperation.

There remain areas of fundamental difference: the rule of
law,
human rights, and political change, market access questions that
we
still -- we still have a trade deficit with China that is too
large
and getting larger. Some of China's weapons sales we are
concerned
about.

But the way to deal with those issues is not to turn our
backs on
China; it is to sit down with China, engage with China, be clear,
be
frank, use the leverage that we have in a policy of engagement,
not a
policy of isolation. And that will continue.

MODERATOR: Thank you. What are the prospects for the
administration obtaining fast-track authority from the Congress
for
negotiating trade agreements with Chile and other South American
countries?

MR. BERGER: Well, I think, as I indicated in my comments, my remarks, we, I think, have benefitted enormously as a country by the trade expansion enterprises that have been undertaken, beginning in the previous administration, continued in this administration -- GATT, NAFTA, the goal of free trade in the Asian Pacific by 2010 to 2020, the commitment that we made in the Summit of the Americas to achieve free trade in the hemisphere.

But that agenda is not complete. We must have the authority from Congress that previous presidents have had, so that we can negotiate agreements with countries who don't fear that they will be renegotiated once they're submitted to the Congress. And so we will seek that authority. We will seek it in a bipartisan way. There are those -- both in the Democratic and Republican Party -- on the Hill who believe we should proceed in this direction and don't believe. So it's inherently bipartisan, because both our support and our opposition comes from both parties.

But we are committed to seek the authority that we need to finish the job of building a competitive world economy. MODERATOR: Thank you. In your remarks you didn't say much about Africa, yet we find that U.S. forces and interests are tied there very deeply.

What is the administration doing to plan against a worst-case scenario in Zaire?

MR. BERGER: We're very concerned about the situation in Zaire, and we have been very engaged on a number of fronts.

First of all, we have ourselves, and with the South Africans, been engaged in an enterprise in South Africa in trying to bring both the Zairian government and the rebels together into negotiations. We

have been very supportive of the U.N. representative, Mr. Sahnoun, who is seeking to achieve the same objective.

Ultimately, there has to be a political solution that involves a transition government, a cease-fire, democratic elections that can bring stability and an enduring peace to Zaire. And beyond that, there are obviously humanitarian dimensions that we're concerned about and are assisting the various humanitarian organizations in trying to meet those needs.

But I think the most important objective here is to try to press the government, press the rebels, the neighboring states, to foster, on as urgent a basis as possible, political negotiations.

MODERATOR: Two related questions on process. The polite version is how --

MR. BERGER: I'll take that one.

MODERATOR: -- how will the administration reengineer its foreign-policy-making goals and structures, over the next four years, to account for the changing global, political and economic landscape?

The less polite; the State Department is your main executor of foreign policy, but it is already overburdened, underfunded, inefficient, and poorly managed. How will giving it more responsibility by transferring AID and ACDA to State, for example, make State a better instrument for executing --

MR. BERGER: You have to tell me whether Madeleine is here or whether Brian Atwood is here -- (laughter) -- and I don't see either one of them.

I think the first question, really, I covered in the speech, which is what are the new strategic priorities in a new world? And I certainly will not subject you to a reprise.

On the question of organization; this is something that we are

looking at very, very closely and very intensively. I think everybody agrees that we need to reform the way we do business on foreign policy. People have different views with respect to whether that involves some consolidation, no consolidation or total consolidation.

And this is an issue that, ultimately, the president will decide.

And

we will have a proposal that we will take to Congress.

But I think Secretary Albright, and others who are involved in this, number one, would certainly agree with the proposition and the question that we are underfunded; and reorganization is not going to solve that problem.

Reorganization is not going to save enough money to make up the deficit in diplomacy that we have subjected to ourselves, so that we're not able to do things in the world that we should be doing.

I mean, I would point out, for example, that we spent \$1.7 billion in Guatemala during the '80s in the course of a war, and we only have \$27 million there now to help them build a peace. There's something wrong with a sense of priorities when we cannot invest money in peace-making.

So we will proceed to come forward with a reform proposal that will deal with the relationships of the agencies, but I don't want to prejudge how that will come out in terms of any particular configuration.

MODERATOR: Thank you.

Are you concerned about this country's increasing dependence on foreign energy sources? And if so, what would you suggest be done?

MR. BERGER: Well, I am. There has been an alarming reversal of the trends of -- that were begun when Dr. Brzezinski and President Carter were in the White House, of trying to really focus attention on this question of energy dependence. We've seen those figures increase. I think that there's -- obviously, I'm not an expert on

energy, domestic energy. Obviously, there's an awful lot that we need to do domestically to reduce our demand.

I think on the supply side, I mentioned -- there is, in addition to, obviously, our interest in stability and peace in the Gulf region, I mentioned Central Asia. The oil deposits in the Caspian Sea and that area are among the largest in the world. The relationship that we have with countries like Azerbaijan and Armenia and Georgia, and the countries of Central Asia, are extraordinarily important to our future. This is an area which has not only rich resources, but enormous cultural diversity, a very -- a very dedicated and quite educated population, and we have -- and by and large, leaders who want to have not only relationships with their neighbors, but also relationships with the West. And I think we have a very strong geostrategic as well as economic interest in developing our relationships in that area of the world.

MODERATOR: Thank you.

We've come to the end of our time, and I regret that I was unable to ask as many thoughtful questions as you sent forward, but perhaps another time. A copy of Mr. Berger's remarks is available for everyone on the way out, if you wish. And I would ask that you stay in your seats as we dismiss so that Mr. Berger can get to his next appointment.

Let me close by just thanking you, Sandy, for your insightful comments and honoring us with your presence.

MR. BERGER: Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

ARMS Email System

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CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-APR-1997 04:49:00.00

SUBJECT: Morning Wire Stories -- April 9

TO: susan e. walitsky (susan e. walitsky@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

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09 Apr 1997 05:54:36 -0500 (EST)

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Wed, 09 Apr 1997 05:53:02 -0400

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X-Mailer: Connect2-SMTP 4.20B.6 MHS/SMF to SMTP Gateway

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Democrats expect treaty vote next week, Republicans also
optimistic

Clinton, Chretien agree to disagree on Cuba

Official dinner for Chretien: A night of stars, not Starr

As new budget talks begin, Republicans encouraged but still wary

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Mediator says Peru hostage crisis in "silent" stage

Haitian candidates say Aristide's party hired gunmen, used force

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Party chief asks Rubin for help with Agent Orange Victims

US weighs additional food aid to North Korea

South Koreans raise millions for hungry compatriots

U.S. says evidence N.Korean food crisis severe

Defense chief sees North Korean food crisis leading to peace
talks

Cohen visit to Japan assures future for US troops

Hollywood appeals for release of Burma comedian

Seven children killed by Vietnam wartime bomb

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Italy's Prodi ready to offer resignation papers

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Leah Rabin lashes out against Israeli leader

South Asia poorest region in the world: U.N.funded report

PLO delegation to U.S. to discuss peace

Gingrich says Clinton must force Arafat to choose

India's rulers offer to start talks with Congress

Few victories in India's struggle to control pillaging of art
Democrats expect treaty vote next week, Republicans also optimistic

By DAVID BRISCOE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) _ The Senate's Democratic leader says he expects ratification of the global chemical weapons treaty next week, and the Republican leader says he hopes to schedule a vote soon.

Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., had convinced Democrats on Tuesday a ratification vote would be taken before the treaty takes effect April 29 but Lott later declared that "substantive and procedural" issues need to be resolved before a vote is scheduled.

Lott did not elaborate but said he hoped senators could agree today on whether to vote on the 161-nation treaty outlawing production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Under Senate rules, all senators must agree before a time can be set for any vote.

A remaining obstacle was the fact that Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms, leading treaty opponent, had not yet wrapped up hearings on the pact and had not publicly committed to sending it to the Senate floor.

Helms was resuming hearings this afternoon with several witnesses against the treaty, following dueling testimony Tuesday from four former defense secretaries opposing the pact and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright supporting it.

Senate agreement to hold a vote would be a breakthrough in President Clinton

n's efforts to ratify the treaty which has been held up in Helms' committee this year and failed to get to a vote last year. Helms blames last year's failure on the administration, which he said pulled back when it didn't have the two-thirds Senate vote to ratify it.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., lifted a threat to block all Senate bills Tuesday after he said Lott gave assurances a vote would be scheduled on the treaty. Daschle said he expects the ratification vote to come next week, which he said is necessary for full U.S. participation in the accord.

Lott confirmed that he expected a ratification vote before the treaty takes effect in three weeks but committed to no specific date for the vote.

Lott later issued a statement declaring, "There is no agreement to schedule a vote." He added, "A number of issues, both substantive and procedural, need to be resolved, and I hope they will be soon." Daschle earlier told reporters that up to 32 separate and unrelated issues, including support for a ballistic missile defense system, were being talked about as tradeoffs for Republican treaty support.

Lott, however, insisted there was "no quid pro quo" for bringing the issue to a vote.

Albright's hastily arranged testimony Tuesday upstaged four former defense secretaries invited by Helms, but the North Carolina Republican gave her a gracious reception.

James Schlesinger, Donald Rumsfeld and Caspar Weinberger blasted the treaty for its possible impact on U.S. security and the non-weapons chemical industry. Schlesinger also read an anti-treaty statement from former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Albright later countered: "The United States is the only nation with the power, influence and respect to forge a strong global consensus against the spread of weapons of mass destruction."

Albright dubbed the chemical pact "one of the president's

top foreign policy priorities."

"If we are ever to rid the world of these horrible weapons, we must begin by making not only their use, but also their development, production, acquisition and stockpiling illegal," she said. The chemical weapons treaty does that, Albright said.

Clinton, Chretien agree to disagree on Cuba

By Steve Holland

WASHINGTON, April 8 (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien agreed to disagree on Tuesday on the best way to encourage democracy in Cuba, with Clinton saying neither country's policy had worked so far.

The two leaders did not let their differences on Cuba disrupt the friendly nature of Chretien's official visit to Washington, which had got off to an unofficial start on Monday night when the Canadian leader dropped by the White House for cognac and a private chat with Clinton.

At a news conference after their official talks on Tuesday the two joined forces to urge the U.S. Congress to clear a speedy path for U.S. negotiation of an expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement to include Chile.

"I am very concerned that we have not passed fast-track authority in this country," said Clinton.

Chretien said he hoped Clinton would be able to convince Congress to proceed on the authority for Chile. "It's urgent that we move because some are getting impatient in South America," he said.

Fast-track authority would allow U.S. trade officials to negotiate trade deals without fear Congress will change them. Lawmakers would be able to vote for an agreement or against it, but would not be allowed to amend it.

Clinton had such authority to negotiate NAFTA between the United States, Canada and Mexico, and wants it again to negotiate a deal with Chile.

"I think we have to do it. It's clear that expanding trade will strengthen democracy in Latin America and will strengthen

our hand in the second-fastest growing area in the world," Clinton said.

In an otherwise sunny relationship, the United States and Canada are at odds over Cuba. Canada has been a fierce critic of the U.S. Helms-Burton law, which seeks to punish some companies in third countries that do business with Cuba.

The United States does not particularly like Canada's policy of commercial and diplomatic engagement with the communist state. Canada is Cuba's largest foreign investor and largest source of foreign exchange and advocates quiet diplomacy on democracy and human rights.

Clinton, asked if there was any evidence that Canada's approach was working, replied candidly.

"No, but neither one of us has succeeded yet ... Since there hasn't been appreciable change in the Cuban regime, neither of our policies can claim success. But this is an area where I think we have an honest political disagreement," he said.

