

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	From USIA_Media_Reaction to Many Recipients Re: Daily Digest: Colombian Crisis [partial] [10 USC 424] (1 page)	08/16/1999	P3/b(3)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/04/1999 - 08/17/1999]

2019-0153-F

jn628

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: kstein@dredf.org (kstein@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 4-AUG-1999 07:26:38.00

SUBJECT: Millienium Disability Rights History

TO: rsing@dredf.org (rsing@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: rdonald@dredf.org (rdonald@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: pchurch@dredf.org (pchurch@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: markb@dredf.org (markb@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: kstein@dredf.org (kstein@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: jsinger@dredf.org (jsinger@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: ddoctor@dredf.org (ddoctor@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: clorenz@dredf.org (clorenz@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: amayerson@dredf.org (amayerson@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: abergman@dredf.org (abergman@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: susan_ferreyra@ci.sf.ca.us (susan_ferreyra@ci.sf.ca.us [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: sohara@library.berkeley.edu (sohara@library.berkeley.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: newmeyer@uclink4.berkeley.edu (newmeyer@uclink4.berkeley.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mgolden@wli.net (mgolden@wli.net [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: meca@igc.apc.org (meca@igc.apc.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mblack@sirius.com (mblack@sirius.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: margaretj@pai-ca.org (margaretj@pai-ca.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: larryp@dralegal.org (larryp@dralegal.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: kathy@wid.org (kathy@wid.org [ONDCP])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Jonathan M. Young (CN=Jonathan M. Young/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: gbaptiste@cilberkeley.org (gbaptiste@cilberkeley.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: dlandes@ctpberk.org (dlandes@ctpberk.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: cilberkeley.org@no.return.address (cilberkeley.org@no.return.address [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: bryan@dgs.ca.gov (bryan@dgs.ca.gov [CEQ])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: b-atwood@pacbell.net (b-atwood@pacbell.net [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: andrewgalpern@hotmail.com (andrewgalpern@hotmail.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: adapt@adapt-now.com (adapt@adapt-now.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: 74223.131@compuserve.com (74223.131@compuserve.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: shenderson@dredf.org (shenderson@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: rganeles@dredf.org (rganeles@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: psteneberg@dredf.org (psteneberg@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: lkilb@dredf.org (lkilb@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: jrecio@dredf.org (jrecio@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: dlipton@dredf.org (dlipton@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: csampogna@dredf.org (csampogna@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: bburgess@dredf.org (bburgess@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: aharrell@dredf.org (aharrell@dredf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: whirlwind@sfsu.edu (whirlwind@sfsu.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: tleetz@pacbell.net (tleetz@pacbell.net [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: ralfh@sfsu.edu (ralfh@sfsu.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mlb99@aol.com (mlb99@aol.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mediataalk@ezekiel.enteract.com (mediataalk@ezekiel.enteract.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: mbwill@well.com (mbwill@well.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: margied@netcom.com (margied@netcom.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: lwatson@cilberkeley.org (lwatson@cilberkeley.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: kjp1@mofo.com (kjp1@mofo.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Judy_Heumann@ed.gov (Judy_Heumann@ed.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: drbonney@pacbell.net (drbonney@pacbell.net [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: cfilmail@earthlink.net (cfilmail@earthlink.net [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: bmcmluldren@carf.org (bmcmluldren@carf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: berkeley-disabled@onelist.com (berkeley-disabled@onelist.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: axhdsp@uclink.berkeley.edu (axhdsp@uclink.berkeley.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: af752@lafn.org (af752@lafn.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: abaldwin@lighthouse-sf.org (abaldwin@lighthouse-sf.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: bjfields@involved.com (bjfields@involved.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Please forward . . .

What always bugs me, and I know many others, about Millenium coverage is the fact that disability rights is never mentioned.

The Contra Costa Times (which serves the Bay Area) is doing a Reader Poll, "Bay Area's Century of Dramatic Events." Their list of things to choose from includessuch things as the building of the bay bridge, patty hearst, the rolling stones concert at altamont, hippies, the nba comes to the bay area, several earthquakes etc. etc. They are also accepting up to 3 write-in votes.

So . . . if people would email write in votes to the paper (insync@ccetimes.com) we can help put disability rights history on the millenium map, and help to educate the media and the general public in the process.

I suggest the following 2 :

1. The national and international disability independent living / civil rights movement begins in Berkeley and the Bay Area in the early 1970s, removing barriers and changing centuries-old attitudes toward people with disabilities.
2. 1977 -- Over 100 people with disabilities occupy the San Francisco

Federal Building for 28 days, the longest sit-it at a Federal building in U.S. history, demanding that President Carter sign into law the regulations implementing Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (the first civil rights law for people with disabilities) . The Regulations signed into law as a result of this demonstration became the model for the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act.

The deadline for submissions is August 20.

Thanks.

-- Ken Stein

To: insync@cctimes.com

Subject: Bay Area's Century of Dramatic Events

Write-In Votes

1. The national and international disability independent living / civil rights movement begins in Berkeley and the Bay Area in the early 1970s, removing barriers and changing centuries-old attitudes toward people with disabilities.

2. 1977 -- Over 100 people with disabilities occupy the San Francisco Federal Building for 28 days, the longest sit-it at a Federal building in U.S. history, demanding that Jimmie Carter sign into law the regulations implementing Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (the first civil rights law for people with disabilities) . The Regulations signed into law as a result of this demonstration became the model for the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act.

from the Contra Costa

MILLENNIUM STORIES and big, slick books about the

20th century haven ?t covered many of the events affecting
the lives of Bay Area residents.

What major changes ? for better or for worse ? have
occurred in the Bay Area during this century? What
individual events were most newsworthy? What long-term
developments? Bay Area history and everyday life have been shaped by such
events as major earthquakes in 1906 and 1989, the building of bridges,
freeways
and transit systems, industrial development during World War II and
suburban
growth from the 1960s onward.

The Times Features Department would like readers to help choose the
most
significant events in the Bay Area in the 20th century. The results will
appear in

the Sunday TimeOut section Sept. 12 and in a special section, The Century, Oct. 6.

Vote for up to 10 events, including as many as three write-in choices that may not be on our list. The deadline is Aug. 20.

Vote for no more than 10

Earthquake and fire destroy much of San Francisco in 1906.

Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915 celebrates the opening of the Panama Canal and San Francisco's reconstruction.

Standard Oil opens oil refinery in Richmond, Shell in Martinez.

Bridge speeds traffic between Contra Costa and Solano counties: Carquinez Bridge in 1927, Benicia-Martinez Bridge in 1962.

The Bay Bridge links the East Bay with San Francisco in 1936, curtailing the Bay's network of ferries.

Caldecott Tunnel opens in 1937, encouraging residential construction in Contra Costa County.

Golden Gate Bridge opens Marin County to development, 1937.

Richmond becomes a major shipbuilding center during World War II, and wartime industries boom throughout the East Bay.

Japanese-Americans ordered out of Bay Area to internment camps during World War II.

Explosion at naval ammunition base at Port Chicago kills 320 men, 1944.

United Nations formed in San Francisco, 1945.

Professional sports comes to the West Coast as the San Francisco 49ers begin play in the All-America Football Conference in 1946. The 49ers join the National Football League in 1950, winning five Super Bowls in the 1980s and 1990s.

Giants, A's bring major league baseball to the Bay Area.

Berkeley, Livermore labs become centers of nuclear and defense development.

Freeway system connects Contra Costa and Alameda counties to the wider Bay Area, 1950s and 1960s.

Bay Area gets another professional football team in 1960 as the Oakland Raiders begin play in the American Football League.

The NBA comes to the Bay Area in 1962 as the Warriors, with Wilt Chamberlain, move to San Francisco from Philadelphia.

Hippies make San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury and Berkeley centers of the counterculture movement in the 1960s and 1970s.

• The Summer of Love, 1967.

Free Speech Movement at UC-Berkeley leads to student demonstrations, 1960s.

Vietnam War protesters make Bay Area a center of the anti-war movement.

American Indians occupy Alcatraz, 1969.

Rolling Stones concert at the Altamont Speedway near Livermore in 1969 ends with the death of a fan.

Black Panthers organize,
focusing attention on the black
empowerment movement in the East
Bay, 1960s and 1970s.

Latin and Asian immigration,
following the influx of new residents
during the Depression and World
War II, transforms much of the Bay
Area.

Francis Ford Coppola, George
Lucas and other directors make the
Bay Area

Oakland School Superintendent
Marcus Foster shot to death by
Symbionese Liberation Army,
1973.

Patty Hearst kidnapped from
Berkeley apartment by Symbionese
Liberation Army, 1974.

The Concord Pavilion opens in
1975, bringing world-class
entertainment and thousands of
spectators to Contra Costa County.

San Francisco Mayor George
Moscone and Supervisor Harvey
Milk are shot to death at City Hall
by former supervisor Dan White,
1978.

AIDS takes a heavy toll in San
Francisco in the 1970s and 1980s,
but health workers and volunteers
set up model prevention and
treatment system.

The Rev. Jim Jones and
followers die in Jonestown, Guyana,
1978.

Silicon Valley leads the nation's
high-tech development.

BART trains cross San
Francisco Bay, link East Bay, San
Francisco, Peninsula.

Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989

collapses Cypress freeway structure
in Oakland, shuts Bay Bridge,
causes widespread damage.

Oakland hills fire destroys more
than 3,000 homes and kills 25
people in 1991.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Daniel W. Burkhardt (CN=Daniel W. Burkhardt/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 5-AUG-1999 16:16:30.00

SUBJECT: Re: this is virtually right out of the press release -- i guess we could have said anything

TO: Delia A. Cohen (CN=Delia A. Cohen/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

oops! it was usa today's coverage of pmof. forgot to attach it!

Clinton to give presidential
medal to Ford, Carter

August 5, 1999

Web posted at: 11:31 AM EDT (1531 GMT)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Clinton will give the
Presidential

Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor,
to former presidents

Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and eight others next week,
the White House
said on Thursday.

Clinton will honor Carter and his wife Rosalynn at an
Atlanta ceremony on
Monday both for his work as the nation's 39th president
as well as for their
efforts to promote peace, democracy and health care
since leaving the White
House.

While president, Carter brokered the Camp David middle
east peace
accords, signed the Panama Canal Treaty and
reestablished normal
diplomatic relations with China. After leaving the White
House, the couple
founded Atlanta-based Carter Center that promotes
democracy and human
rights around the world.