Indeed, the two leaders were chummy, prompting Canadian reporters to inquire whether Chretien was as close to Clinton as former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was to presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Mulroney came under fire at home for being too cosy to the U.S. leaders. Chretien faces re-election later this year.

"Yes, we are good friends," Chretien, a native French speaker, said. "It's a good relation, but he knows that we will disagree...But I have to tell you that he's a good guy, and I enjoy to be with him."

Clinton was equally cordial on Tuesday evening, toasting the countries' long border and close ties at a formal White House dinner: "Of course, close neighbours sometimes disagree -- family members sometimes disagree. But united by our democratic values and our long border and close friendship, we always found

a way to work through those disagreements." He added: "Long live our mutual friendship. Vive le

Canada."

Official dinner for Chretien: A night of stars, not Starr

By RON FOURNIER=
Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) _ The sumptuous White House feast, cooked for Canadian cons
umption, feted the obligatory politicians,
journalists and Hollywood elite _ bu
t precious few Democratic
donors.

The reason is simple: Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr is
investigating
questionable Democratic fund raising, including
rewarding big-money donors with
visits to the White House. So
aides compiling the guest list for Tuesday n
ight's official
dinner in honor of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien includ
ed
fewer-than-usual political contributors.

Among them were William Joyce, whose Union Carbide Corp.
contributed \$23,00
0 to Democrats; actress Donna Dixon Aykroyd,
who donated \$1,000 to Clinton; and
Michael Berman, a Democratic
consultant.

Berman is one of the Clinton friends who helped disgraced
presidential budd
y Webster Hubbell land a job after he resigned
from the Justice Department unde
r an ethics cloud. Frustrated
with Hubbell's sketchy memory as he cooperated wi
th
investigators, Starr is looking into whether the jobs bought his
silence.

But this was a night for stars, not Starr.

Canadian-born comedian Dan Aykroyd showed off his maple leaf
lapel pin whil
e sleek-in-velvety-blue wife Donna posed for
photographers. A reporter asked Ho
wie Mandel, another Canadian
comic, about the difference between Canada and Ame
rica.

Poking fun at his nation's deflated dollar, he quipped,
"Whatever is going
on here is going on in Canada. It's just
worth 30 percent less."

Two days after their marriage, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan
Greenspan and
NBC reporter Andrea Mitchell showed up. How's
married life?

“Married life? Is that what we’re doing?” Greenspan said
with a sly smile

. Seriously, now: “Terrific, so far.”

Like he did for the 1993 State of the Union address,
Greenspan sat next to
first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for
dinner.

The guests were welcomed by crutches-clutching Clinton, who made a cautious
entrance down the steep stairway of the Grand
Foyer. His doctor, Connie Mariano
, followed closely behind to
keep an eye on him _ then scampered up the stairs
when he reached
the final step. Clinton, who ruptured a tendon in his right

knee last month, sipped cognac with Chretien the night before to
make up for his
inability to keep a golf date. He promised the
Canadian, “I’ll be back in the
arena before long.”

“I have to tell you,” Chretien said of Clinton at a joint
news conference
, “he’s a good guy, and I enjoy (being) with
him.”

He appeared to like dinner too.

Chef Walter Scheib began with maple-cured salmon and
fiddlehead fern, one of
17 different newly harvested vegetables
served on red Reagan china. The entree
was herb-crusted lamb,
peppers, new potatoes, ragout of morels and spring vegetables.

That was followed by salad of young greens and sprouts, and
maytag blue cheese. Then there was dessert, a dazzling display of
pulled-sugar tulips atop a raspberry and chocolate truffle ring
mold.

Scheib said the meal reflected the spirit of spring and the
desire of Mrs.
Clinton to serve healthy meals that blend American
tastes with her guests’ native
cuisine.

After dinner, mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves entertained in the
East Room.

To Clinton and Chretien, it was a night meant to symbolize
their nations’ warm
relationship. Raising his glass in toast, the
president declared, “Long live
our mutual friendship. Vive le
Canada!”

As new budget talks begin, Republicans encouraged but still wary

By ALAN FRAM=
Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) _ Republicans say a new Clinton administration offer to cut additional savings from Medicare is not a major breakthrough, but may show the White House is serious about brokering a balanced-budget deal.

A fresh round of budget bargaining was entering its second day today, after the two sides spent more than three hours discussing ways to trim projected spending from Medicare. Today, the two sides may continue discussing the giant health-insurance program for the elderly, plus annually approved spending for domestic and defense programs.

On Tuesday, administration officials offered to bring five-year savings from Medicare to \$100 billion as calculated by congressional accounting methods, \$18 billion more than President Clinton proposed in his budget in February, participants said. The extra savings would come from health-care providers like hospitals. Last year, Republicans proposed about \$130 billion in five-year Medicare savings.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., called Tuesday's session "a healthy meeting," but said the two sides remain far from a deal over cutting taxes and balancing the budget by 2002.

"Over the next few days, we'll see just how far the president and his negotiators are willing to go," he said.

"We'll know in the next few days whether it's a boy or a girl," added Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, chairman of the House budget panel.

Republicans have said White House willingness to seek more Medicare savings will be a major basis for determining the administration's seriousness about reaching a budget deal. Republicans remain angry over Clinton's campaign-season attacks on them last year for trying to pluck savings from the program and have demanded proof that the assaults will end.

One Republican following the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity, said

d the offer was not a major breakthrough but added,
"I think the appearance is
they were trying to make some
movement in good faith."

White House budget director Franklin Raines was upbeat about
the budget talks, saying, "I don't have any doubt the people in
that room are intent about reaching agreement."

And Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., ranking Democrat on the House
Budget panel, said of the meeting, "It was useful enough that it
will go on tomorrow, and I think it will keep going on."

Earlier Tuesday, GOP leaders said if they could not strike a
quick compromise with Clinton by early next week, they would
focus on cutting a deal with moderate congressional Democrats.
Republicans hope that strategy would put pressure on Clinton to
agree to a pact

"We've been waiting for three months," said Senate Majority
Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. "We must see some movement this week
or early next week, or we've got to move on."

The meeting in a secluded office in the Capitol's basement
followed a two-week congressional recess that saw inconclusive
staff-level discussions.

Clinton unveiled his own budget-balancing plan in February.
Republicans have failed to answer with one of their own, largely
because they fear Democratic attacks and because of divisions within their own ranks over how deeply and when
to cut taxes.

The meetings are to run through Friday, then next Monday and
Tuesday, too, with a different part of the budget discussed each
day. A White House meeting among Clinton and congressional
leaders may follow.

Mediator says Peru hostage crisis in "silent" stage

By LYNN F. MONAHAN=
Associated Press Writer=

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Mediators trying to negotiate freedom for
72 hostages are
looking over a commission report on Peru's prison
conditions, a chief complain

t of the rebel captors demanding their jailed comrades' release.

Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani, a mediator, would say only that his committee was studying the report. He also refused to discuss efforts to release the hostages or a meeting Tuesday with the government's negotiator, Education Minister Domingo Palermo, and President Alberto Fujimori.

"Understand, the reserve, the silence, is not accidental," Cipriani said.

"If you don't understand it, tough luck."

Rebels who have been holding 72 men since storming the Japanese ambassador's residence Dec. 17 are demanding Peru release their imprisoned comrades, a demand Fujimori has said he will not meet.

Nestor Cerpa, leader of the Tupac Amaru rebels inside the residence, has complained repeatedly about harsh conditions in Peruvian prisons and Peru's decision to isolate rebel inmates, who have been denied family and Red Cross visits since the residence was seized.

A Lima daily reported Tuesday that rebels at the ambassador's mansion staged drills to prepare for any raid aimed at freeing their hostages.

The opposition daily La Republica said Cerpa led the nighttime training sessions over the weekend.

Citing police sources it did not identify, the newspaper said electronic eavesdropping devices installed in a house near the residence detected Cerpa yelling orders to hostages during the drill.

Despite the rehearsal, there is no indication that a raid is imminent.

Haitian candidates say Aristide's party hired gunmen, used force

By MICHAEL NORTON=
Associated Press Writer=

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) _ Although the United States has declared the weekend election fair, two candidates claim former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party used gunmen to threaten voters and frighten a rival.

Senate candidate Serge Pierre-Louis, also a spokesman for Premier Rosny Sma rth, accused Aristide's Lavalas Family party of trying to influence Sunday's election just like former Haitian dictators.

"It was a Duvalierist-style election," Pierre-Louis said Tuesday at a new s conference. "It's clear a civilian-military coup d'etat is taking place in the country."

The secretary of the Chamber of Deputies, Rep. Ronald Desormes, said that armed men threatened to kill him for denouncing election fraud in his district, the west-central Artibonite Valley District.

Desormes and Pierre-Louis said gunmen tried to intimidate voters to elect Aristide candidates in Artibonite and in the southern district. Two former army officers _ former army Capt. Medard Joseph and ex-Col. Fourel Celestin _ were running for the Senate as Lavalas Family candidates in the districts.

Neither Aristide's party nor President Rene Preval's government have responded to the claims, or other opposition fraud accusations and calls for the election to be annulled.

At stake in the election is an economic program tied to tens of million of dollars in foreign aid. Aristide's party could win enough seats in the parliament to challenge the program, as it has threatened to do.

Most Haitians did not vote Sunday, snubbing the government and elected representatives who passed the economic plan in October that raised living costs and threatens thousands of jobs.

Sunday's elections were for nine of 27 Senate seats, two seats in the Chamber of Deputies and thousands of officers for 697 district councils.

Definitive results are not expected until May 2, Alexandre Lavaud, head of the Provisional Electoral Council, said Tuesday. Results had been expected by April 16 _ or earlier since so few Haitians voted.

Lavaud did not say why the vote count would be delayed. International observers have estimated turnout at little more

than 5 percent of Haiti's 2 million registered voters.

Three Lavalas Party candidates are from the military, all officers who were loyal to Aristide and went into exile with him when he was ousted by the army in 1991, a year after he was elected.

The United States, which sent troops in 1994 to end three years of military terror and halt a flood of refugees to Florida, has declared the elections free and fair.

"In a democracy one cannot force a citizen to vote," U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Mary Ellen Gilroy told Radio Metropole. Some opposition leaders accuse the United States of hypocrisy.

"The United States cannot admit its investment in Haitian democracy has turned out to be a failure," said historian Michel Soukar.

Party chief asks Rubin for help with Agent Orange Victims

By IAN STEWART=
Associated Press Writer=

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) — The Communist Party chief has asked U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to help Vietnam cope with the wartime legacy of Agent Orange.

Rubin met with Do Muoi on Tuesday, the final day of his three-day visit to Vietnam. The contents of the meeting were made public today by Vietnam's tightly controlled media.

"The use of the chemical still affects its victims 22 years after the end of the war," Muoi was quoted as saying by the English-language Vietnam News.

U.S. forces dumped Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant, on wide tracts of Vietnamese territory, trying to clear away the canopy of foliage under which they suspected communist guerrillas sought shelter.

Since then, a growing number of reports have raised questions about the long-term health effects on humans and wildlife exposed to Agent Orange.

It was not clear what kind of help Muoi was requesting from Rubin, but Viet

name officials in the past have suggested the United States should provide financial assistance for people they say are suffering from side effects of Agent Orange.

Vietnamese officials say Agent Orange has been the cause of countless birth defects in children born to parents exposed to the chemical.

Scientists have offered no evidence linking children's defects to Agent Orange, but American soldiers and Vietnamese civilians directly exposed to the chemical later have complained of cancer and other health problems. A prominent U.S. physician studying the effects of the chemical on people has been unable to compile data collected in Vietnam two years ago.