Carter and his wife, an advocate of improved mental
health care, childhood
immunization and women's equality, spend part of each
year building homes
for the poor through the Habitat for Humanity group.

Clinton will honor the eight other recipients, including

President Ford, at a
White House ceremony on Wednesday.

The White House said Ford, who was elected to 13 terms
as a congressman
before becoming vice president to Richard Nixon, helped
to restore
confidence in the government and the White House
following the Watergate
scandal.

Clinton will also give the medal to his former Treasury
Secretary Lloyd
Bentsen, a former senator from Texas; Edgar Bronfman Sr,
president of the
World Jewish Congress; and Evelyn Dubrow of the
International Ladies
Garment Workers Union.

Others to receive the honor include Sister Isolina
Ferre, an advocate for the
poor; Oliver White Hill, a civil rights lawyer who
worked on a school
desegregation case that led to the landmark 1954 Brown
v. Board of
Education ruling; arms control negotiator Max Kampelman
and
environmentalist Edgar Wayburn, a five-time president of
the Sierra Club.

Delia A. Cohen
08/05/99 04:13:14 PM
Record Type: Record

To: Daniel W. Burkhardt/WHO/EOP
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Re: this is virtually right out of the press release -- i
guess we could have said anything

what is?

Daniel W. Burkhardt
08/05/99 03:27:04 PM
Record Type: Record

To: Delia A. Cohen/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: this is virtually right out of the press release -- i
guess we could have said anything

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jackson T. Dunn (CN=Jackson T. Dunn/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 5-AUG-1999 14:15:44.00

SUBJECT:

TO: "Quinn, Jill" <Jill.Quinn@delta-air.com> ("Quinn, Jill" <Jill.Quinn@delta-air.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I am trying to find another staffer to help you with the request for this weekend. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues, like me, will be out of town, but I am still looking.

The call to Mr. Mullin's office was most likely an invitation to the presentation of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter at the Carter Center Monday night. See attached press release for additional information. Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate
Release
5, 1999

August

Statement by the Press Secretary

President Clinton announced today that he will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, to 10 distinguished individuals. The President will bestow the medals at ceremonies to take place during the week of August 9, 1999. The President will bestow the medal on President and Mrs. Carter in a ceremony at the Carter Center in Atlanta on August 9. The other honorees will receive their medals at a White House ceremony on August 11.

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. As Thirty-ninth President of the United States, Jimmy Carter brokered the Camp David accords, signed the Panama Canal Treaty, and reestablished normal diplomatic relations with China. Together, the Carters created the Carter Center to promote peace, democracy, and improved health around the world. Through the Center, they launched the Atlanta Project, a grass-roots program to combat urban social ills in the U.S. As a statesman, President Carter has been a successful diplomat in hot spots around the world. Mrs. Carter is a longtime advocate of improved mental health care, widespread childhood immunization, women's equality, and enhanced care for seniors. Each year, the Carters help to build homes for the needy through Habitat for Humanity.

Lloyd M. Bentsen. President Clinton's first Secretary of the Treasury, Lloyd Bentsen served in the House of Representatives from 1948 to 1954. In 1970, he was elected to the United States Senate and served 22 years, including six as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Bentsen was the Vice-Presidential nominee for the Democratic Party in 1988.

Edgar M. Bronfman, Sr. As President of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman, Sr. has worked to ensure basic rights for Jews around the world and to fight anti-Semitism and has spearheaded the effort to retrieve the assets of Holocaust victims and their families. Through the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, he has supported educational, literary, scientific, charitable, and religious organizations throughout the world.

Evy Dubrow. For more than 50 years, Evelyn & Evy 8 Dubrow has advocated for laws that would improve domestic labor conditions. A representative for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and for the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, she has been influential in numerous causes, including broadening laws against discrimination and protecting American industry from unfair foreign competition.

Sister M. Isolina Ferr?. Founder and chief executive officer of Centros Sor Isolina Ferr?, four community service centers in Puerto Rico, Sister M. Isolina Ferr? first gained international recognition in the late 1950s and 1960s for her mediation efforts with youth gangs in Brooklyn, New York. Today, her centers operate clinics and programs to empower the disadvantaged, teach them self-reliance, and lift them out of poverty. For her work with the poor in Puerto Rico, Appalachia, and New York, she received the 1989 Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism.

Gerald R. Ford. Thirty-eighth President of the United States, Gerald Ford was elected to 13 terms in Congress before he was chosen by Richard Nixon to be his Vice President. As President, he brought the Vietnam War to a close. Recognized for his honesty and integrity, he worked to restore confidence in government and the Presidency.

Oliver White Hill. One of our nation's great civil rights lawyers, Oliver Hill is best known for litigating one of the school desegregation cases that became Brown v. Board of Education. He and his team of lawyers filed more civil rights suits in Virginia than were filed in any other southern state during the segregation era. In 1948, he became the first African-American politician since Reconstruction elected to the Richmond City Council.

Max Kampelman. Lawyer, negotiator, and diplomat, Max Kampelman held major negotiating posts under both Democratic and Republican administrations during the 1980s. In those roles, he emphasized human rights in East-West diplomacy and prepared the foundation for long-term arms reductions between the United States and the Soviet Union. President Reagan awarded Kampelman the Presidential Citizens Medal in 1989.

Edgar Wayburn. Five-time president and a member of board of directors of the Sierra Club for almost 40 years, Edgar Wayburn pushed for the expansion of California's Mt. Tamalpais State Park and fought for the

establishment of Point Reyes National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. He also helped to create Redwood National Park in California's Del Norte County and later worked for its expansion. His advocacy helped produce the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, which protects 104 million acres.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: "Seiden, Maya" <Maya.Seiden@hq.doe.gov> ("Seiden, Maya" <Maya.Seiden@hq.doe.gov> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 5-AUG-1999 15:31:03.00

SUBJECT: FW: Statement on Awarding of Presidential Medal of Freedom

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

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

TEXT:

Do we know if Cabinet will be invited to this? I don't know for sure, but I'm assuming the Secretary might be interested...

THE WHITE HOUSE

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Lands Conservation Act of 1980, which protects 104 million acres.

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 5-AUG-1999 15:22:07.00

SUBJECT: Re: FW: Statement on Awarding of Presidential Medal of Freedom

TO: "Seiden, Maya" <Maya.Seiden@hq.doe.gov> ("Seiden, Maya" <Maya.Seiden@hq.doe.gov> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TEXT:

I have sent Sec. Richardson's name in as a proposed invitee from OCA --
I'll give the Social Office a call today to see whether he will/has been
called.

Thanks

"Seiden, Maya" <Maya.Seiden@hq.doe.gov>

08/05/99 03:20:27 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Anne W. Bovaird/WHO/EOP, Irma L. Martinez/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: Statement on Awarding of Presidential Medal of Freedom

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: "Quinn, Jill" <Jill.Quinn@delta-air.com> ("Quinn, Jill" <Jill.Quinn@delta-air.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 5-AUG-1999 16:32:23.00

SUBJECT: RE:

TO: Jackson T. Dunn (CN=Jackson T. Dunn/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Jay: We are still holding out hope that you can find someone to do the tour

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From: Jackson_T._Dunn@who.eop.gov [mailto:Jackson_T._Dunn@who.eop.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 05, 1999 2:16 PM

To: Quinn, Jill

Subject:

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
5, 1999

August

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CREATOR: "Quinn, Jill" <Jill.Quinn@delta-air.com> ("Quinn, Jill" <Jill.Quinn@delta-air.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 6-AUG-1999 13:35:23.00

SUBJECT: FW:

TO: Jackson T. Dunn (CN=Jackson T. Dunn/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Jay - Just a followup to my voicemail to you. If you were not able to find someone for Sat or Sun they may be able to do tonite. I just talked to our EVP and at least she and her husband may do 9:30pm with you tonite. (I am hoping that would still be possible). Please call me at 216-0700 and ask that I be interrupted. MANY THANKS

-----Original Message-----

From: Quinn, Jill

Sent: Thursday, August 05, 1999 4:33 PM

To: 'Jackson_T._Dunn@who.eop.gov'

Subject: RE:

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 6-AUG-1999 14:54:14.00

SUBJECT: Daily Digest 8/6: COLOMBIAN QUAGMIRE PRESENTS ANOTHER CASE FOR THE U.S.

TO: starr@ccvmsa.canisius.edu (starr@ccvmsa.canisius.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: dyparke@vulcan.belvoir.army.mil (dyparke@vulcan.belvoir.army.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sharon A. Liggett (CN=Sharon A. Liggett/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: dcassidy@usaid.gov (dcassidy@usaid.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: matthew2@erols.com (matthew2@erols.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: chanc@pom-emh1.army.mil (chanc@pom-emh1.army.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

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

TO: bdeweerd@iri.org (bdeweerd@iri.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

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

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

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

READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: leavy_d@A1.eop.gov (leavy_d@A1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN]) (NSC)
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: CCHIKES@USIA.GOV (CCHIKES@USIA.GOV [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: chester__hawkins@secsenate.gov (chester__hawkins@secsenate.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: lesanRM.DFPS@usafa.af.mil (lesanRM.DFPS@usafa.af.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: mcquade@nadn.navy.mil (mcquade@nadn.navy.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: bfulton@csis.org (bfulton@csis.org [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: usisouaga.infobox@dos.us-state.gov (usisouaga.infobox@dos.us-state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

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

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

TEXT:
Colombia's latest crisis--mired in the breakdown of peace talks between the Pastrana government, unable to control the drug mafia, and Colombia's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), the country's principal guerrilla movement with suspected drug ties--captured the attention of media in the region and generated a fleeting interest in some European press. Commentators in Latin America discussed the regional impact of the Colombian crisis, and analyzed a possible U.S. intervention in the wake of the recent visit of U.S. "anti-drug czar" Gen. Barry McCaffrey. Across the board, there was editorial consensus that President Pastrana had virtually

"no control," that Colombia was an "unlivable country" on the edge of a "virtual collapse," and that the alliance between the narcotraffickers and FARC "was an inescapable reality" which not even the Brazilian press questioned. A Mexican paper, however, saw the narco-guerrilla angle being used as a "pretext" for U.S. assistance. While the idea of "unilateral intervention" by the U.S. was unpalatable, Colombia's crisis led regional press, particularly Bogota papers, to give U.S. involvement more serious consideration. Referring to U.S. action, a Bogota daily noted that "an act of imperial aggression" a few years ago now would be seen as a "humanitarian act by the superpower to end the war." Highlights follow:

U.S. INVOLVEMENT: Most writers accepted some form of U.S. action in Colombia, but views ranged from predictions of a "military invasion" and the inevitable "Kosovo II" and Vietnam parallels, to the more welcome form of training, logistical, intelligence and economic assistance. While some observers, particularly in Colombia, advocated troop involvement, others dismissed such a scenario as "crazy," with Bogota's leading El Tiempo balking, "nothing could be further from logic or reality." Brazilian and Mexican press suspected the U.S. of having a "veiled strategy," rejecting U.S. military intervention as "unacceptable."

FEAR OF REGIONAL INSTABILITY: Throughout South America, the crisis was perceived not merely as an internal problem afflicting Colombia alone, but rather a regional crisis, a "geopolitical mess" with destabilizing effects that threaten to spill over to neighboring countries. Most observers agreed with the assessment that should Colombia collapse, it would pose a "serious risk" to the rest of the region. Fears ranged from a "guerrilla danger lurking" and the "spread of insurrection" into Ecuador and Peru, to a disruption of the plans for the devolution of the Panama Canal, an argument of particular interest to certain Argentine observers.

REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: The majority of commentators addressed the need to support Colombia, but stressed that any troop involvement by other countries was to be only at the "specific request" of President Pastrana. Recognizing that Colombia was of "strategic" interest, Brazilian commentators envisioned a role for Brazil "to be at the forefront of any collective effort" and stressed political and diplomatic means to resolve the crisis "so as not to disrespect Colombia's sovereignty." Ecuadorian writers, uneasy about the prospect of the U.S. Air Force using the Manta airport, emphatically stated that the base would "only be used for anti-drug purposes," reassuring readers "that is the spirit of the agreement" between both governments.

EDITOR: Irene Marr

Editor's Note: This survey is based on 36 reports from 10 countries, July 23 - August 6. The following editorial excerpts are grouped by region; editorials from each country are listed in reverse chronological order.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

COLOMBIA: "Under The Watch Of The U.S."

An editorial in the leading national daily El Tiempo discussing Gen. McCaffrey's declaration of Colombia's national emergency reported (8/4):

"In the United States, concern over the Colombian crisis has reached the point at which McCaffrey has requested that President Clinton urgently convene a high-level...summit to review the situation (in Colombia). And for the second time in less than a month, (McCaffrey) has advocated...substantial increase in military, economic, and intelligence assistance to confront the growing military and economic power of the guerillas and the paramilitaries. Few people can question the need for this aid, nor the fact that financing for these armed outlaws comes largely from narcotrafficking.... It's an inescapable reality which cannot be sublimated just for the sake of holding a dialogue with the insurgents.... In the United States there is an intense debate about the form in which that country can help resolve the Colombian conflict, which certainly cannot be reduced to the drug problem. The military intervention which some have proposed would be absurd. Washington should continue supporting the peace initiative and a negotiated solution....

"More intensive cooperation in training the military forces, in intelligence activities and the provision of arms are the keys of the program which has been proposed at the highest level in Washington and which surely will find the support of the Clinton administration. This is a reasonable solution, and...a doable one. Therefore, we hope it succeeds. For just as we reject any attempt at unilateral intervention in our country, we support anything which will help Colombia--to paraphrase McCaffrey--stop moving in the wrong direction."

"Changing Policy Toward Colombia"

The lead editorial in Bogota's second national daily El Espectador (8/4) gave an assessment of Gen. McCaffrey's visit to Colombia and his reported recommendation for a "change in attitude" in Washington and separation of illegal groups--guerrillas and paramilitaries--from their sources of finance, essentially narcotrafficking which stressed: "The policy change, according to McCaffrey, is an urgent necessity. The accumulation of mistakes by different U.S. administrations has been one of the factors which has made it impossible to correct the nation's (Colombia's) direction, with dangerous consequences for the stability of democracy (in Colombia). The proposal is welcome.... For many years, many influential and powerful sectors in the United States have persisted in maintaining the fallacy that you can stop the import of illegal drugs--more than you can reduce demand--and that therefore, planning emphasis should be on repressive measures in the source countries. Many years have passed which should be enough to demonstrate the failure of this approach.... The strategy, unjust and inefficient, has not worked because it has lacked measures against domestic activities in the United States which make (drug trafficking) viable: consumption, money-laundering, and trade in chemical precursors.... The factors mentioned by General McCaffrey are also very relevant....

"The critics are concentrated in Congress, whereas there is sympathy for the negotiations in the White House. The first objective of the correction proposed by McCaffrey would be a common set of standards (among U.S. policy-makers). The U.S. attitude towards Colombia has been affected by politicization of the issue, a phenomenon which has also created ambiguity. Under current circumstances, a non-partisan, multi-institutional agreement

would be the most advantageous....

As a result of the conclusions reached by McCaffrey after his visit, conclusions which were corroborated by General Wilhelm, who is currently in Bogota, a great opportunity has been provided: that of permitting rectifications of past injustices, imbalances, and lack of focus (by the United States.)"

"Supersam And The War"

Weekly Semana (8/2) ran this op-ed by Alejandro Santos Rubino, son of the director of Colombia's leading newspaper, El Tiempo: "It's a plane? No! It's a bird? No! Is it Uncle Sam? Well, 66 percent of Colombians would hope it is, according to a recent poll. How times change! Only a few years ago, U.S. military intervention in our country (would have been) viewed as an act of imperial aggression; now it would be a humanitarian act by the superpower to end the war. It's Supersam, with his double 'S' on his chest. In a matter of minutes we have exchanged the slogan 'Yankee go home' to the desperate 'Yankee come home.' Such...is a collective resigned feeling that war produces. To bow your head to foreign military intervention--particularly to the United States--shows the mood of a frustrated, demoralized and vulnerable country, but above all, a battered one. Not so much on the military field, where the army's strategy has shown a slight recovery, but rather on the psychological level, which is the aim of long lasting armed conflicts.... The United States is no longer willing to send marines to its backyard. Not even if the majority of the Colombians clamor for it. Not because Clinton told Pastrana (that he wouldn't intervene) in a letter (a typical presidential lie), but because of the domestic policy and international geopolitical reasons of the colossus of the north. A White House decision to intervene in a foreign country must be supported by the public. For (most) Americans, including several high ranking officials in Washington, 'Tirofijo' is not Milosevic, nor Bin Laden, nor Pablo Escobar.... So, Supersam's red and blue suit will remain hanging in a closet in Arkansas, at least for some time."

"The Feared U.S. Intervention"

Regional El Pais (8/2) offered this view by Alvaro Valencia Tovar, former minister of defense: "I have always said that the United States will not intervene militarily in Colombia. [But] due to the attitude of the insurgency and its links with drug trafficking, U.S. intervention seems more likely each day. Military resources, not a military presence, are necessary. Military resources to strengthen the army's offensive capability, and economic resources to empower the peasant working force and rescue them from the traps of illicit crop growing."

"No Plan 'B' Or Any Plan"

The editor of second leading, liberal El Espectador said (7/29): "Perhaps we will not get to see marines coming ashore on...the beaches of the Carribean in Colombia, though you never know what can happen with the

United States U.S. intervention in our conflict started a long time ago.... Let's not lie to ourselves. Without U.S. intervention, along with its technology and its experts gathering information from the sky, the (Colombian) army couldn't have hit the FARC the way it did in Puerto Lleras and Puerto Rico. There's no doubt that Washington not only has a Plan B, but it also alternates it with a Plan A. This (Plan A) is to support the peace process at the political level, to send the FARC messages to behave, and to turn Grannobles & Co. in while its experts monitor their steps."

"Cooperation, Intervention, Or Invasion?"

Second leading, liberal El Espectador had this op-ed by Ivan Nicholls (7/28): "Our establishment always tried to understand Washington's feelings, more for its personal benefit than for the benefit of the country. In return it has received (U.S.) assistance in times of crisis.

This time 'assistance' may include unsuspected intentions which may cause the opposite effect. In order to avoid committing another historical error, (assistance) should be understood as a prelude to becoming a virtual star or stars of the U.S. flag in the 21st century."

"Here Comes The Boogie Man"

Leading El Tiempo editorialized (7/26): "Disregarding history, ignoring international law, or not knowing about our traditional democracy are facts that explain why light and feverish minds, which tend to think based on their desires, have been talking here and abroad about a possible foreign intervention to solve the Colombian armed conflict.... Nothing is further from logic or reality. Forget reasons of sovereignty. Experience has proven that internal conflicts may only be resolved by the citizens of the country and that they deteriorate when foreign nations intervene.... It is a different story when friendly countries help Colombia face the drug trafficking and insurgency challenges--as the United States is doing through economic, logistical and technological assistance to our armed forces and police--or when it shows its support by promoting the government's reconciliation efforts in which it is engaged."

"Assistance, Instead Of Intervention"

Second leading, liberal El Espectador penned this lead editorial (7/26): "There won't be military intervention in Colombia. President Pastrana spoke up emphatically against widespread speculation over a military invasion.... The truth is that this hypothesis is crazy.... What is going on is something else: U.S. participation in (the Colombian) internal conflict increases day by day.... It's a fact that cannot be hidden. On the contrary, it's evidence of good bilateral relations.... This impressive level of cooperation is thanks to a slow correction of opinion in the United States which in the past blocked U.S. assistance towards Colombia.... A greater U.S. role in Colombian matters is also due to political will on the part of both governments based on mutual interest.... Recent polls show public opinion is not against a U.S. military presence (in Colombia) as it was before.... However it is appropriate to avoid contaminating bilateral assistance with undesired elements. The first step,

as a prevention measure, would be to show total transparency in the way the United States or any other nation operates in the military arena in Colombia."

ARGENTINA: "Colombia And Foreign Intervention"

Daily-of-record La Nacion carried this by Juan Gabriel Tokatlian, an Argentine sociologist who returned after a long residence in Colombia (8/3): "The ghost of (foreign) intervention harasses Colombian public opinion and disturbs Latin American political and military sectors.... After the Cold War, diplomacy has attempted to justify foreign intervention and politics has tried to clarify the link between an intervention and the world power balance in a scenario marked by U.S. hegemony.... What war image is most adequate for Colombia today--Kosovo or Vietnam? What is the extent of repeated references to plans of U.S. intervention.... Are they a threat or deterrence to avoid direct involvement and getting ready for collective missions of intervention.... It is unlikely that Colombian guerrillas and Clinton administration...will openly speak on the subject.... Colombia needs understanding, peace and help, no more war, intervention and arrogance."