Research data, blood samples and food samples collected by Dr. Arnold Schecter were seized by customs officials in 1995 at Noi Bai International Airport in the capital, Hanoi.

Schecter was trying to establish a link between Agent Orange and birth defects in Vietnam. Schecter works with the State University of New York Health and Science Center in upstate New York. Up until 1971, U.S. planes sprayed about 12 million gallons of the defoliant over parts of southern and central Vietnam. The total load included about 375 pounds of dioxin, a cancer-causing toxin found in Agent Orange.

It remains uncertain how much dioxin a body can tolerate, its genetic impact on later generations or how long dioxin lingers in the soil or the food chain.

US weighs additional food aid to North Korea

By GEORGE GEDDA=
Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the wake of reports that North Koreans are slowly starving, the United States is considering sending additional emergency food beyond the two shipments already en route to the Communist country.

The vessels are due to arrive in North Korea next month, and

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Tuesday more food relief is being contemplated following the latest appeal by the U.N. World Food Program.

Ships are now carrying \$10 million worth of corn soy blend for children under 5 and rice and corn for victims of the floods that have destroyed farmland throughout the past two summers.

Officials said U.N. monitoring procedures are adequate to ensure the food reaches needy North Koreans and is not diverted for use by the military or government officials.

Defense Secretary William Cohen told American reporters in Tokyo, "Our policy is not to either feed fat generals or to starve innocent people, but rather to help where humanitarian assistance can be helpful."

At the start of the year, the U.N. World Food Program issued an appeal for 100,000 metric tons of food for North Korea, then doubled the request last Friday.

"We remain open to appeals by the United Nations humanitarian agencies, and we are seriously reviewing this expanded request by the World Food Program," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Tuesday.

The crisis atmosphere was reinforced Tuesday by Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, who said after a four-day visit to North Korea that he saw people there eating grass from fields and bark from trees.

"I was stunned by what I saw ... and by how much worse conditions have gotten since I was there last August," Hall said. "Evidence of slow starvation on a massive scale was plain."

U.N. officials have said 20 million North Koreans go to bed hungry every night, disease is spreading and malnutrition threatens the entire nation.

The food crisis may be having an impact on North Korean politics. The State

Department said Tuesday that North Korea has agreed for the first time in almost a year to reopen talks with the United States on its missile program.

Washington has been concerned about the Pyongyang government's missile sale

s to Iran and Syria, and it wants North Korea to join an international agreement to restrict exports of such weapons. On a separate issue, North Korea also is promising an early response after a year's deliberation to a U.S.-South Korean proposal for four-party negotiations to achieve a formal peace settlement on the peninsula.

South Koreans raise millions for hungry compatriots

By Jane Lee

SEOUL, April 9 (Reuters) - Images of hungry North Korean children have sparked an outpouring of public sympathy in South Korea, and ordinary citizens are digging into their pockets to raise millions of dollars for food aid.

The plight of South Korea's impoverished communist neighbour has struck a chord among all sectors of society.

As the enormity of the crisis hits home, church-goers are being urged to skip one meal each week and donate the savings to their brethren across the border.

The rush to stave off human catastrophe has pushed aside memories of a North Korean submarine incursion last year that provoked rage and fear among stunned South Koreans.

"After the submarine infiltration, the donations stopped," said Rhee Jong-geun, spokesman for the South Korean Red Cross, the only authorised channel for aid to the North. "But now the money is pouring in."

Red Cross offices have been inundated with letters stuffed with cash from students, housewives and old people.

Last week, the Red Cross shipped \$1 million worth of food and vegetable seeds to North Korea.

Christian groups are at the forefront of fund-raising activities. South Korea boasts some of the biggest -- and richest -- churches in the world.

On Tuesday the Korea Sharing Movement, which embraces religious and civic organisations, launched an ambitious plan to raise 17 billion won (\$19 million) over two months.

To meet its goal, church pastors are urging their congregations to miss a meal each week. Also planned are charity concerts and street collections.

An umbrella organisation for militant groups advocating Korean unification is set to launch a drive for two billion won. The group includes the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, which has half a million members.

On Wednesday it set up a table with cash boxes and plastered photographs of starving North Korean children on a pavement in a fashionable Seoul district.

"Citizens of Korea, you can save our brethren North Koreans if you only donate the money you spend on a pack of cigarettes or a cup of coffee," a group activist bellowed through a loudhailer.

"Media reports have helped boost interest in the food crisis in the North," said Park Hong-soon, a leader of the so-called Love For Our Compatriots Pan-National Movement.

Ko Jung-sook, 70, dug through her handbag and pulled out 10,000 won (\$11).

"If we don't save our brethren, who will?" asked the elderly woman, who said she was born in the North and abandoned six siblings as she fled south during the 1950-53 Korean War. "They could avoid famine if only we gave them the food we casually throw away."

Aid groups say public sentiment towards North Korea has shifted since Pyongyang publicly apologised last December for the intrusion by one of its submarines, which landed 26 armed agents on a South Korean beach.

Twenty four of the commandos were shot and killed, one was captured and one was never found.

Not all South Koreans are happy about sending food to a country that still threatens the South with its million-strong army and missiles.

"Occasionally some people will call to tell us we shouldn't be sending aid to an enemy which is still planning a war," said Rhee at the Red Cross. U.S.

says evidence N.Korean food crisis severe

By Charles Aldinger

SEOUL, April 9 (Reuters) - U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said on Wednesday there were growing signs of a severe food crisis in North Korea and urged Pyongyang to work with South Korea and the United States to solve the problem.

Cohen also stressed on his arrival in South Korea for security talks with President Kim Young-sam and other officials that a dispute between Seoul and Washington over the possible sale of Russian anti-aircraft missiles to South Korea would not damage the U.S.-South Korea alliance.

"I think the evidence is mounting that it (hunger in North Korea) appears to be very severe, and that hopefully it will allow us to (go ahead) with the four-party talks in the very near future," he told reporters aboard his aircraft on a flight from Tokyo.

"We will work very closely with our South Korean allies to make a determination as to where to go from here with that," he said.

"We are looking for greater visibility, transparency ... finding out whether there is a willingness on the part of the North Koreans in conjunction with their South Korean counterparts to solve the crisis," Cohen said.

North Korea is expected to respond on April 16 to the four-nation talks proposed by the United States and South Korea, a Seoul government official said on Wednesday.

The talks, involving the two Koreas, the United States and China, aim to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said senior foreign ministry officials of the two Koreas and the United States were due to meet in New York next Wednesday.

Cohen, who will visit U.S. troops along the heavily fortified demilitarised zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea on Thursday, repeated Washington's fears that the food crisis could prompt North Korea's 1.1

million-strong military to revolt against its government or strike out against the South.

"We have no way of predicting that right now and so what we have to have is a very strong deterrent capability plus a willingness to work with the South Koreans to solve this crisis," he told reporters.

The United States has 37,000 troops in South Korea and Cohen caused a stir this week when he said they would remain in Korea indefinitely even if the two Koreas made peace and united. Cohen said the United States was moving cautiously on food aid for the North and that it would be handled only in conjunction with South Korea and other countries.

"We will work very closely with our South Korean allies to see where we go from here," Cohen said.

Speaking with reporters on the final leg of a Pacific trip, Cohen appeared to soften his earlier warning that South Korea would be making a major military and political mistake if bought Russian SA-12 anti-aircraft missiles instead of U.S. Patriots.

"I think that our relationship is going to remain durable without regard to the sale, should it occur," he said on Wednesday when asked if Seoul's purchase of Russian missiles would damage the alliance.

"We have made the case that we would like to see greater interoperability with our systems, but in spite of that we will continue to maintain a strong relationship with the South Koreans."

Cohen earlier said that he objected to the sale because the Russian missiles might threaten U.S. warplanes in the confusion of any new Korean war. He and other U.S. officials said the missiles lacked electronic safeguards that would allow them to identify U.S. planes as friendly to South Korea.

The secretary, who held talks in Tokyo with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Wednesday morning, will meet on Thursday with President Kim, Defence Minister Kim Dong-jin and Foreign Minister Yoo Chong-ha.

Defense chief sees North Korean food crisis leading to peace talks

By ROBERT BURNS=
Associated Press Writer=

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) _ North Korea's worsening food crisis could force the communist nation to accept a U.S.-South Korean invitation to open peace talks to formally end the Korean War, Defense Secretary William Cohen said today.

In his remarks on the subject earlier this week Cohen had sounded unconvincing that North Korea's food problem had become critical, but in an interview en route to Seoul from Japan today he seemed more certain. He also said the military implications of the crisis remained unclear and was a cause for concern.

"The evidence is mounting that it appears to be very severe," Cohen said of the food shortages in North Korea that reportedly are threatening mass starvation.

"And hopefully that will allow us" to go ahead with the peace talks "in the very near future," the defense secretary told reporters traveling with him.

A military armistice was signed at the end of the Korean War in 1953 but no peace treaty was ever negotiated.

Cohen was spending two days in South Korea to meet with government and military officials for discussions on conditions in North Korea, the security implications of the food crisis and South Korea's willingness to provide food aid. He also will visit U.S. troops and tour the Demilitarized Zone at the border with North Korea.

Cohen said it was possible the North's military might take "pre-emptive action" in response to the worsening food shortages.

Asked what he meant by "pre-emptive action," he said, "It could be instability within (North Korea), it could be the military moving against the South. There is a whole array of contingencies that could occur, and we have no way of predicting that now."

There are about 37,000 American troops based in South Korea.

Cohen was meeting later today with Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who held talks with South Korean military chiefs in Seoul earlier this week, and with Gen. John Tilelli, Jr., commander of all U.S. forces in Korea.

Cohen said the Clinton administration was "waiting for greater information" on the extent of the food shortage before stepping up its assistance. He described reports by members of Congress who visited North Korea in recent days, including Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, as "secondhand information." Hall on Tuesday said the North appeared headed toward a "severe famine."

As long ago as last December, North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il, said in a rare public address that food shortages had plunged the nation into "a state of anarchy."

Cohen said the administration is waiting to see whether North Korea is willing to cooperate with the United States and South Korea to alleviate the problem.

"The question is how much aid and what our allies are prepared to do," he said. "This is not something the United States is going to undertake on its own."

Earlier Wednesday in Tokyo, Cohen met with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at the conclusion of a two-day visit. He said he assured Hashimoto that the United States was determined to keep about 100,000 troops in the Asia-Pacific region, and that the Japanese leader agreed this was a sound policy.

Cohen's visit to Japan assures future for US troops

By Brian Williams

TOKYO, April 9 (Reuters) - U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen ended a visit to Japan on Wednesday which confirmed a continued American military presence in Asia no matter what happens in China and North Korea.

Making his first trip to Asia since becoming defence secretary, Cohen sent a strong signal that there would be no troop cutbacks into the 21st century and the American military

presence was the best guarantee of peace in the region.

His message was strongly backed by Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to who told Cohen he could rely on Tokyo remaining the United States' chief ally in Asia.

During the three day visit, Cohen also lectured U.S. forces on the need to act as "ambassadors," "diplomats," "emissaries" if they wanted to be welcome in the fast-growing area which has become crucial to the United States' own economic future.

Cohen argued that a reduction of American troop numbers in the western Pacific could trigger an arms race in Asia.

"If we were to have a substantial reduction of our force in the region, I believe that would set up a very negative dynamic, namely other countries would then feel an obligation to start arming themselves to a much higher level than they currently are," he told reporters on Tuesday.

"That would not bode well for the region. It might, in fact, contribute to a greater potential for conflict, which is something we do not want."