"Colobo And Kosombia" (SIC)

Claudio Uriarte, leftist Pagina 12's international analyst wrote (8/2): "By fate or by chance, the United States is deploying two parallel diplomacies in Colombia. The official one, supported by Bill Clinton and most of his advisors, is against (a military) intervention.... The other one, not so official--but equally explicit--is the one publicly expressed by anti-drug czar General Barry McCaffrey.... Let's compare the situation with another conflict in which the United States took part: Kosovo.

"On that occasion, NATO's supreme commander U.S. General Wesley Clark went as far as the military rules allowed him, regarding the claims which Bill Clinton refused to satisfy.... Is General McCaffrey willing to become Colombia's Wesley Clark? Not exactly, because the dismantling of Panama's SouthCom has already forced the installation of new bases against drug-trafficking in Puerto Rico, Aruba, Curacao and Ecuador's island of Manta, and behind McCaffrey there is at least a sector in the Pentagon which believes that the Colombian situation is a clear and direct threat to U.S. national security, which was far from being the case in Kosovo. The intervention is a fact, though the lack of political capital to commit land troops and Brazil's opposition to an intervention are strong limits to it. But, while FARC redoubles its bet and President Pastrana's peace dialogue is more unlikely, there will be more calls for limited actions and ad hoc counter-measures aimed at preventing the conflict from spreading to the Panama Canal, Peru and Venezuela, the other three fronts where hemispheric stability appears more jeopardized."

"Washington's Critical Enclave"

Oscar Raul Cardoso, leading Clarin's international analyst wrote: (7/31): "A geopolitical mess of huge proportions is cooking in...(South and Central America) and the fate of the Panama Canal is still the key problem.... In the original commitment, the United States had accepted to withdraw its

military personnel.... Since then not much has changed in the region and in the small Central American state.... There is the suspicion that Panama is unable to guarantee the operation and even the safety of what at the end of the year will be 'its' canal. As the date of the commitment approaches, the political and economic right-wing in the United States increases its hysterical declarations on Panama's incapability.... And it is barely a secret that the contingent of 2,000 U.S. troops will keep their eyes open on the canal as much as on the drug routes. But even this presence is insufficient for those who are most critical of Panama's capabilities. After all, the canal area is a critical enclave for Washington's military ability in the hemisphere.... This is the status of the situation, which is similar to the ripples caused by a stone when it hits the water. Its consequences will reflect on the debate regarding the possibility of a foreign military intervention in Colombia...on pompous declarations regarding a rebirth of drug-trafficking, on the incipient threat of the guerrillas in Ecuador, which shows signs of social division, and even on the future of Brazil's valuable Amazon region. All this--and more--is at stake regarding the future of the Panama Canal."

"Colombia: Pastrana, Center Of Great Controversy"

Pablo Biffi, on special assignment in Bogota for leading Clarin commented (7/30): "President Pastrana's statement...that rebel FARC are not 'drug-guerrillas' caused great debate in Colombia.... The head of state disagreed on this point with U.S. anti-drug czar, General Barry McCaffrey, who--during his visit to Colombia--assured that the FARC have clear links with drug traffickers, that's why he called them 'drug-guerrillas.' The first one to disagree with Pastrana was the commander of Colombian military forces, General Fernando Tapias, who pointed out that 'what McCaffrey said is not new.'... Tapias also added that...'the FARC use the demilitarized area... to get military training and to trade with drugs.' The commander of the armed forces' position is not new. It has been the military's historical position and it helped them to get greater military aid from Washington to fight drug trafficking and to aspire to deviate those funds towards the fight against guerrillas, which has not been foreseen in the U.S. aid. One of the FARC's first demands when contacts with Pastrana's government started last January was that security institutions lowered the tone of their accusations regarding the alleged links between guerrillas and drug trafficking."

"Line Between Anti-Drug Aid And Counter Insurgence Help Is faded"

Guillermo Ortiz, international columnist of business-financial El Cronista, opined (7/28): "The U.S. anti-drug czar in Bogota did not clear up the Andean problem....

"The (Colombian) government's inability to exercise sovereignty in the 'clearance area' granted to the FARC, a possible partition...the globalization of the conflict, and the increasing U.S. help are items to be taken into account. In this context, the intervention issue would adopt multiple forms. From a direct U.S. action--the least likely--to the concourse of all countries in the world, although there are differences regarding the nature of that intervention. In principle, Washington would limit its action to providing intelligence and logistics to a Latin

American intervention.... The border militarization of neighboring countries is under way and everything leads one to think that once the 'drug-guerrilla' concept is established, the U.S. will not have any other choice but act. Many avoid speaking of drug-guerrillas. But the alliance--pragmatic or not--is a fact.... The drug business flourished from a situation of technical tie among guerrillas, paramilitary and the (Colombian) government, in which the guerrillas' victory seems as unthinkable of as the government's. In that vacuum the cartels settled and Washington will tend to act. The picture is clear--Colombia is the third beneficiary of the U.S. help and would receive additional military aid, the United States shares intelligence information with the Colombian Armed Forces, the aircraft which fell in the Colombian jungle with DEA agents had modern wide spectrum tracing and espionage systems and a battalion of elite Colombian forces has just been trained by U.S. experts. At this point, to discuss what is aid for fighting drug trafficking and fighting counter insurgency is a useless task."

"Populism And Democracy In Venezuela"

An editorial in daily-of-record La Nacion read (7/28): "Venezuelan President Chavez' personalized political style has caused some concern.... There is the impression that certain attitudes of Chavez could contradict the traditional republican formality of his country and of the other Latin American countries. Chavez has a strong appeal on (Venezuelan) electorate, appeal that has been typical of types of leadership which in the past led to dead-end crossroads for Latin American peoples.... In the recent elections of a constitutional assembly, Chavez's candidates have been elected by ample majority. This opens to Chavez the legal prospect of widening his power and indefinitely prolonging his term of office or (the possibility) of dismissing the legislative branch...and judges' control.... One can only expect the natural balance contributed by all political forces in a pluralistic and democratic context."

"Disturbing Colombian Situation"

An editorial in daily-of-record La Nacion stated (7/27): "Suddenly, everyone realized that Colombia is on the brink. Diplomatic circles have started to talk about a possible military intervention.... A 'Kosovo II' is anticipated with a high degree of lightness, despite the poor results of the Balkan expedition [with its] yet unpredictable ending, and forgetting that the problem over there is exactly the opposite: In Europe they wanted to destroy a state and in America they are trying to save one, a task for which foreign troops are dubiously prepared.... An intervention by other countries into Colombian territory could only take place if there is a specific request from Pastrana's government, which has emphatically denied such possibility.... Meanwhile, we must continue to rely on President Pastrana's capacity--and that of Colombia's entire political community--aimed at finding a way to rebuild state structures and, above all, their coercive power on the various irregular groups. At this point, dialogue with the guerrillas appears to be over."

"Hot Borders In Latin America"

An editorial in leading Clarin stated (7/26): "The domestic conflict in

Colombia is spreading to its five neighbors and has also provided the basis for a possible foreign military intervention.... While borders have become porous, the governments of Peru and Ecuador have started to openly talk about an inter-American military force to intervene in Colombia. Panama expects the Canal's devolution by the end of the year and the withdrawal of U.S. troops, but the regional scenario could delay that withdrawal.

"Finally, the Brazilian government is concerned about a foreign intervention which could worsen the Colombian conflict... In other times these crises could give rise to military prevalence. Nowadays, democracy and the diplomacy of regional integration lead us to consider the territorial issue in different terms in order to avoid that certain border areas become no one's land, under the control of clandestine powers and forces, or in land destroyed by new wars."

"Clinton Sent An Envoy To Colombia"

Commenting on Gen. McCaffrey's visit to Colombia, Ana Baron, Washington, D.C.-based correspondent for leading Clarin, argued (7/24): "It is General Barry McCaffrey, the 'anti-drug czar' in Washington and one of the first officers who warned that the Colombian situation is a U.S. 'national security' issue.... So far the U.S. military help...has officially been addressed to the anti-drug struggle. But, according to McCaffrey, there is a link between drug traffickers and leftist guerrillas operating in Colombia. That means that the fight against drug traffickers implies a fight against guerrillas and the other way round.... Another objective of the trip is deepening the anti-drug cooperation between the United States and Latin American countries.... This does not mean that McCaffrey will request an intervention of Latin American countries in Colombia."

BRAZIL: "The U.S. In Colombia"

In the view of an editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (8/4): "While commenting on the accidental death of U.S. soldiers in Colombia, President Clinton said they died on behalf of [U.S.] national security. Such a statement gives the measure of how the United States is viewing its mission in Colombia. Speaking about a worsening of the Colombian situation, Gen. McCaffrey prepares himself for a South American tour aimed at articulating a 'regional' policy to resolve the problem. But some fear that he means a veiled strategy of foreign intervention in Colombia.... Under the justification that the guerrillas that dominate a great portion of Colombia are allied with drug traffickers, the United States intends to enlarge its already questionable way of acting. How will it do that?... The Americans immediately remove the prospects of direct military intervention. Maybe they imagine that South American nations will do the job. In any case, South American diplomacy must act firmly so as not permit any disrespect to Colombia's sovereignty."

"Brazil Wants To Act In Colombian Crisis"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's former Washington, D.C. correspondent Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva, stressed (8/4): "The Brazilian government is getting prepared to assume a position of greater influence in the resolution of Colombia's political and military crisis, in response to the United States

and other nations' growing participation in the process.... The reasoning is that Brazil must be in the forefront of any collective effort to help Colombia, otherwise it runs the risk of losing prestige and leadership in South America. Although there is a consensus in the Brazilian government regarding the notion that it is premature and inconvenient to speak about military action now, Brazil is willing to contribute with troops if this alternative becomes the last way out and Colombia asks for military assistance. Before that, however, Brazil hopes to contribute to a political solution through its participation in international fact-finding committees and by pressuring the conflicting parties and providing logistical support to the Colombian government.... The communism-drugs combination is a nightmare for the United States, and it is capable of justifying almost any type of U.S. initiative to dissipate it. Three hundred U.S. military are already training their local colleagues in Colombia to fight drug trafficking....

"Since Brazil wants to insist on its traditional line of maintaining the United States outside South America in security matters, it will need to assume a more influential role in such issues, even though it is diluted into regional actions.... What is clear for the government of Brazil is that it does not want to be challenged by third nations in the resolution of the Colombian crisis.... Nothing will be done before Colombia requests help....