Cohen repeatedly stated that the 100,000 U.S. troops in Asia, most of them in Japan and South Korea, were there to stay and were not aimed at containing the growing military might of China.

"It is not designed against China at all, but to maintain stability in the region," Cohen said.

This was welcome news for Japanese officials who worry that a more expansionist China could challenge their economic influence through the region.

But Cohen's forthright comment that even if North and South Korea unified, American troops would remain in South Korea in the same numbers caused a slight ripple during his visit.

Cohen said he did not believe troop levels in South Korea should be reduced over the short term, even if peace were to come to the peninsula.

He said the situation in heavily armed North Korea was very unstable. Japanese policy makers use the possibility of a threat from communist North Korea as one of their main arguments in a battle

with the southern island of
Okinawa about the future of U.S.
military bases there.

Okinawa, an island that makes up less than one percent of
Japan's land area, hosts 75 percent of the U.S. bases in Japan.

In a non-binding referendum
last year, Okinawans backed a drive
by the island's governor to close all bases
by 2015. In a
final meeting between Cohen and Hashimoto on Wednesday, they
pledged to try to cut the burden on the island but gave no ground
in saying
the number of troops would remain the same.

Hollywood appeals for release of Burma comedian

BANGKOK, April 9 (Reuters) - A group of prominent U.S.
entertainers appealed
for the release of a popular Burmese
comedian who was imprisoned after a political
performance last
year, a human rights organisation said on Wednesday.

Human Rights Watch Asia said in a statement received in
Bangkok that a group
of top American comedians had signed
letters sent to top Burmese military government officials urging
the release of
Par Par Lay.

The letters, signed by actors including Carl Reiner, Ted
Danson, Paul Reiser,
Mike Farrell and Mary Steenburgen, argued
Par Par Lay had been jailed for exercising his internationally
guaranteed rights to freedom of expression.

The comedian was part of a well-known Burmese musical troupe
which performed
at an independence day celebration at the
Rangoon home of Nobel Peace laureate and opposition leader Aung
San Suu Kyi on
January 4, 1996.

After returning home to Burma's second city Mandalay, Par
Par Lay and 11 others
in the group were detained. His
performance satirised the ruling military junta and its record of
corruption, Human Rights Watch Asia said.

The comedian and other actors in the troupe were sentenced
to seven years'
hard labour under the Emergency Provisions Act
for "spreading false news."

In letters sent to Burmese prime minister General Than Shwe

and top junta
official Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, the
Hollywood comedians urged Par Par Lay's immediate release.
"We are deeply
troubled about reports that Par Par Lay's health
has seriously deteriorated since his arrest," the
letters said. "We want to personally express our concern and urge you to take immediate action to unconditionally release from
detention one of our colleagues
."

Human Rights Watch Asia said it had received information
that Par Par Lay
had been singled out for particularly brutal
treatment at the labour camp, and
he was weak and seriously ill.

The rights group said Par Par Lay and another comedian were
constantly shackled to an iron bar that makes it difficult to
sleep or do work.

Suu Kyi said in January she had a hard time finding actors
to participate
in her annual independence day celebration at her
home because she and the actors feared possible reprisals from
the government.

Seven children killed by Vietnam wartime bomb

HANOI, April 9 (Reuters) - Seven children died and 34 people
were injured when a fragmentation bomb left over from the
Vietnam war exploded in school grounds, a local official said on
Wednesday.

"The hospital looks like a battlefield," said Phan Van
Khai, Vice Chairman
of the People's Committee in Ky Son, a
mountainous district of central Vietnam near the border with
Laos.

He said five children, aged between nine and 15, died
immediately in Monday's blast and two died later in hospital.
Thirty-three other children and
a teacher were being treated in
hospital.

Khai said at least one wartime bomb explodes every year in
Ky Son district
, which was bombed heavily by U.S. planes during
raids on North Vietnam and Laos.
s.

Italy's Prodi ready to offer resignation -papers

ROME, April 9 (Reuter) - Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi will offer to resign on Wednesday in exchange for a deal with the centre-right opposition on the deployment of a security force for Albania, newspapers reported.

The Chamber of Deputies (lower house) was due to vote on the Italian-led mission later on Wednesday, with Prodi looking for support from the opposition Freedom Alliance bloc after a hard-left political ally refused to back the operation.

The Freedom Alliance supports the Albania force but said on Tuesday it would not vote for the government motion and called on Prodi to accept its own resolution.

But the government coalition decided at a meeting late on Tuesday not to back the centre-right motion.

Newspapers reported that Prodi, well aware that Italy's international credibility is at stake over the mission, would call on the Freedom Alliance to vote for a joint motion which would allow the operation to swing into force.

In return, Prodi "would announce the intention to go to (President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro) and offer his mandate," La Stampa newspaper said.

Corriere della Sera newspaper said Prodi, who took office last May, would make the offer during an address to parliament.

The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Giorgio Bogi, told reporters that Prodi would make "an important announcement" in parliament later on Wednesday.

Prodi's office said the prime minister was expected to address the lower house before the afternoon.

The government comfortably won a first vote on the Albanian mission on Tuesday in the upper Senate, where it has a clear majority and does not depend on the hard-left Communist Refoundation.

But Refoundation holds the balance of power in the lower house and is ideologically opposed to the involvement of Italian troops in foreign operations.

The Freedom Alliance was due to meet at 10.30 a.m. (0830 GMT) on Wednesday

to discuss its stance. The debate in the Chamber is scheduled to begin at midday (1000 GMT) with a vote due around 08.00 p.m. (1800 GMT).

Italy is expected to contribute 2,500 troops to the Albanian operation, France 1,000, Greece 700, Turkey 500, Romania 400 and Spain 300. The multinational force is due to be led by Italy and is scheduled to be deployed next week.

Leah Rabin lashes out against Israeli leader

WASHINGTON, April 8 (Reuters) - Leah Rabin, the widow of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said on Tuesday she could never forgive his successor, Benjamin Netanyahu, for fostering a "hostile climate" that led to her husband's assassination in 1995.

"I hold him responsible for creating the very hostile climate which eventually led to his murder, so how can I ever forgive," she said in an interview on the CNN programme World View. Netanyahu, leader of the conservative Likud Party, and Rabin, head of Israel's Labour Party, were political foes. Five months after Rabin was shot dead by a right-wing Israeli gunman, Netanyahu was elected prime minister.

Mrs. Rabin described a photograph of Netanyahu leading a demonstration in which people were carrying a coffin bearing the sign "Yitzhak Rabin - the murderer of Zionism."

"He bears the responsibility for creating a politically horrible climate against my husband, saying this man doesn't know where he's taking us, he's misleading us, he is really destroying our future," she said.

Asked if she could ever forgive Netanyahu, Mrs Rabin replied: "I don't believe so. I really don't believe so."

Mrs. Rabin will be presented with the Anwar Sadat Peace Achievement Award honouring her slain husband, on Wednesday night. She was to meet President Bill Clinton at the White House on Wednesday afternoon.

Rabin, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and then Israeli

Foreign Minister
Shimon Peres shared the Nobel Peace Prize for
their 1993 interim accord providi
ng limited Palestinian
self-rule and a framework intended to lead to a final peace deal.

South Asia poorest region in the world: U.N.-funded report

By KATHY GANNON=
Associated Press Writer=

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) _ South Asia is the poorest and most
illiterate re
gion in the world, yet its governments divert scarce
resources to buying weapon
s instead of alleviating poverty, a
U.N. report charged today.

``The South Asia region has been sinking fast into a quagmire
of human depr
ivation and despair," said the 153-page report,
released at the end of a three
-day seminar on development in
South Asia.

It offered a litany of statistics that showed the region's
deprivation:

_ More children go to bed hungry every night in South Asia
than anywhere el
se in the world, including sub-Saharan Africa.

_ An estimated 134 million children work in South Asia. Many
of these child
ren work over 15 hours a day and are often
physically abused.

_ Of every 100,000 children born in South Asia, nearly 600
mothers will die

. In some areas it is even higher: Bangladesh has
850 maternal deaths and in Bh
utan has 1,600 mothers dying. _ The World Bank estimates that the region con
tains 40 percent of
the world's absolute poor _ those who live on \$1 a day.

_ India spends \$10 per capita on defense and Pakistan \$26 per
capita. On healt
h and education, India spends \$14 per person and
Pakistan \$10.

The report defines South Asia as Pakistan, India, Bangladesh,
Sri Lanka, Bh
utan and Maldives.

Mahbub-ul Haq, the author of the report and founder of the
Pakistan-based H
uman Development Center, said the reasons for
South Asia's slide include politi
cal instability, bad
governments, corruption and lawlessness.

``The most frightening aspects of the current Indo-Pakistan

confrontation i
s the rapid acquisition of modern weaponry by both
countries," the report says

The two political powerhouses in the region, India and
Pakistan, are believ
ed to have the capability to build a nuclear
bomb. Haq's report recommends
that South Asian governments
provide primary schooling for 126 million children
, basic health
care for 690 million people, safe drinking water for 770 million

people, adequate nutrition for 87 million children and family
planning service
s for 287 million married couples.

He estimated that will cost \$129 billion over the next 15
years or \$8.6 bil
lion a year.

PLO delegation to U.S. to discuss peace

JERUSALEM, April 9 (Reuter) - A Palestinian delegation
planned to travel t
o Washington on Wednesday for talks with U.S.
officials on launching an America
n initiative to save the Middle
East peace process, a PLO official said.

The visit by PLO chief negotiator Mahmoud Abbas, better
known as Abu Mazen
, and negotiator Saeb Erekat will follow White
House talks on Monday between Is
raeli Prime Minister Benjamin
Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"Abu Mazen and I will leave for Washington tonight upon
invitation by the

U.S. administration for consultation with U.S.
officials on American efforts t
o launch an American initiative to
save the peace process," Erekat told Reuter
s.

Clinton on Tuesday said he believed there was a "fairly
decent chance" o
f reviving peace talks between Israel and the
Palestinians.

Violence has flared almost daily in the West Bank since
Israel broke groun
d for a Jewish housing project in Arab East
Jerusalem on March 18 which Palesti
nians charged completed a ring of Israeli settlements on disputed land around th
e city.

Erekat said points that any American proposal should include for

t to succeed were ..."the reiteration that the peace process is based on exchange of land for peace, and final status talks should be conducted parallel to implementation of interim issues."

Netanyahu has proposed moving directly into accelerated talks on a permanent peace accord with the PLO which would deal with "final-status" issues such as the future of Jerusalem and settlements Israel has built on occupied land.

"It is imperative that Israel refrain from undertaking unilateral actions such as building settlements and land confiscations. There is no peace with settlements and no peace with violence," Erekat said.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue building at Har Homa, called Jabal Abu Ghneim by Palestinians, and in other settlements. But he insisted on Tuesday -- the bloodiest day of West Bank violence since bulldozers began to move at the site -- that peace could still be salvaged.

Israeli soldiers and settlers shot dead three Palestinians and wounded scores in the West Bank town of Hebron on Tuesday. Erekat said Israel must immediately disarm settlers, charging they instigate violence.

"I believe there is a way to move forward," Netanyahu told foreign reporters after returning home from Washington.

Netanyahu said he had put forward ideas to break the political deadlock and end Palestinian street protests.

"I heard other ideas..from President Clinton," Netanyahu said without elaborating.

Gingrich says Clinton must force Arafat to choose

By BARRY SCHWEID=
AP Diplomatic Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) _ House Speaker Newt Gingrich is accusing Yasser Arafat of waging a terrorism war against Israel and the Clinton administration of undermining Israel's security.