"But signs have already been given that in case the situation worsens, [Colombian] President Andres Pastrana will resort to Brazil."

"Colombia Is Strategic For Brazil"

Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva said in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (8/4):

"Colombia is strategic for Brazil because the Amazon border unites the two countries. Besides that, as the major world producers of coffee, common interests have made them agree in international fora.... In the present crisis, Colombia has already had informal consultations with Brazil on its possible participation in the fact-finding committee which is being studied."

"Understand The U.S. Anti-Drug Action In Latin America"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's Washington, D.C. correspondent commented (8/3):

"So far, the U.S. anti-drug policy in Latin America has been based on financial aid to eradicate crops, destroy producing laboratories and fight trafficking to the United States from drug producing nations.... However, the United States has avoided the involvement of U.S. troops in actions against drug trafficking. The U.S. anti-drug programs in the region are bilateral and have never involved regional negotiations. These programs have always been viewed with certain suspicion by nations such as Brazil and Venezuela because they have an interventionist content.... An aircraft with five Americans and two Colombian military crashed in July in a guerrilla-controlled area in Colombia.... Developments following the incident and official statements have shown the spirit and the character of the U.S. presence in the region, which are similar to those of a war."

"The Risk Of Colombia"

With commentary about the fear of an American military intervention in the region and Gen. Mccaffrey's statement during his visit, Brasilia's center-left Correio Braziliense (8/2) argued: "Violence in Colombia has reached the dimension of a conflict over which President Andres Pastrana has almost no control. The intensity of the chaos is so broad that it is no longer possible to discern the borders among narco-traffickers, the revolutionary armed forces [FARC], the army of national liberation [ELN] and rightist paramilitary groups. The guerrillas who range over the spectrum of ideological thought seem to find in the drug mafia financial support for their operations.... After Israel and Egypt, Colombia is the country that receives the most support from the United States in terms of money, equipment and technical support. The difference is that in Colombia these funds are destined to support the anti-drug fight.... Nevertheless, Latin America analyzes the situation, worried that the risk goes far beyond the Colombian convulsion....

"We should keep in mind that the new doctrine used in the Balkans by NATO, under the Pentagon's leadership, does not recognize the principle of the sovereignty of nations. When supposed human rights are violated and democracy is at risk, intervention becomes a humanitarian obligation. President Carlos Menem from Argentina has admitted...the possibility of putting Argentinian forces at Washington's disposal for an eventual interventionist action in Colombia. It is up to Brazil...to prevent via diplomacy any solution that violates Colombia's sovereignty. It would be a disaster to the stability of the continent to have a repetition here of the tragedy in the Balkans."

CHILE: "The United States In Colombia"

Leading-circulation, popular, independent La Tercera (8/3) ran this editorial: "Colombia is facing one of its most difficult moments in the last decades...and perhaps in its history. President Pastrana's peace plan...is failing....

"In addition, the United States is studying the possibility of a military intervention...against the guerrillas. If this were to happen, Colombia would crumble and the local war would turn into a patriotic issue of enormous consequences.... White House officials have secretly and informally met with South American governments. Clinton wants the support of the (South American) leaders to form a joint force to fight the Colombian guerrillas.... Over 300 U.S. military advisors, according to

Newsweek, are coordinating the anti-guerrilla effort throughout Colombia right now.... A recent poll in Bogota shows that 66.1 percent of Colombians support the intervention. A few days ago, Pastrana's government...asked Washington for 500 million dollars in military aid to fight drug trafficking during the next five years. But, to go from this to a military intervention is...a long and dangerous road.... Colombia is today on the border of total collapse.... In this regard, U.S. financial aid is essential. However...a military intervention would mean renouncing self-determination and legitimizing direct intervention as a state policy."

BOLIVIA: "The Crisis In Colombia"

Centrist La Prensa remarked (7/25): "The peace proposal presented by the government to the guerrillas has not led to a healthy solution, but instead has further worsened the crisis. This hostility has brought once more to the center of debate the diagnosis of American military experts who claim that the guerrillas with 17 thousand men control 50 percent of the country and will be in a position to take power in five more years. Be it real or not, the fact is that the irregular groups have enough force to turn Colombia into an unlivable country. However, paradoxically the government's only option is to convince the rebels that their war does not have any possibility of success, nor does the repression against them. If this discourse fails, the future of that republic will be catastrophic, with a serious risk for the rest of the countries of the region."

ECUADOR: "To Protect, Not To Attack"

Center-left, influential Hoy (8/4) had this editorial: "We continue to listen to increasingly worrisome reports about the U.S. presence in the northern border. There has been no official confirmation. However, it is possible to think that there is an intention to suffocate the FARC guerrillas from the borders. If that is true, they must use prudence and set one limit: the protection of the border. Otherwise, if the Ecuadorian detachments become the launching points for an armed attack against the guerrillas, the consequences would be unpredictable and tragic. For years the Ecuadorian armed forces have succeeded in neutralizing the danger. On various occasions the guerrilla incursions have been confirmed, the majority of the cases due to tactical needs instead of an attempt to spread insurrection into our country. Why not continue with this strategy based on our own defensive capacity? For the United States, a war in the center of Latin America, despite its seriousness, is still a conflict away from their territory. Therefore, we cannot measure the consequences of an intervention in Colombia's internal conflict based on the same criteria used by the United States, that is, on its own crusade to fight drug trafficking."

"America For The Americans"

Angel F. Rohas wrote in leading, centrist El Comercio (8/3): "The yellow press in our country has lately featured a fair amount of blood. In the roads, in the unprotected fields, in the big and small cities, in the banks and even in the temples blood has flowed freely. This is why the statement by a high-ranking U.S. official during a recent visit, noting that our country is an island of peace, seems weird. It certainly was an island of peace, but life has turned sad watching our northern neighbor as well as our southern neighbor bleed with guerrillas, drug trafficking and terrorism. Especially in Colombia, where kidnapping has become one of the most profitable industries. As a result of all this, the permit issued for the U.S. Air Force to use the Manta airport has caused uneasiness.

"We still remember that a few years ago a platoon of Americans conducted military practices in our forest and that they did not stay because of the resistance they found. We are still worried about the Monroe Doctrine of 'America for the Americans.' Is it because without them, we are not

'Americans?'"

"The Danger Posed By Guerrillas"

Leading, centrist El Comercio's Jaime Bejarano opined (8/3): "Recent statements given by the Minister of Defense, Gen. Jose Gallardo, and by U.S. Ambassador Leslie Alexander confirm that Colombian guerrillas are indeed attempting to infiltrate Ecuadorian territory. If we go over the history of guerrillas in Colombia and why it still persists after fifty three years, the revelations are a significant warning. While drug trafficking finances the Colombian guerrillas and while the Ecuadorian government contributes to the international control of this traffic on national soil, it is very possible that Colombian subversives will attempt to infiltrate Ecuador for strategic reasons or moved by barbaric and bloody motives. While the guerrilla danger lurks over Ecuador, certain elite leaders foster regionalism, various political leaders foster the economic ruin of Ecuador and other anarchic groups stir antagonistic passions between the inhabitants of the same country."

"U.S. Commandos Would Operate In Ecuador"

Guayaquil's (and Ecuador's) leading center-right El Universo reported (8/3): "The escalation of violence in Colombia has caused an alert in the neighboring countries. Special forces from the United States have deployed trainers and specialized technicians in the anti- drug fight to Ecuadorian and Peruvian bases, with the objective to also fight against guerrilla groups such as FARC, the Colombian daily El Espectador revealed yesterday. Americans are not allowed to participate in combat, but they have noticed the movements of drug traffickers similar to the FARC guerrillas. Venezuela and Brazil don't have U.S. special forces trainers yet."

"And Now The Northern Border?"

Quito's leading, centrist El Comercio ran this analysis (7/29): "Barry McCaffrey's visit was the opportunity to highlight, among other things, that the Colombian domestic crisis hits very close to Ecuador. Until now, that reality seemed a bit distant. However, the security of the northern border and the fight against drug trafficking (one of the sources of the guerrillas) have become evident in few words: the Manta base.

"The country will slowly start to discover that the guerrilla presence in the Colombian Amazon region has affected for a long time the economic situation of the towns in the Oriente-Sucumbios in particular. Nothing irreversible for now. Nothing, except the armed forces' conviction that the issue requires more than only the military presence. Thanks to those problems in the north (something similar had happened in the south) the country discovers that the border towns have been neglected and that 'live borders' are only electoral campaign slogans. The guerrilla threats pose another challenge for the country: conquer again the Oriente and develop it. Ecuador does not process drugs, but the Colombian authorities have assured--and the Ecuadorian ones have admitted--that precursor chemicals and weapons transit freely through its territory. This fact, and the need to create a protection rim on the northern border are the reasons to include Ecuador in a strategy directly related with the United States and

Colombia. It has been reported that Ecuador will not participate in any form in an alleged intervention in the neighboring country, which has also been denied by Presidents Clinton and Pastrana. The Manta base comes within this context. Despite the little information provided, we understand that the base will remain under the control and management of the Ecuadorian Air Force. Aircraft carrying any kind of weapons will not be allowed to land there, only those carrying electronic surveillance equipment. However, there are points on which the presidency should inform the country.

"McCaffrey's visit is evidence that integration will not only involve trade but also the goodness and problems of the neighbors."

"Colombian Peace Difficulties"

Center-left, influential Hoy said (7/30): "There is talk about the fact that if peace conversations fail, the conflict might internationalize. For the neighboring countries, Colombia with its government at the mercy of violence, drug trafficking, kidnappings and crime in general, could become a threat to regional peace. The United States itself might come to the conclusion that the Colombian situation is too dangerous and consider stronger measures to stop it from destabilizing the whole region. Nobody wants another Vietnam in Latin America. Considering the experience in southern Asia, in Somalia, in Bosnia and in Kosovo, President Clinton would think twice. But FARC should also think it over. They won't access power with weapons.... The Colombian people are fed up with this orgy of violence. Marxist-Leninism does not have any future. To follow them is equivalent to closing eyes to reality. As a political force, FARC should enter the democratic process and fight from there for economic and social changes. There is no other rational alternative."