Speaking Tuesday to a pro-Israel lobby, Gingrich said the administration should adopt "principles that say, 'If you're a

terrorist, you should not expect to live very long," and make a commitment "to pre-emptive strikes when we deem them appropriate."

His speech to the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee underscored Israel's strong support in Congress even as the State Department seeks a compromise formula to reopen Mideast peace talks.

"It is extraordinarily dangerous to confuse the aggressor and the victim,"

Gingrich said in a speech that also attacked the news media for misrepresentation. "It is extraordinarily dangerous to confuse the terrorist and the democracy."

And, the speaker added: "It is extraordinarily dangerous to always impose the burden on those who are your friends because you're too timid to tell the truth to those who are your enemies."

As Gingrich spoke, the Palestinians took their place in the administration's revolving-door diplomacy. Two senior officials met for two hours with American mediator Dennis B. Ross and said another delegation would come later.

On Monday, it was Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's turn to explore ideas for renewing negotiations. He met with President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The speaker called on the administration to force Arafat to make a choice between "honest involvement in the peace process or clear hostility with the United States of America."

Gingrich contended the Clinton-Gore administration is undermining Israel's security by treating "with moral equivalence Palestinian violence and Israeli housing."

And, Gingrich said, so do the media when the new housing project for Jews in Jerusalem is described as a settlement and as being in Arab east Jerusalem.

Clinton, low-keyed by contrast, urged that his quiet diplomacy in trying to reopen Mideast peace talks not be written off as a failure.

"I would not conclude from the fact that I'm giving very noncommittal answers that I don't think there's a chance that

we'll get it going again," he said at a news conference. "I think there's a very decent chance that we can."

Hasan Abdel-Rahman, the Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Washington, and Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official and spokeswoman, brought Ross a message from Arafat.

Ashrawi said it contained assurances that "we certainly are against any type of terrorism" and that the Palestinians were deeply committed to a just and genuine peace.

In remarks directed against Israel, she told reporters "one side cannot be like an occupier and like a dictator." She gave no indication a solution had been found to end the slump in Mideast peacemaking, but said Arafat was open to the idea of a summit meeting with Netanyahu. "If there is a need for a summit, there will be a summit," she said.

"We are, at least, moving again," Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said. "We have people coming."

India's rulers offer to start talks with Congress

By Sabyasachi Mitra

NEW DELHI, April 9 (Reuters) - India's ruling United Front coalition asked the rebellious Congress party on Wednesday to start talks to resolve an 11-day-old political crisis, raising expectations of an agreement to avert mid-term polls.

"We expect the talks to start in the course of the day," United Front spokesman Jaipal Reddy said.

News that the two sides were preparing for talks raised hopes that they could resolve their differences before a vote of confidence in parliament set for Friday.

The Bombay bourse's benchmark index was up 84.90 points, or 2.41 percent, at 3,605.39 points at 1 p.m. (0730 GMT), buoyed by hopes that an end to the political turmoil could pave the way to parliamentary passage of an investor-friendly budget.

The budget, which would slash corporate and personal income tax rates, has

been held hostage by the political uncertainty.

Congress party president

Sitaram Kesri sparked the crisis last

month when he announced the withdrawal of

his party's vital

support for Deve Gowda's minority centre-left coalition.

But on Tuesday, Kesri said he was willing to hold talks with the United Fr

ont, and wanted ``respect, not power."

The alliance named a three-member panel for the talks,

comprised of Harkis

han Singh Surjeet, general secretary of the

Communist Party of India-Marxist, J

ammu and Kashmir state Chief

Minister Farooq Abdullah and Andhra Pradesh state

Chief Minister

Chandrababu Naidu, United Front officials said.

Kesri has demanded that Deve Gowda, who assumed power last

June after inco

nclusive general elections, step down. But the

United Front has resisted the de

mand.

``There will be no change in the leadership of the government," a United Front official said. ``There is no question of changing the prime minister."

United Front spokesman Reddy declined to comment on the leadership questio

n when asked if the coalition would agree to

drop Deve Gowda.

The United Front lacks an outright majority in the lower house of parliame

nt and depends on Congress to survive a

challenge by the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Speculation

has centred on a possible reconciliation between the

United Front and Congress,

neither of which wants snap elections

which could strengthen the BJP.

But a United Front official said the alliance did not want Congress, which

has supported the government without holding any cabinet portfolios, to enter

the ruling coalition.

``We have decided that Congress will not be a part of the governing coalit

ion," the United Front told reporters at the end

of a special meeting of the a

lliance's decision-making Steering

Committee at Deve Gowda's official residence

Congress president Sitaram Kesri was locked in talks with senior party off

icials to consider their position ahead of the

confidence vote.

While Congress maintained silence over the likely outcome of

the talks, United Front leaders and some opposition parties saw the possibility of a patch-up before the confidence vote.

"The United Front and the Congress are in a tight corner," said George Fernandes, whose Samta Party is an ally of the BJP. "But I expect them to patch up. They will wriggle out of the crisis."

United Front politician Sharad Yadav said he was expecting a positive outcome before the vote.

Few victories in India's struggle to control pillaging of art

By ASHOK SHARMA=
Associated Press Writer=

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The shipping container sat in one corner of New Delhi's sprawling international airport awaiting customs clearance. It carried an innocuous looking label: handicrafts.

Acting on a tip, customs officers opened the container and found not cheap carvings or tie-dyed cloth, but 18 stone statues more than 100 years old. They were valued at 40 million rupees, or about \$1.1 million.

The shipping documents carried fictitious names and addresses, but interrogation of the clearing agent led to the arrest of three people involved in the illicit attempt to smuggle out antiquities, officials said.

That discovery four years ago was the last major victory in the battle to keep India's heritage at home.

For the most part, experts say, officials can do little to stop art thieves lured by big money overseas — few connoisseurs in impoverished India could afford the stone treasures labeled "handicrafts."

There aren't enough guards to keep an eye on antiquities scattered in Hindu temples and Muslim mosques across this vast country. Unscrupulous traders often are helped by customs officials willing to look the other way for bribes.

The pillage of Indian art treasure has been going on for decades, but recently came under the spotlight with Peter

Watson's new book, "Sotheby's Inside Story," dealing with smuggled antiques finding their way to the London auction house of Sotheby's.

The book recounts how the residents of an Indian village awoke one night to the sound of robbers vandalizing the village temple nine years ago. They gave chase, but the plunderers escaped in the darkness.

One of the idols spirited away from the village, a goat-headed sandstone goddess at least 1,000 years old, later surfaced at a Sotheby's auction.

The idol, priced around \$15,000, was withdrawn from the sale but it has yet

to be returned to the temple in Lokhari, a village near the holy city of Allahabad, 400 miles southeast of New Delhi.

"We do take Watson's allegations of complicity in the handling of smuggled Indian antiquities extremely seriously; and Sotheby's has launched a major internal investigation, to be conducted by external lawyers, which will certainly examine this area," said Simon Taylor, a Sotheby's spokesman.

India's foreign ministry says it seeks the return of any smuggled antiquities it learns about.

For instance, the government fought a legal battle in Britain for nearly 10 years before recovering a stolen statue of Lord Nataraj, a Hindu god, valued at \$2 million.

An alert employee at the British Museum went to the Indian embassy in London in 1982 with his suspicions that the statue was a stolen item. It was sent to the museum for restoration work by a Canadian oil company that had bought the piece for \$250,000 from a Briton of Indian or Pakistani origin.

The 3-foot-tall 11th century statue had been missing since being discovered

by two laborers digging on the grounds of an abandoned temple in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu in 1976. The Indian government sued the oil company and got the statue back in 1992.

"For the first time in living history, an item which has

been smuggled out
of the country and sold in a foreign market as
an antique has been returned to
the country of origin under a
court order," said Sunita Mainee, an attorney who
argued India's case in court.

India's Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1974 prohibits
exporting any object over 100 years old and requires all such
objects be registered with the Archaeology Survey of India.
Violators can be jailed up to six years.

"We have declared nearly 5,000 monuments as the protected
ones in India and these are being guarded by ASI," said Hari
Manjhi, a director of the Archaeology Survey.

But he concedes there are vast unprotected areas holding
thousands of temples in nearly half a dozen Indian states,
notably Tamil Nadu in the south and Assam in the northeast.

Poor villagers and former princes, who have a treasure of old
art and other antiques but no source of income, sell off pieces
to make a living, art dealers say.

Corrupt customs officials and police help smuggle out art to
foreign dealers and rich Western collectors in return for cash.
Meanwhile, honest agents have time to examine only 10 percent to
15 percent of the freight leaving through air and sea ports.

And even when the art guardians score a victory, ordinary
Indians don't necessarily benefit.

Four years after being discovered at the airport, the 18
stone handicraft statues remain buried in a warehouse.
Officials have yet to arrange for their display in a museum.

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

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: usda-agam-owner (usda-agam-owner@reeusda.gov@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-APR-1997 05:55:00.00

SUBJECT: USDA-AGAM> AgNews 4/17 a.m. edition

TO: Bruce K. Sasser (Bruce K. Sasser@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Doris O. Matsui (Doris O. Matsui@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Gordon Adams (Gordon Adams@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Gordon Li (Gordon Li@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: James A. Dorskind (James A. Dorskind@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Joshua Silverman (Joshua Silverman@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Kyle M. Baker (Kyle M. Baker@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura D. Schwartz (Laura D. Schwartz@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stephen B. Silverman (Stephen B. Silverman@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Thursday, April 17, 1997

AM Edition

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FARM & FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

LIMIT NEW CRP ENROLLMENT TO 14 MILLION ACRES (101 Reuter 4/16) A House appropriations subcommittee voted Wednesday to limit USDA to accepting no more than 14 million acres into the Conservation Reserve Program this year.

The figure was far smaller than the 19 million acres mentioned in department documents. Rep. Jim Walsh said USDA did not have the capacity to accept more than 14 million acres this year so the restriction would be meaningless. USDA officials expressed astonishment at the proposal and declined comment until they could examine the language.

(102 Reuter 4/16) USDA spokesman Tom Amontree said, "It's premature to assess the size of the CRP until we finish evaluating the signup, which we expect to have complete by the end of May."

SMITH CALLS FOR ONE-YEAR CRP EXTENSION FOR FALL-SOWN CROPS (103 Reuter, AP 4/16) U.S. House Ag Committee Chairman Bob Smith filed a bill Wednesday that would allow a one-year extension of Conservation Reserve Program contracts for farmers with fall-planted crops. Smith also called a meeting of the committee for Thursday at 1 p.m. The panel was expected to approve the bill and send it to the floor, a spokesman said. Several million acres of winter wheat, oats and barley land could be affected by the bill.

STORM IN DAKOTAS LIKELY KILLED OVER 100,000 CATTLE (104 Reuter 4/16) South Dakota governmental agencies estimated 60,000 cattle and calves died in the Dakotas from the early April blizzard. But an industry spokeswoman said post-storm illnesses and abortions could quadruple that number. The North

Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service said losses in the southern half of that state may be unprecedented, with cattle and calf losses estimated at twice the normal death loss for this time of year.

OKLAHOMA LAWMAKERS ASK FOR FEDERAL RELIEF (105 AP 4/16) Oklahoma's U.S. senators and congressmen asked Sec. Glickman on Wednesday to help wheat farmers hurt by an April freeze. They did not specify any relief measures.

FISCHLER SAYS U.S. MEAT-STANDARDS DELAY IS GOOD OMEN (106 Bridge 4/16) EU Farm Commissioner Franz Fischler said the U.S. decision to delay its plans for retaliation against the EU in the dispute over slaughterhouse standards was a good omen for early agreement on the issue. He thought an agreement could come as early as Wednesday, April 16.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE ISSUE MAY DRAW BLOOD (107 Journal of Commerce 4/17) The article cites U.S. meat industry officials saying they are pleased the U.S. is standing firm on the issue of slaughterhouse certification. They say the EU and U.S. are entrenched in their opposition to each other as both side have too much to lose. One meat executive, however, says he doubts American consumers would notice and trade interruptions should they happen.

LARGE GRAIN IMPORTS BY RUSSIA NOT SEEN SOON (108 Reuter 4/16) No large-scale imports of grain by Russia are seen in the next five years as government purchases of grain decline and private traders build their fledgling businesses, a Russian grain trader said Wednesday. He and other private grain traders from Russia were in the U.S. to learn how grain

companies and commodity exchanges here work. Their trip was sponsored by the U.S. Feed Grains Council.

TOO EARLY TO RULE OUT MAX SET-ASIDE HIKE FOR EU (109 Bridge 4/16) EU Farm

Commissioner Franz Fischler said it was too early to rule out setting the EU's 1998-99 arable-land set-aside rate at its maximum of 17.5% as USDA had predicted in a report released Monday. He said the Commission would make its set-aside proposal to farm ministers in July.

EU CEREALS EXPERTS TO DISCUSS MALTING BARLEY QUOTA (110 Reuter 4/16)

European Union cereals experts will discuss the introduction of a reduced-tariff quota for 30,000 tons of high quality malting barley on Thursday. A vote on the quota is due to be taken at the cereals management committee following the morning meeting of experts.

EU COUNTRIES RESIST FARM AID CUT PLANS (111 Reuter 4/16) European Union

countries remain hostile to Commission proposals to make cuts in farm aids as part of the 1997-98 farm prices package, an EU official said. Most states want farm spending taken right up to the annual limit, he said.

AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES WHEAT BRANDS (112 Reuter 4/16) The Australian Wheat

Board is aiming to capture a greater market share by selling its wheat under brands "targeted at discerning customers for specific end-uses," the deputy prime minister for trade said. Calling it a "world first," he said the strategy puts Australia at the cutting edge of grain marketing.

LAWMAKER SKEPTICAL CHILE TRADE AGREEMENT COULD PASS BEFORE BUDGET (113 AP

4/16) President Clinton may have great difficulty winning congressional support for adding Chile to NAFTA free trade agreement before a budget deal is sealed, according to Rep. Charles Rangel. "I think the president will really have to start working on the Democrats to get a sufficient number of votes to get it (the fast-track authority)," Rangel said.

CHINA SHOULD BOOST NET GRAIN IMPORTS (114 Reuter 4/16) China should raise

its net grain imports to cover anticipated shortfalls in the longer term while expanding sales of high-value-added farm products to earn foreign currency, the Chinese Academy of Sciences said in a report released Wednesday.

FOOD SAFETY

POSSIBLE CONTAMINATED STRAWBERRIES DISTRIBUTED IN MISSOURI, KANSAS (115 AP

4/16) Frozen strawberries sold through wholesale food distributors in Missouri were believed contaminated with hepatitis A, health officials said Wednesday. No reports had been received of illness resulting from tainted strawberries in either state. A state health official said the suspect berries were shipped frozen in bulk to wholesale distributors, which sell only to institutions such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes, restaurants and delicatessens.

MARKETING & REGULATORY PROGRAMS

LIVESTOCK AGENCY SUGGESTS SELLING CAPTURED BISON (116 AP 4/16) Montana's

Department of Livestock urged lawmakers on Wednesday to allow for the sale of healthy bison captured outside Yellowstone National Park. The idea was presented through an amendment to House Bill 547. It would allow Livestock officials to quarantine bison, and then sell the animals that test negative for brucellosis infection. Revenue from the sales would first be applied to the expenses of the operation, and any surplus would be added to the food bank grants.

NORTH DAKOTA CHALLENGES INFLATED MILK PRICES (117 AP 4/16) While North

Dakota challenges an agreement to prop up milk prices in New England, it maintains a system that fixes milk prices here, although state officials say they see no contradiction, the article says. The state's Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp joined colleagues in Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota in an attempt to block the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

GROUPS SUE TO BLOCK CHUGACH TIMBER SALE (118 Reuter 4/16) A coalition of

environmental groups Wednesday filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court to block an upcoming Moose Pass Salvage Sale in Alaska's Chugach National Forest. In their lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service, they said the agency failed to consider the cumulative effects of the Moose Pass sale and other timber sales in the national forest on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

SMITH CALLS FOR END TO COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN STUDY (119 AP 4/16) Rep. Bob

Smith urged an appropriations panel Wednesday to end an environmental study

in the Columbia River basin and spend the money instead on forest health projects. "While insect infestations, disease and fire problems in our forests grow greater, the money for this project, like many of our forests, continues to burn. It's time to put an end to this costly study and start tending to the business of restoring the health of our forests," he said.

W.VA. POULTRY, CATTLE CONTRIBUTE TO POTOMAC WOES (120 AP 4/16) West Virginia's growing poultry industry as well as cattle feedlot runoff were among the reasons the Potomac River was named Wednesday the seventh most endangered river by the American Rivers environmental group. The article reviews some of the groups other selections.

RESEARCH, EDUCATION & ECONOMICS

ARGENTINE SOY FORECAST CUT (121 Reuter 4/16) The Argentine government's Agriculture Secretariat has cut its estimate of 1996/97 soybean production to 12.8 million tons, down from 13.5 million, a market source said Wednesday. The source said he thought the new figure was still much too optimistic.

MEXICO PRIVATE SECTOR SEES FEWER '97 GRAIN IMPORTS (122 Reuter 4/16) Mexican imports of basic grains will fall by 31% in 1997 compared with levels from the previous year, the private sector National Agriculture Council said in a report on Wednesday. The report said imports in 1997 will be about 7.53 million tons of beans, wheat, barley, corn, rice and sorghum, compared with a total 10.76 million tons exported in 1996.

CHINA WHEAT PRODUCTION PREDICTED (123 Bridge 4/16) The China Daily reported that nation's key wheat production area will raise its output by 5 million tons by the year 2000. France's cereal intervention board ONIC has been told by Chinese officials that they expect a record wheat crop this year "at least equal to last year 110 million tons and probably more."

USDA -- MULTI-MISSION

CORN FUTURES CLOSE LOWER ON BSE RUMORS (124 Wires 4/16&17, Wall Street Journal 4/17) CBOT corn futures closed sharply lower on a wire service report an Indiana farmer may have died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a human version of mad cow disease, traders said. A scare about U.S. beef could cut into consumption of beef and in turn, livestock feed, especially corn, sources said. However, the Indiana Health Department said it could not confirm press reports that the death of a 62-year-old Indiana man was from CJD, but said the state has several cases of CJD annually. One wire says Asian traders reacted skeptically on Thursday to the CJD reports.

The CJD victim's wife suggested his disease came from the bone meal he put on his rose garden. A USDA official said, "it's safe to say the source of this gentlemen's disease was something else."

U.S. CJD DEATH NOT LINKED TO BEEF (125 Reuter, Bridge 4/16) The National Cattlemen's Beef Assn said the Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease that strikes one in a million Americans annually is not the same strain that could be contracted from cattle infected with mad cow disease.

FEDS RESPONDS TO CJD FEARS (126 Bridge 4/16) A USDA spokeswoman said there remains no evidence that BSE is present in the U.S. cattle population. An official with the Centers For Disease Control said no

connection has been found between the consumption or use of meat or meat products, including bone meal, to CJD.

IOWA GOVERNOR SAYS LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN PERIL (127 Des Moines Register

4/16) Iowa Governor Branstad said the state's livestock industry could be put at risk by a recent Humboldt County judge's decision to allow county regulation of confinements. The ruling could lead to over-regulation and "could close down the expansion of the industry," he said. The controversy could mean that the whole issue of livestock regulation will have to be debated yet again in the legislature.

(128 Des Moines Register 4/16) Iowa farm commodity groups said they'll push state lawmakers to ease the impact of the Humboldt decision.

TAIWAN LIFTS EXPORT BAN ON PORK (129 Bridge 4/16) Taiwan's Board of Foreign

Trade announced Wednesday it has lifted an export ban imposed March 20 on a total of 105 items of pork and other cloven-hoofed animal products. An official said that Taiwan had already done its duty by informing the world that it is a foot-and-mouth inflicted area. Taiwan officials said exporters still must obtain permits from importing countries in advance.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WANTS FEDS TO BUY MORE CANNED SALMON (130 AP 4/16)

Sens. Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens and U.S. Rep. Don Young sent a letter to Sec. Glickman asking that USDA make more purchases this year to help prop up the price of pink salmon harvested from Alaska waters. They also thanked him for the purchase of nearly 301,000 cases of Alaska canned pinks last year.

EDITORIAL AND OPINION

HOG DISEASE IN TAIWAN, ODOR IN IOWA (131 Des Moines Register 4/16) Dennis

Avery comments on the opportunities opened by the misfortune of Taiwan's pork industry. But stepping in to fill the demand will mean careful management of hog wastes not only because of environmental concerns but because the value of hog manure is an important part of the profit picture.

NETWORK NEWS

Tobacco farmers still optimistic about foreign markets (NBC 4/16)

Fargo residents still battling flood despite shining sun (NBC 4/16)

Chemical companies moving closer to fat reduction pill (NBC 4/16)

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RFC-822-headers:

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id <01IHSX8NUJF400206U@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Thu, 17 Apr 1997 06:57:12 -0500 (EST)

Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)
by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879) id <01IHSX8KL6W0001ZIX@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Thu,

17 Apr 1997 06:57:05 -0500 (EST)

Received: from maat.reeusda.gov ([192.73.224.2])

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-7 #6879)
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17 Apr 1997 06:56:40 -0400 (EDT)

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Received: from hqmail.usda.gov (hqmail.usda.gov [199.128.3.90])

by maat.reeusda.gov (8.6.12/8.6.12) with ESMTP id GAA15890 for
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id GAA07805; Thu, 17 Apr 1997 06:55:14 -0400 (EDT)

Received: by ATTMAIL; Thu, 17 Apr 1997 06:55:00 -0400

Content-identifier: AgNews 4/17 a.m.

X-Mailer: Worldtalk (4.1.1-p1)/MIME

Content-disposition: attachment; filename=04171.TXT

Original-encoded-information-types: IA5-Text

Precedence: bulk

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ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Clark Ogilvie at GORE-DC (Clark Ogilvie at gore-dc@CCMAIL [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:30-APR-1997 15:21:00.00

SUBJECT: Fast Track Authority

TO: Jonathan Spalter (Jonathan Spalter [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Is the VP going to give a speech in the near future regarding fast track

authority for trade agreements? Someone told me you would know the answer

to this. Thanks.