"A Very Risky Bet"

Francisco Borja Cevallos commented in center-left, influential Hoy (7/30): "Rightist ABC in Madrid has caused uproar in the Andean region reporting that the United States is preparing to launch a joint military operation against the Colombian guerrillas, involving Ecuador and Peru among others. The idea would be to launch an extermination attack against FARC and ELN, the guerrilla groups that disrupt the Colombian state and maintain control over more than half of its territory. The 'anti-drug czar' Gen. McCaffrey, has denied such a plan, but there are signals that suggest it. The prestigious Colombian magazine Semana talks about a 'new Vietnam.' "The 'czar' stated that two thirds of the drug trafficking business ends up with FARC and, immediately after, announced that his presence is aimed at organizing a war against drug trafficking. Things are very clear: If the guerrillas are fueled by drug trafficking and if the United States is to fight against them, then the United States will have to face the guerrillas. How can we separate one thing from the other? It is better to eliminate both at the same time. Not doing so would be an unforgivable ingenuity of the 'anti drug czar.'"

"Manta Base"

Guayaquil's leading center-right El Universo informed readers (7/30): "Former president Leon Febres Cordero considered that every effort made to

fight drug trafficking and drug consumption is worthwhile. 'I don't think there is a problem of sovereignty,' he added, and reminded everyone that during World War II, Ecuador ceded the military base of Salinas to the United States and that it brought along important benefits such as the construction of a concrete aerial landing strip instead of problems."

"The Colombian Crisis, A Regional Crisis?"

Joaquin Hernandez opined in center-left, influential Hoy (7/29): "It is unlikely that the United States would spearhead a multinational intervention force in Colombia in the near future. Despite the fact that the crisis seems to have arrived at its worst moment due to the failed peace conversations between the government and the FARC guerrilla movement, there are important signals that such an intervention is halted for the moment. The problem continues, for the moment, in the Colombian government's hands. And of course, in the FARC hands. But should the situation deteriorate further, everything is possible. President Pastrana is fighting against the clock; he is threatened not only by the escalation of the war with its share of casualties, destruction, migration and losses, but also by another unprecedented crisis--the economic one.

"Despite all that, it is not easy to conduct an invasion, not even headed by the United States and with the support of the countries of the region. The comparison of the Colombian case to the one of Kosovo, heard lately, is not applicable. Will the United States, because of Colombia, defeat the Vietnam ghost that ended up victorious in the Gulf War and in Kosovo? In other words: Are they willing to risk American lives in countries their own citizens don't know anything about or do not care at all about? Will it be only a virtual war with 'collateral effects' over one portion of the Colombian territory? It is not the same to attack Yugoslavia as Colombia. If a war takes place, the only similarity will be that the neighboring countries will suffer as much as Albania and the other Balkan states did which, in the end, could cause another crisis and destabilize Europe."

"Drugs: Challenges And Dangers"

Commenting on General McCaffrey's visit to Ecuador, leading Quito's centrist El Comercio stressed (7/28): "The presence of the U.S. anti-drug 'czar,' General Barry McCaffrey, in various countries of South America...highlights both the serious drug trafficking problems and the challenges the region is facing. McCaffrey's visit had special reverberations in Colombia for obvious reasons related to the extent of the drug business in that country and its exports to the United States, besides its apparent links with the guerrillas. Within this framework, various statements of the visitor caused an uproar because they coincided with the announcements about a possible U.S. intervention--denied until now--and the repeated suspicion that drugs and subversion are linked, especially in the economic field. Those issues are on the rise in Colombia and become explosive. Besides, there is international concern about the dimension of the guerrilla attacks and the difficulties the (Colombian) peace process is encountering.

"In the Ecuadorian case, the statements by top military officials in reference to the United States use of the Manta base weigh in. It is

emphasized--and it should be--that it will only be used for anti-drug purposes. That is the spirit of the agreement and we have to highlight it. There is expectation in the country over the events in Colombia because of their consequences in Ecuador. We wish President Pastrana success in achieving peace and we expect the guerrilla's contribution by stopping their armed incursions. In reference to drugs, there is a binational agreement, explainable because of the international extent of this business. Ecuador is not free of those implications and has contributed its share, although it is always expected that the United States may be able to reduce its internal demand which is the most important cause of the drug trafficking activities in the Latin American zone."

MEXICO: "The War The U.S. Has Been Preparing To Fight"

Jeanette Becerra Acosta wrote in nationalist, pro-government Excelsior (8/6): "It has taken time and heavy investment, but the scenario for the Vietnam of the 21st century is ready for the war that the United States has been preparing to fight. The presence of U.S. troops in Colombia, denied for a long time by Washington and Bogota, is a confirmed fact. Of course, drugs are a pretext to help President Pastrana to eliminate the FARC once and for all. Washington announced it will send a diplomatic mission headed by Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering so that the President of the free and sovereign Republic of Colombia can explain his strategy in view of the growing power of the guerrillas and his failed fight against drugs. All this explains many things, such as the lack of sympathy the [United States] has for Hugo Chavez. If he is not careful, he could end the same way that Salvador Allende did, since he does not allow the United States to carry out hot pursuits on Venezuela's air space and that has already bothered Barry McCaffrey.

PANAMA: "Clear And Present Danger"

Independent El Universal carried this editorial (7/23): "President Clinton labels the Colombian situation as an issue of 'national security' to the United States.

"That same day Pastrana advises the guerrillas that 'patience has its limits' and the top guerrilla chief reminds him that those who have taken up arms have 'no vocation for martyrdom.' And we already know that when the United States uses the 'national security' argument we can expect any action true to a Tom Clancy plot, one set in a Colombian scenario: 'Clear and Present Danger'."

VENEZUELA: "McCaffrey's Overflight"

Leading El Nacional asserted (8/2): "Drug trafficking into the United States is only possible because in that country there exists large numbers of people ready to take them and because within American society, conditions exist that encourage thousands of young people to consume them.... To pretend that the high consumption of drugs in the United States is caused solely by the existence of countries that produce and distribute drugs...is an oversimplification that diverts attention from the urgent and more serious problems.... The broad participation of important members of the American political and economic community in the trafficking and distribution of drugs in the United States has not received

the same emphasis as that usually given to producing countries.... Is it possible to think that the power of [Latin American] traffickers is so great that they can place drugs on the streets of New York without the FBI or CIA being able to stop them?"

EUROPE

FRANCE: "The Narco-Guevarist Terror"

In a story on Colombia published a year after the election of President Pastrana, right-of-center Le Figaro remarked (8/3): "On August 7, 1998, Andres Pastrana was taking up his duties as President of Colombia in an enthusiastic atmosphere. Highly regarded in Washington, supported by business circles, Colombians considered him the providential man, the one who would bring peace back.... A year later, Colombians are disappointed by the fact that the opening of negotiations for peace is always postponed. Illusions have faded as fast as the economy has collapsed.... The United States is disappointed by President Pastrana. In a statement in mid-July, Bill Clinton declared that U.S. aid was aimed to 'contribute to find a solution to conflicts' in Colombia. And, as a consequence, it would have 'favored U.S. investments.' We are far from that."

SPAIN: "Crisis In Colombia"

Conservative ABC commented (8/4): "The disclosure by Peruvian military sources of a planned American intervention in Colombia, whether such a plan actually existed or not, demonstrates the difficulties faced by Pastrana's government in its negotiations with the guerrillas and the seriousness of the country's crisis. The idea may have been broached as an alternative course of action should the peace talks fail. It is hardly a secret that the FARC obtains financing from the drug trade and that it has created a kind of illegitimate state within a state, while sowing pain and misery throughout the country."

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COLOMBIAN QUAGMIRE PRESENTS ANOTHER CASE FOR THE U.S.

X' hp x (#Colombia's latest crisismired in the breakdown of peace talks between the

Pastrana government, unable to control the drug mafia, and Colombia's

Rev

olutionary Armed Forces (FARC), the country's principal guerrilla movement with

suspected drug tiescaptured the attention of media in the region and generated

a fleeting interest in some European press. Commentators in Latin America dis

cussed the regional impact of the Colombian crisis, and analyzed a possible U.S

. intervention in the wake of the recent visit of U.S. "antidrug czar" Gen. Bar

ry McCaffrey. Across the board, there was editorial consensus that President P

astrana had virtually "no control," that Colombia was an "unlivable country" on

the edge of a "virtual collapse," and that the

alliance between the narcotraff

ickers and FARC "was an inescapable reality"

which not even the Brazilian press

questioned. A Mexican paper, however, saw

the narcoguerrilla angle being used

as a "pretext" for U.S. assistance.

While the idea of "unilateral interventio

n" by the U.S. was unpalatable,

Colombia's crisis led regional press, particula

rly Bogota papers, to give

U.S. involvement more serious consideration. Referr

ing to U.S. action, a

Bogota daily noted that "an act of imperial aggression" a

few years ago now

would be seen as a "humanitarian act by the superpower to end the war."

Highlights follow:

U.S. INVOLVEMENT: Most writers accepted some form of U.S. action in Colombia

, but views ranged from predictions of a "military invasion" and the inevitable

"Kosovo II" and Vietnam parallels, to the more welcome form of training, logis

tical, intelligence and economic assistance. While some

observers, particularly in Colombia, advocated troop involvement, others dismissed such a scenario as "crazy," with Bogota's leading El Tiempo balking, "nothing could be further from logic or reality." Brazilian and Mexican press suspected the U.S. of having a "veiled strategy," rejecting U.S. military intervention as "unacceptable."

FEAR OF REGIONAL INSTABILITY: Throughout South America, the crisis was perceived not merely as an internal problem afflicting Colombia alone, but rather a regional crisis, a "geopolitical mess" with destabilizing effects that threaten to spill over to neighboring countries. Most observers agreed with the assessment that should Colombia collapse, it would pose a "serious risk" to the rest of the region. Fears ranged from a "guerrilla danger lurking" and the "spread of insurrection" into Ecuador and Peru, to a disruption of the plans for the development of the Panama Canal, an argument of particular interest to certain Argentine observers.

REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: The majority of commentators addressed the need to support Colombia, but stressed that any troop involvement by other countries was to be only at the "specific request" of President Pastrana. Recognizing that Colombia was of "strategic" interest, Brazilian commentators envisioned a role for Brazil "to be at the forefront of any collective effort" and stressed political and diplomatic means to resolve the crisis "so as not to disrespect Colombia's sovereignty." Ecuadorian writers, uneasy about the prospect of the U.S. Air Force using the Manta airport, emphatically stated that the base would "only be used for antidrug purposes," reassuring readers "that is the spirit of the agreement" between both governments.

EDITOR: Irene Marr

Editor's Note: This survey is based on 36 reports from 10 countries, July 23

August 6. The following editorial excerpts are grouped by region; editorials from each country are listed in reverse chronological order.

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COLOMBIA: "Under The Watch Of The U.S."

An editorial in the leading national daily El Tiempo discussing Gen. McCaffrey

's declaration of Colombia's national emergency reported (8/4): "In the United

States, concern over the Colombian crisis has reached the point at which McCaf

frey has requested that President Clinton urgently convene a highlevel...summit

to review the situation (in Colombia). And for the second time in less than a

month, (McCaffrey) has advocated...substantial increase in military, economic,

and intelligence assistance to confront the growing military and economic powe

r of the guerillas and the paramilitaries.

Few people can question the need fo

r this aid, nor the fact that financing

for these armed outlaws comes largely f

rom narcotics trafficking.... It's an

inescapable reality which cannot be sublimate

d just for the sake of holding a

dialogue with the insurgents.... In the Unite

d States there is an intense

debate about the form in which that country can he

lp resolve the Colombian

conflict, which certainly cannot be reduced to the dru

g problem. The military

intervention which some have proposed would be absurd.

Washington should

continue supporting the peace initiative and a negotiated so
lution....

"More intensive cooperation in training the military forces, in intelligence
ac

tivities and the provision of arms are the keys of the program which has
been p

roposed at the highest level in Washington and which surely will find
the suppo

rt of the Clinton administration. This is a reasonable solution,
and...a doabl

e one. Therefore, we hope it succeeds. For just as we reject
any attempt at un

ilateral intervention in our country, we support anything

which will help Colom

biato paraphrase McCaffrey stop moving in the wrong
direction."

"Changing Policy Toward Colombia"

The lead editorial in Bogota's second national daily El Espectador (8/4) gave

an assessment of Gen. McCaffrey's visit to Colombia and his reported recommendation for a "change in attitude" in Washington and separation of illegal groups guerrillas and paramilitaries from their sources of finance, essentially narcotics trafficking which stressed: "The policy change, according to McCaffrey, is an urgent necessity. The accumulation of mistakes by different U.S. administrations has been one of the factors which has made it impossible to correct the nation's (Colombia's) direction, with dangerous consequences for the stability of democracy (in Colombia). The proposal is welcome.... For many years, many influential and powerful sectors in the United States have persisted in maintaining the fallacy that you can stop the import of illegal drugs more than you can reduce demand and that therefore, planning emphasis should be on repressive measures in the source countries. Many years have passed which should be enough to demonstrate the failure of this approach.... The strategy, unjust and inefficient, has not worked because it has lacked measures against domestic activities in the United States which make (drug trafficking) viable: consumption, money laundering, and trade in chemical precursors.... The factors mentioned by General McCaffrey are also very relevant....

"The critics are concentrated in Congress, whereas there is sympathy for the negotiations in the White House. The first objective of the correction proposed by McCaffrey would be a common set of standards (among U.S. policymakers). The U.S. attitude towards Colombia has been affected by politicization of the issue, a phenomenon which has also created ambiguity. Under current circumstances, a nonpartisan, multiinstitutional agreement would be the most advantageous...

As a result of the conclusions reached by McCaffrey after his visit, conclusion

s which were corroborated by General Wilhelm, who is currently in Bogota, a great opportunity has been provided: that of permitting rectifications of past injustices, imbalances, and lack of focus (by the United States.)"

"Supersam And The War"

Weekly Semana (8/2) ran this oped by Alejandro Santos Rubino, son of the director of Colombia's leading newspaper, El Tiempo: "It's a plane? No! It's a bird? No! Is it Uncle Sam? Well, 66 percent of Colombians would hope it is, according to a recent poll. How times change! Only a few years ago, U.S. military intervention in our country (would have been) viewed as an act of imperial aggression; now it would be a humanitarian act by the superpower to end the war.

It's Supersam, with his double 'S' on his chest. In a matter of minutes we have exchanged the slogan 'Yankee go home' to the desperate 'Yankee come home.'

Such...is a collective resigned feeling that war produces. To bow your head to foreign military intervention particularly to the United States shows the mood of a frustrated, demoralized and vulnerable country, but above all, a battered

one. Not so much on the military field, where the army's strategy has shown a slight recovery, but rather on the psychological level, which is the aim of long lasting armed conflicts.... The United States is no longer willing to send marines to its backyard. Not even if the majority of the Colombians clamor for it. Not because Clinton told Pastrana (that he wouldn't intervene) in a letter (a typical presidential lie), but because of the domestic policy and international geopolitical reasons of the colossus of the north. A White House decision to intervene in a foreign country must be supported by the public. For most Americans, including several high ranking officials in Washington, 'Tirofijo' is not Milosevic, nor Bin Laden, nor Pablo Escobar.... So, Supersam's red and blue suit will remain hanging in a closet in Arkansas, at least for some time

."

"The Feared U.S. Intervention"

Regional El Pais (8/2) offered this view by Alvaro Valencia Tovar, former minister of defense: "I have always said that the United States will not intervene militarily in Colombia. [But] due to the attitude of the insurgency and its links with drug trafficking, U.S. intervention seems more likely each day. Military resources, not a military presence, are necessary. Military resources to strengthen the army's offensive capability, and economic resources to empower the peasant working force and rescue them from the traps of illicit crop growing."

"No Plan 'B' Or Any Plan"

The editor of second leading, liberal El Espectador said (7/29): "Perhaps we will not get to see marines coming ashore on...the beaches of the Caribbean in Colombia, though you never know what can happen with the United States U.S. intervention in our conflict started a long time ago.... Let's not lie to ourselves. Without U.S. intervention, along with its technology and its experts gathering information from the sky, the (Colombian) army couldn't have hit the FARC the way it did in Puerto Lleras and Puerto Rico. There's no doubt that Washington not only has a Plan B, but it also alternates it with a Plan A. This (Plan A) is to support the peace process at the political level, to send the FARC messages to behave, and to turn Grannobles & Co. in while its experts monitor their steps."

"Cooperation, Intervention, Or Invasion?"

Second leading, liberal El Espectador had this op-ed by Ivan Nicholls (7/28): "Our establishment always tried to understand Washington's feelings, more for its personal benefit than for the benefit of the country. In return it has received (U.S.) assistance in times of crisis.

This time 'assistance' may include unsuspected intentions which may cause the

o
pposite effect. In order to avoid committing another historical error,
(assist
ance) should be understood as a prelude to becoming a virtual star or
stars of
the U.S. flag in the 21st century."

"Here Comes The Boogie Man"

Leading El Tiempo editorialized (7/26): "Disregarding history, ignoring
inter
national law, or not knowing about our traditional democracy are facts
that exp
lain why light and feverish minds, which tend to think based on their
desires,
have been talking here and abroad about a possible foreign
intervention to solv
e the Colombian armed conflict.... Nothing is further
from logic or reality.
Forget reasons of sovereignty. Experience has proven
that internal conflicts m
ay only be resolved by the citizens of the country
and that they deteriorate wh
en foreign nations intervene.... It is a
different story when friendly countri
es help Colombia face the drug
trafficking and insurgency challenges as the Unit
ed States is doing through
economic, logistical and technological assistance to
our armed forces and
police or when it shows its support by promoting the gover
nment's
reconciliation efforts in which it is engaged."

"Assistance, Instead Of Intervention"

Second leading, liberal El Espectador penned this lead editorial (7/26):
"The
re won't be military intervention in Colombia. President Pastrana spoke
up emp
hatically against widespread speculation over a military invasion....
The truth
is that this hypothesis is crazy.... What is going on is
something else: U.S
. participation in (the Colombian) internal conflict
increases day by day....
It's a fact that cannot be hidden. On the
contrary, it's evidence of good bila
teral relations.... This impressive
level of cooperation is thanks to a slow c
orrection of opinion in the United
States which in the past blocked U.S. assist
ance towards Colombia.... A
greater U.S. role in Colombian matters is also due

to political will on the
part of both governments based on mutual interest....

Recent polls show
public opinion is not against a U.S. military presence (in
Colombia) as it
was before.... However it is appropriate to avoid contaminat
ing bilateral
assistance with undesired elements. The first step, as a preventi
on measure,
would be to show total transparency in the way the United States or
any other
nation operates in the military arena in Colombia."

ARGENTINA: "Colombia And Foreign Intervention"

Dailyofrecord La Nacion carried this by Juan Gabriel Tokatlian, an
Argentine s
ociologist who returned after a long residence in Colombia (8/3):
"The ghost o
f (foreign) intervention harasses Colombian public opinion and
disturbs Latin A
merican political and military sectors.... After the Cold
War, diplomacy has a
ttempted to justify foreign intervention and politics has
tried to clarify the
link between an intervention and the world power balance
in a scenario marked b
y U.S. hegemony.... What war image is most adequate
for Colombia todayKosovo o
r Vietnam? What is the extent of repeated
references to plans of U.S. interven
tion.... Are they a threat or deterrence
to avoid direct involvement and getti
ng ready for collective missions of
intervention.... It is unlikely that Colom
bian guerrillas and Clinton
administration...will openly speak on the subject..
.. Colombia needs
understanding, peace and help, no more war, intervention an
d arrogance."

"Colobo And Kosombia" (SIC)

Claudio Uriarte, leftist Pagina 12's international analyst wrote (8/2): "By
fat
e or by chance, the United States is deploying two parallel diplomacies in
Colo
mbia. The official one, supported by Bill Clinton and most of his
advisors, is
against (a military) intervention.... The other one, not so
officialbut equally
explicitis the one publicly expressed by antidrug
czar General Barry McCaffrey
.... Let's compare the situation with another

conflict in which the United States took part: Kosovo.

"On that occasion, NATO's supreme commander U.S. General Wesley Clark went as far as the military rules allowed him, regarding the claims which Bill Clinton refused to satisfy.... Is General McCaffrey willing to become Colombia's Wesley Clark? Not exactly, because the dismantling of Panama's SouthCom has already forced the installation of new bases against drugtrafficking in Puerto Rico, Aruba, Curacao and Ecuador's island of Manta, and behind McCaffrey there is at least a sector in the Pentagon which believes that the Colombian situation is a clear and direct threat to U.S. national security, which was far from being the case in Kosovo. The intervention is a fact, though the lack of political capital to commit land troops and Brazil's opposition to an intervention are strong limits to it. But, while FARC redoubles its bet and President Pastrana's peace dialogue is more unlikely, there will be more calls for limited actions and ad hoc countermeasures aimed at preventing the conflict from spreading to the Panama Canal, Peru and Venezuela, the other three fronts where hemispheric stability appears more jeopardized."