ARMS Email System
RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: usda-agam-owner (usda-agam-owner@reeusda.gov@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 1-MAY-1997 06:06:00.00

SUBJECT: USDA-AGAM> AG News 5/1 AM Edition

TO: Bruce K. Sasser (Bruce K. Sasser@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Doris O. Matsui (Doris O. Matsui@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Gordon Adams (Gordon Adams@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: James A. Dorskind (James A. Dorskind@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Joshua Silverman (Joshua Silverman@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Kyle M. Baker (Kyle M. Baker@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura D. Schwartz (Laura D. Schwartz@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stephen B. Silverman (Stephen B. Silverman@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Please See attached===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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RFC-822-headers:

Received: from conversion.pmdf.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879)
id <01IIC13UX8V40014RT@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Thu, 01 May 1997 07:19:14 -0500 (EST)
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id HAA14719; Thu, 01 May 1997 07:06:31 -0400 (EDT)
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Content-identifier: AG News 5/1 AM
X-Mailer: Worldtalk (4.1.1-p1)/MIME
Original-encoded-information-types: IA5-Text
Precedence: bulk
X400-MTS-identifier: [/P=GOV+USDA/A=ATTMAIL/C=US/;33687CBB.1172.08DB.000]
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===== ATTACHMENT 2 =====
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Thursday, May 1, 1997 AM Edition

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FARM & FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

MEAT-TRADE DEAL REACHED (101 AP, Reuter 4/30; NY Times 5/1) Negotiators reached an agreement that would allow meat trade between the U.S. and EU to continue, but would block U.S. exports of some \$50 million in poultry and imports of some \$1 million in poultry products. Sec. Glickman noted the pact opens doors for more U.S. exports of red meat and sets a framework to resolve outstanding issues. The poultry industry expressed disappointment saying protectionism has triumphed again. The American Meat Institute said it was satisfied with the agreement, but found it incomprehensible that U.S. poultry processing techniques are incompatible with EU standards.

HELP SOUGHT FOR WHEAT DAMAGE (102 AP 4/30) The Oklahoma Farm Bureau wants Sec. Glickman to declare the state's wheat crop a disaster because of the \$336 million lose due to the April freeze. The OFB said this was the third disastrous year for state wheat producers. Some experts say it is still too early to tell just how badly the crop is damaged.

SENATORS ATTACK ADMINISTRATION'S TRADE POLICY (103 Bridge 4/30) Senators said the U.S. trade policy is a disaster, claiming the administration has been slow in forming new trade pacts and saying past trade pacts are not working. Some complained that Canada keeps U.S. dairy and poultry products out of its market while the U.S. is concerned about increased imports of subsidized wheat and fish from Canada. Sen. Conrad Burns said he would vote against fast-track authority for the president unless conditions improved for U.S. farmers.

CALL TO SAVE EXPORT AGENCIES (104 AP 4/30, Journal of Commerce 5/1) Legislators said doing away with agencies that help trade, such as the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corp, could cause the loss of more than 700,000 U.S. jobs. One pointed out that other nations subsidize their exports, and claimed eliminating the U.S. programs

would be unilateral disarmament. A study indicates the U.S. could lose \$42 billion in exports over 10 years, "just to save \$800 million."

U.S. WITHDRAWS WTO PANEL REQUEST OVER EU GRAIN IMPORT REGIME (105 Journal of Commerce 5/1, Bridge 4/30) The U.S. withdrew a request, as well as all previous requests, for a World Trade Organization panel to decide a dispute over the EU's grain import system. JOC said the action was taken after the EU agreed to technical changes that better addressed U.S. concerns.

UK STUDY FINDS EU OVERCOMPENSATED FARMERS BY \$19 BILLION (106 Reuter 4/30) An internal memorandum from the British ministry of agriculture says the European Union has paid its cereal farmers some \$19 billion too much in compensation for price cuts that never happened. The EU farm commissioner agreed that farmers have been overcompensated for cuts but said he could not confirm the \$19 billion figure. Most EU farm ministers have strongly attacked Fischler's proposal to cut aid payments to grain farmers by 1.4 billion Ecus to help fund aid for the mad cow crisis.

AUSTRALIA ASKS JAPAN NOT TO USE RICE IMPORTS AS AID (107 Reuter 4/30) Australian PM Howard urged Japanese PM Hashimoto not to use imported rice as food aid to poor countries, a transcript revealed Wednesday. Hashimoto replied that "the rice donations were in line with the WTO's rules."

TYSON LOOKS AT CHICKEN PRODUCTION IN CHINA (108 Bridge 4/30) Tyson Foods is working with Hong Kong-based Kerry Holdings to examine the feasibility of developing up to 10 poultry production and processing operations in China.

SOUTH KOREA BECOMES THIRD LARGEST EXPORT MARKET FOR U.S. GRAINS (109 Bridge 4/30) Korea's International Trade Association said South Korea became the third largest export market for U.S. grain in 1996, after Japan and Mexico, with imports valued at \$1.61 billion.

MARKETING & REGULATORY PROGRAMS

UNION PACIFIC POLICY COULD AFFECT FARMERS (110 AP 4/30) Union Pacific Railroad's new policy, to not allow small grain elevators to combine grain cars with another elevator to get a 100-car discount, could make farmers truck grain further to get better rates. UP will only offer the 100-car discount to elevators that can load 100 cars on a single piece of track; it will continue to haul smaller trains for elevators, but they won't get the discount.

OWNERS OF IDAHO RAILROAD DIFFER ON WHETHER TO SELL (111 AP 4/30) One owner of the Idaho-based Camas Prairie Railroad will call for bids this summer from potential buyers -- but the other owner has not yet decided whether to call for bids. Camas Prairie has about 256 miles of track and carries a lot of forest products and grain.

COURT FINDS AGAINST BOLL WEEVIL PROGRAM (112 AP 5/1) The Texas Supreme Court found the state program run by the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to be unconstitutional. Cotton growers had blamed the program for loss of crops. The court said the state violated the constitution by delegating governmental authority to the private foundation, and said the foundation's

assessment method was unconstitutional.

LOUISIANA FAVORS DAIRY COMPACT (113 AP 4/30) Louisiana's House gave final approval to a bill to allow the state to join 14 others to form a compact to set minimum milk prices. Proponents say dairy farms are declining in the South and need the compact to provide stability. The compact has to be approved by each state's legislature and Congress.

ATTACK ON NOXIOUS WEEDS (114 Orlando Sentinel 4/30) The Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition told Congress that the invasion of noxious weeds in more than 100 million acres of the nation's parks, forests and croplands has reached a crisis stage. The article notes the coalition has \$500,000 in seed money supplied by federal agencies such as USDA and USDI, but much more funding is needed to deal with the problem. The coalition's coordinator in Washington called for a coordinated approach involving industry, conservation groups, government and the general public to attack the problem at the local level.

CYANIDE USED AGAINST COYOTES (115 AP 5/1) The article recounts lamb losses suffered by a rancher due to coyotes, and efforts of USDA's Animal Damage Control program, including bringing back use of cyanide in M-44 "Coyote Getters," to control the predators. An ADC official defended use of the M-44s, which had been suspended for three years while an environmental assessment was completed on their use on public lands.

THIRD CASE OF SWINE FEVER CONFIRMED IN SPAIN (116 Reuter 4/30) Spain's Catalan province of Lerida confirmed a third outbreak of swine fever, a regional farm official said. A local farmers group estimated that about 86 farms were involved in the new outbreak in the county of Montgai. About 59,200 pigs will be slaughtered as a preventive measure.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

BILL TO PROTECT FORESTS (117 AP 4/30, USA Today 5/1) Sen. Robert Torricelli introduced legislation to ban clearcutting in federal forests, prohibit logging on 13 million acres of old-growth forest in the Northwest, prohibit logging and roadbuilding in large roadless areas and ban logging in 3.8 million acres of 100 areas around the country. He said he wants legislators to weigh this measure against one proposed earlier by Sen. Larry Craig which would limit appeals and lawsuits meant to block logging.

SINGLE BWCA BILL SOUGHT (118 Minneapolis Star Tribune 4/30) Sen. Paul Wellstone said he plans to work with both sides in the controversy over management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area to come up with a "common ground" proposal.

DEBATE OVER WATER POLLUTION IN NORTH CAROLINA (119 Reuter 4/30) North Carolina hog producers said they would agree to a moratorium on expansion of their operations if similar restraints were applied to other industries that threaten the state's water quality. A bill to put the moratorium on hog operations has been introduced in the state's legislature.

RESEARCH, EDUCATION & ECONOMICS

SPARKS SEES DILEMMA FROM U.S. SOY STOCKS (120 Bridge 4/29) Sparks Cos said current indications on usage suggest U.S. soybean carry-out for 1996-97 will be at an impossibly low level. The U.S. will need 150 million bushels, Willard Sparks said, noting that he didn't know how that was going to be done.

CANADA GRAIN SHIPMENTS SUFFER BACKLOG (121 AP 4/30) Although the flow of export grains through British Columbia ports has recovered from delivery problems caused by severe weather last winter, the Canadian Wheat Board announced that 2 million metric tons of lost grain movements since Christmas mean the deferral of some deliveries to beyond the close of the current crop year on July 31.

RESEARCH RESULTS IN MORE MUSCULAR MICE (122 Dailies 5/1) Scientists have produced mice that are considerably more muscular than their fellow rodents, by removing a gene that limits muscle growth. Some speculate the technique could be used to produce meatier livestock.

CHINA MAY BE EYING MORE U.S. SOYBEANS (123 Reuter 4/29) U.S. analysts and exporters said that China may be willing to pay a premium for more U.S. soybeans because of need and availability.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ATTORNEY CRITICIZES IMPACT STUDY OF PROPOSED POULTRY PLANT (124 AP 4/30) An environmental attorney in Kentucky wants an environmental impact study showing that a proposed chicken-processing plant would cause no significant environmental impact redone. The \$150,000 draft report, federally funded through the empowerment zone program, says the loss of jobs and incomes if the plant is not built in Clinton County in southern Kentucky would be the real negative impact. The EIS critic says logic that a water quality plan would prevent any negative effects on water is flawed, and he says the plan doesn't consider alternative sites or private sources of funding to build a needed water-treatment facility.

ISOLATION OF FARMERS (125 AP 4/30) Iowa sociologists say farmers in the state are becoming increasingly isolated socially and this is leading to rising tension in rural areas. Farm consolidation and the decline in farm population are seen as important factors in the shift.

USDA -- MULTI-MISSION

POLITICAL DISPUTE DERAILS DISASTER RELIEF BILL (126 AP, Minneapolis Star Tribune 4/30) A bill to speed billions of dollars in aid to Americans hit by natural disasters is being slowed down by measures from both parties to further their budget goals. The Senate's top Democrat said the President would veto the bill if Republicans persist in adding language aimed at preventing another government shutdown. The article notes that Democrats are displeased with the measure already because it doesn't provide enough for underfunded programs such as WIC.

(127 Daily Oklahoman 4/30) A top official with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives said farmers could suffer another blow if Congress funds disaster relief with money earmarked for the Export Enhancement Program. He outlined the importance of trade for farmers and said the EEP

could be spared if Congress declares the disaster relief to be emergency spending.

(128 Minneapolis Star Tribune 4/30, AP 5/1) Five Senators from the Upper Midwest and Minnesota officials want more funding to help flood victims, including an additional \$174 million for farms, ranches, railroads, utilities and other infrastructure. Minnesota officials asked Sec. Glickman to expand emergency loan programs and help farmers who lost livestock or grain to the floodwaters.

NETWORK NEWS

Anonymous female donor gives flood victims \$2,000 checks (ABC 4/30)

Anonymous donor gives \$2000 to every flood-victim household (CBS 4/30)

Anonymous donor gives flood victims \$2000 per family (NBC 4/30)

A look at roots of America's rural anti-government movement (CBS 4/30)

USDA RELEASES

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0142 GLICKMAN JOINS SHALALA, DALEY IN URGING AFFORDABLE TELEHEALTH IN RURAL AMERICA

0143 UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN UNION REACH AGREEMENT ON VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY

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CREATION DATE/TIME: 5-MAY-1997 06:14:00.00

SUBJECT: USDA-AGAM> AG News 5/5 AM Edition

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TO: Joshua Silverman (Joshua Silverman@EOP [UNKNOWN])
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TO: Kyle M. Baker (Kyle M. Baker@eop [UNKNOWN])
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TEXT:

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

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Received: from conversion.pmdf.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879)

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by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879) id <01III37OZVZ4000UG0@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Mon,

05 May 1997 07:17:58 -0500 (EST)

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Received: (from daemon@localhost) by maat.reeusda.gov (8.6.12/8.6.12)

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by maat.reeusda.gov (8.6.12/8.6.12) with ESMTP id HAA13938 for

<usda-agam@reeusda.gov>; Mon, 05 May 1997 07:09:24 -0400
Received: (from x400@localhost) by hqmail.usda.gov (8.7.5/8.7.3)
id HAA03231; Mon, 05 May 1997 07:14:57 -0400 (EDT)
Received: by ATTMAIL; Mon, 05 May 1997 07:14:00 -0400
Content-identifier: AG News 5/5 AM
X-Mailer: Worldtalk (4.1.1-p1)/MIME
Original-encoded-information-types: IA5-Text
Precedence: bulk
X400-MTS-identifier: [/P=GOV+USDA/A=ATTMAIL/C=US;336DCEE1.1172.07D6.000]
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Monday, May 5, 1997 AM Edition

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FARM & FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

BUDGET PACT IMPACTS ON CRP (101 Bridge 5/2) Congressional aides said the agreement to balance the budget by 2002 isn't likely to cut farm program payments, but it could result in cuts to the Conservation Reserve and USDA export programs in the FY 1998 budget. The article says appropriation panels might be tempted not to fund crop insurance costs, forcing the agriculture committees to take on that burden and look at CRP and export programs for the money.

SEC. GLICKMAN TO CO-CHAIR U.S.-MEXICO MEETING (102 Reuter 5/2, Bridge 5/3)
Sec. Glickman and his Mexican counterpart will co-chair a working group on agricultural issues during the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission meeting this week. Sec. Glickman and other Cabinet members are accompanying President Clinton to the meeting May 5-7.

AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS FROM NAFTA (103 Journal of Commerce 5/5) The article examines how NAFTA has helped the U.S. sell more of a variety of agricultural commodities to Mexico.

LACK OF FAST TRACK HURTS U.S. (104 Reuter 5/2) The article notes that the U.S. is losing ground in Latin America because of the lack of fast track authority for making trade deals. The article outlines thoughts on how faltering on the part of the U.S. is helping Brazil strengthen its trade ties in the region.

FLEXIBILITY ON LUMBER QUOTA (105 Reuter, Bridge 5/2) U.S. and Canadian trade officials expressed willingness to discuss small changes to the U.S. quota on Canadian lumber. Both sides said the quota system is working well, but the Canadian trade minister said they hoped to revert to a free market once the five-year deal is up.

CONCERNS ABOUT WHEAT TRADE (106 Bridge 5/2) USTR Barshefsky said the U.S. and Canada held productive talks on Canada's swelling wheat exports to the U.S., including discussions on what could be done to increase market accessibility for U.S. grain in Canada. Canada's trade minister said they are meeting all obligations concerning wheat exports to the U.S.

IMPACTS OF FLOODING ON AGRICULTURE (107 AP 5/3) The 1997 flooding is expected to have little long-term impact on agriculture in Minnesota despite its immediate damage to thousands of farm buildings and inundation of millions of acres. Some say favorable weather will allow the affected regions to produce decent crops. USDA officials point out crop insurance rates probably won't increase much because crops hadn't been planted yet.

BANKERS TO MONITOR CONDITIONS (108 Bridge 5/2) Banking regulators will closely monitor crop weather conditions and updates to agricultural losses in order to assess bank risk in the northern Plains. Although the move is seen as unusual, the agricultural assessments are seen as an early indicator of how well the banks will do.

FUNDS TO HELP TOBACCO FARMERS (109 AP 5/4) Philip Morris has provided \$5 million for a five-year project to help tobacco farmers produce a crop. The Farm Income Improvement Foundation will make grants and loans. One farm group official noted farmers have been reluctant to invest in a crop with an uncertain future.

FOOD, NUTRITION & CONSUMER SERVICES

WIC: SHORT OF FUNDS OR NOT? (110 AP 5/4) Although some claim WIC is short of funds and thousands of women and children face removal from the program, others say there is enough money to cover all eligible participants and there should be funds left over at the end of the year. Sec. Glickman points out the value of the WIC program; the department says WIC rolls are higher than estimated in the Republicans' budget projections and food costs have risen.

RESTORATION OF BENEFITS TO LEGAL IMMIGRANTS (111 Reuter 5/2) The budget deal worked out between the administration and congressional Republicans mitigates food stamp cuts in the new welfare law and provides other relief for legal immigrants.

FOOD SAFETY

E.COLI SUIT FILED (112 AP 5/3) A girl who survived E.coli gotten from a Jack in the Box hamburger has sued the chain's parent company for unspecified damages. The suit alleges the company, and the companies that supplied the hamburger, were negligent for failing to properly inspect, treat and prepare hamburgers that were free of E.coli. The company settled more than 90 previous lawsuits without going to court.

BACTERIAL PROBLEMS LOOMING (113 AP 5/5) The article examines the claims of some scientists that there are many bacteria yet to be discovered, and some of them are likely to be dangerous. It notes that salmonella is not just found in chicken, saying an outbreak in Denmark was traced to pork. It also claims a study of bacteria isolated from livestock in Denmark shows

90% are resistant to four or more antibiotics.

MARKETING & REGULATORY PROGRAMS

BRUCELLOSIS COMMITTEE SEEKS FEDERAL COOPERATION (114 AP 5/3) A member of the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee said Secs. Glickman and Babbitt deliberately circumvented the committee when they asked Montana's governor to help stop the slaughter of bison in the Yellowstone area. The committee voted to ask the secretaries to work through the committee in the future, saying coordination would lead to more effectiveness. The committee said there are three ways to reduce the risk of brucellosis transmission to livestock: reducing the disease's prevalence in wildlife populations, reducing commingling of livestock and wildlife, and making livestock more resistant to brucellosis.

USDA TO BEGIN CHEESE PRICE REPORT (115 Reuter 5/2) On May 9, USDA will begin publishing a weekly price and volume report on cheddar cheese sales. The first one will cover weeks from March 7-May 2 and subsequent reports will provide data for the most recent 5-week period.

CHEESE PRODUCTION (116 AP 5/3) A dairy industry official said increased production has saturated the U.S. cheese market. Wisconsin set a production record last year and held on to its number one position in the industry. In the first day of cheese trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, cheddar dropped three cents a pound from the week ago closing on the National Cheese Exchange.

POULTRY FARMERS SEEK MORE CONTROL (117 Tulsa World 5/3) Contract poultry farmers are hoping to change the rules under which they operate through regulation changes under the Packers and Stockyards Act; one said the act needs teeth. The farmers want more control and say low pay is a concern. They want USDA to provide protection from arbitrary decisions made by the companies who contract with them to raise the poultry.

RETURN OF 1080 COLLARS PROPOSED (118 AP 5/5) Oregon's agriculture department wants a pilot program to return the collars containing Compound 1080 for protecting sheep against predators. Opponents say more humane strategies are available and claim the poison endangers non-target species including humans, but an ADC official countered those arguments. State officials say only federal predator control agents would handle the collars under stringent rules.

BILL AGAINST TRAPPING PASSES COLORADO'S SENATE (119 AP 5/3) Colorado's Senate approved a measure 27-7 to carry out a voter-approved amendment to ban killing wildlife with some types of traps or poison. Farmers had opposed the measure while environmentalists and animal-rights groups supported it, but now opponents of the bill say it gives too much to farmers and subverts the voters' wishes.

PRIMATE TRADE CRITICIZED (120 AP 5/4) The article examines criticism of unregulated trade in primates and the dangers it poses for the animals as well as those who buy them. Some complain that the lack of regulation of "pet owners" is a loophole that allows some to skirt the Animal Welfare Act.

AIR DROPS TO FIGHT RABIES (121 AP 5/4) Officials will begin air drops of bait with rabies vaccine in northwestern Vermont today to stop the expansion of rabid raccoons. USDA has been working on the project along with state offices, Cornell University and adjoining Canadian provincial governments.

WEEVIL PROGRAM HALTED (122 AP 5/3) The diapause spray program to combat boll weevils in Texas has been halted because there isn't enough time to collect the funds needed, order chemicals and map the areas to be sprayed. The Plains Cotton Growers group says it would need \$17 million to adequately treat for the weevils. The decision to abandon the program follows the state Supreme Court's ruling against the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation.

STRUGGLES OF FOOD CO-OPS (123 AP 5/4) The article reviews the struggle food cooperatives have gone through to compete with supermarkets in order to provide "food for people, not for profit." Now, some upscale groceries are providing strong competition in the types of foods provided, without asking anything except payment from the customers. Although co-ops are surviving through improvements in service and management, their sales pale in comparison to the for-profit natural food chains.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

CRITICISM OF DEALS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES (124 AP 5/4) Environmentalists are criticizing the administration's efforts to reach accommodation with states and private companies over protection of fish and wildlife. They have sued the government for what they consider to be lax enforcement of the Endangered Species Act. Proponents say the carrot works better than the stick. An accompanying item lists the 20 largest state and company plans in the U.S. for protecting endangered species.

RESEARCH, EDUCATION & ECONOMICS

U.S. CORN BOUGHT TO REPLACE ARGENTINE SUPPLIES (125 Reuter 5/2) Traders said four major export firms switched purchases of some 600,000 tons of corn from Argentina to the U.S. Most of the corn was destined for South Korea; the switch was attributed to high Argentine prices.

SALES OF BIOTECH SEEDS SOAR (126 Indianapolis Star & News 5/2) Sales of genetically engineered corn and soybeans are soaring as the catalog of biotech seeds increases. Bt corn hasn't caught on quite as fast as Roundup Ready soybeans, but it is expected to be planted on six percent of the U.S. corn acreage this year. Some seed companies are requiring planting strategies that make it less likely corn borers will develop immunity to the biotech plants. New varieties of seed are coming, including some that have more than one biotech characteristic.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

HISTORIC RATING SOUGHT FOR RURAL AREA (127 AP 5/4) Preservationists want a six-mile tract of rural Indiana placed on the National Register of Historic Places because it presents a view of what the entire southern part of the state once looked like. The area is ripe for development.

EDITORIAL AND OPINION

NEGOTIATING WITH MEXICO (128 Chicago Tribune 5/5) The editorial says both Mexico and the U.S. need to make concessions in negotiations at the summit meeting starting today. It notes the importance of trade between the two nations. In addition to compromise on narcotrafficking, the editorial notes that illegal immigration is a thorny issue. It says the U.S. needs to consult more with Mexico to clarify the nature and intent of our immigration policies.

(129 Journal of Commerce 5/5) The editorial says NAFTA is working and Presidents Clinton and Zedillo should highlight its successes.

NETWORK NEWS

Jury begins deliberations in tobacco trial; a look at the case (ABC 5/2)
Execs deny in court tobacco's addictive; details of negotiations (CBS 5/2)
Anti-bacterial products more about marketing than real protection (NBC 5/2)

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- 0147 USDA TO PUBLISH A WEEKLY CHEDDAR CHEESE PRICE REPORT
- 0148 SECRETARY GLICKMAN WILL ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT CLINTON AT U.S. -
MEXICO BINATIONAL COMMISSION MEETING IN MEXICO CITY
- 0149 GLICKMAN ANNOUNCES DATE OF NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY

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