"Washington's Critical Enclave"

Oscar Raul Cardoso, leading Clarin's international analyst wrote: (7/31): "A geopolitical mess of huge proportions is cooking in...(South and Central America) and the fate of the Panama Canal is still the key problem.... In the original commitment, the United States had accepted to withdraw its military personnel.... Since then not much has changed in the region and in the small Central American state.... There is the suspicion that Panama is unable to guarantee the operation and even the safety of what at the end of the year will be 'its' canal. As the date of the commitment approaches, the political and economic rightwing in the United States increases its hysterical declarations on Panama's incapability.... And it is barely a

secret that the contingent of 2,000 U.S. troops will keep their eyes open on the canal as much as on the drug routes. But even this presence is insufficient for those who are most critical of Panama's capabilities. After all, the canal area is a critical enclave for Washington's military ability in the hemisphere.... This is the status of the situation, which is similar to the ripples caused by a stone when it hits the water. Its consequences will reflect on the debate regarding the possibility of a foreign military intervention in Colombia...on pompous declarations regarding a rebirth of drugtrafficking, on the incipient threat of the guerrillas in Ecuador, which shows signs of social division, and even on the future of Brazil's valuable Amazon region. All this and more is at stake regarding the future of the Panama Canal."

"Colombia: Pastrana, Center Of Great Controversy"

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Pablo Biffi, on special assignment in Bogota for leading Clarin commented (7/3

0): "President Pastrana's statement...that rebel FARC are not 'drugguerrillas'

caused great debate in Colombia.... The head of state disagreed on this point

with U.S. antidrug czar, General Barry McCaffrey, who during his visit to Colombia

assured that the FARC have clear links with drug traffickers, that's why he called them 'drugguerrillas.' The

first one to disagree with Pastrana was the commander of Colombian military

forces, General Fernando Tapias, who pointed out that 'what McCaffrey said is

not new.'... Tapias also added that...the FARC use the demilitarized

area... to get military training and to trade with drugs.

' The commander of

the armed forces' position is not new. It has been the military's historical

position and it helped them to get greater military aid from Washington to

fight drug trafficking and to aspire to deviate those funds towards the fight

against guerrillas, which has not been foreseen in the U.S. aid. One of the

FARC's first demands when contacts with Pastrana's government started last

January was that security institutions lowered the tone of their accusations regarding the alleged links between guerrillas and drug trafficking." X' hp x (#

"Line Between AntiDrug Aid And Counter Insurgency Help Is faded"

Guillermo Ortiz, international columnist of businessfinancial El Cronista, opined (7/28): "The U.S. antidrug czar in Bogota did not clear up the Andean problem....

"The (Colombian) government's inability to exercise sovereignty in the 'clearance area' granted to the FARC, a possible partition...the globalization of the conflict, and the increasing U.S. help are items to be taken into account. In this context, the intervention issue would adopt multiple forms. From a direct U.S. actionthe least likelyto the concurrence of all countries in the world, although there are differences regarding the nature of that intervention. In principle, Washington would limit its action to providing intelligence and logistics to a Latin American intervention.... The border militarization of neighboring countries is under way and everything leads one to think that once the 'drug guerrilla' concept is established, the U.S. will not have any other choice but act. Many avoid speaking of drug guerrillas. But the alliance pragmatic or not is a fact.... The drug business flourished from a situation of technical tie among guerrillas, paramilitary and the (Colombian) government, in which the guerrillas' victory seems as unthinkable of as the government's. In that vacuum the cartels settled and Washington will tend to act. The picture is clearColombia is the third beneficiary of the U.S. help and would receive additional military aid, the United States shares intelligence information with the Colombian Armed Forces, the aircraft which fell in the Colombian jungle with DEA agents had modern wide spectrum tracing and espionage systems and a battalion of elite Colombian forces has just been trained by U.S. experts. At this point, to discuss what is aid for fighting drug trafficking

and fighting counter insurgency is a useful task."

"Populism And Democracy In Venezuela"

An editorial in dailyofrecord La Nacion read (7/28): "Venezuelan President Chavez' personalized political style has caused some concern.... There is the impression that certain attitudes of Chavez could contradict the traditional republican formality of his country and of the other Latin American countries. Chavez has a strong appeal on (Venezuelan) electorate, an appeal that has been typical of types of leadership which in the past led to deadend crossroads for Latin American peoples.... In the recent elections of a constitutional assembly, Chavez's candidates have been elected by ample majority. This opens to Chavez the legal prospect of widening his power and indefinitely prolonging his term of office or (the possibility) of dismissing the legislative branch...and judges' control.... One can only expect the natural balance contributed by all political forces in a pluralistic and democratic context."

"Disturbing Colombian Situation"

An editorial in dailyofrecord La Nacion stated (7/27): "Suddenly, everyone realized that Colombia is on the brink. Diplomatic circles have started to talk about a possible military intervention.... A 'Kosovo II' is anticipated with a high degree of lightness, despite the poor results of the Balkan expedition [with its] yet unpredictable ending, and forgetting that the problem over there is exactly the opposite: In Europe they wanted to destroy a state and in America they are trying to save one, a task for which foreign troops are dubiously prepared.... An intervention by other countries into Colombian territory could only take place if there is a specific request from Pastrana's government, which has emphatically denied such possibility.... Meanwhile, we must continue to rely on President Pastrana's capacity and that of Colombia's entire political co

community aimed at finding a way to rebuild state structures and, above all, their coercive power on the various irregular groups. At this point, dialogue with the guerrillas appears to be over."

"Hot Borders In Latin America"

An editorial in leading Clarin stated (7/26): "The domestic conflict in Colombia is spreading to its five neighbors and has also provided the basis for a possible foreign military intervention.... While borders have become porous, the governments of Peru and Ecuador have started to openly talk about an interAmerican military force to intervene in Colombia. Panama expects the Canal's devolution by the end of the year and the withdrawal of U.S. troops, but the regional scenario could delay that withdrawal.

"Finally, the Brazilian government is concerned about a foreign intervention which could worsen the Colombian conflict... In other times these crises could give rise to military prevalence. Nowadays, democracy and the diplomacy of regional integration lead us to consider the territorial issue in different terms in order to avoid that certain border areas become no one's land, under the control of clandestine powers and forces, or in land destroyed by new wars."

"Clinton Sent An Envoy To Colombia"

Commenting on Gen. McCaffrey's visit to Colombia, Ana Baron, Washington, D.C. based correspondent for leading Clarin, argued (7/24): "It is General Barry McCaffrey, the 'antidrug czar' in Washington and one of the first officers who warned that the Colombian situation is a U.S. 'national security' issue.... So far the U.S. military help...has officially been addressed to the antidrug struggle. But, according to McCaffrey, there is a link between drug traffickers and leftist guerrillas operating in Colombia. That means that the fight against drug traffickers implies a fight against guerrillas and the other way round.... And

ther objective of the trip is
deepening the antidrug cooperation between the Un
ited States and Latin
American countries.... This does not mean that McCaffrey
will request an
intervention of Latin American countries in Colombia."

BRAZIL: "The U.S. In Colombia"

In the view of an editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (8/4): "While
comment
ing on the accidental death of U.S. soldiers in Colombia, President
Clinton sai
d they died on behalf of [U.S.] national security. Such a
statement gives the
measure of how the United States is viewing its mission
in Colombia. Speaking
about a worsening of the Colombian situation, Gen.
McCaffrey prepares himself f
or a South American tour aimed at articulating a
'regional' policy to resolve t
he problem. But some fear that he means a
veiled strategy of foreign intervent
ion in Colombia.... Under the
justification that the guerrillas that dominate a
great portion of Colombia
are allied with drug traffickers, the United States
intends to enlarge its
already questionable way of acting. How will it do that
?... The Americans
immediately remove the prospects of direct military interven
tion. Maybe they
imagine that South American nations will do the job. In any
case, South
American diplomacy must act firmly so as not permit any disrespect
to
Colombia's sovereignty."

"Brazil Wants To Act In Colombian Crisis"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's former Washington, D.C. correspondent Carlos
Eduar
do Lins da Silva, stressed (8/4): "The Brazilian government is getting
prepared
to assume a position of greater influence in the resolution of
Colombia's poli
tical and military crisis, in response to the United States
and other nations'
growing participation in the process.... The reasoning is
that Brazil must be i
n the forefront of any collective effort to help
Colombia, otherwise it runs th
e risk of losing prestige and leadership in
South America. Although there is a

consensus in the Brazilian government regarding the notion that it is premature and inconvenient to speak about military action now, Brazil is willing to contribute with troops if this alternative becomes the last way out and Colombia asks for military assistance. Before that, however, Brazil hopes to contribute to a political solution through its participation in international factfinding committees and by pressuring the conflicting parties and providing logistical support to the Colombian government.... The communism-drugs combination is a nightmare for the United States, and it is capable of justifying almost any type of U.S. initiative to dissipate it. Three hundred U.S. military are already training their local colleagues in Colombia to fight drug trafficking....

"Since Brazil wants to insist on its traditional line of maintaining the United States outside South America in security matters, it will need to assume a more influential role in such issues, even though it is diluted into regional actions.... What is clear for the government of Brazil is that it does not want to be challenged by third nations in the resolution of the Colombian crisis.... Nothing will be done before Colombia requests help....

"But signs have already been given that in case the situation worsens, [Colombian] President Andres Pastrana will resort to Brazil."

"Colombia Is Strategic For Brazil"

Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva said in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (8/4): "Colombia is strategic for Brazil because the Amazon border unites the two countries. Besides that, as the major world producers of coffee, common interests have made them agree in international fora.... In the present crisis, Colombia has already had informal consultations with Brazil on its possible participation in the factfinding committee which is being studied."

"Understand The U.S. AntiDrug Action In Latin America"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's Washington, D.C. correspondent commented (8/3):

"S

o far, the U.S. antidrug policy in Latin America has been based on financial aid to eradicate crops, destroy producing laboratories and fight trafficking to the United States from drug producing nations.... However, the United States has avoided the involvement of U.S. troops in actions against drug trafficking.

The U.S. antidrug programs in the region are bilateral and have never involved regional negotiations. These programs have always been viewed with suspicion by nations such as Brazil and Venezuela because they have an interventionist content.... An aircraft with five Americans and two Colombian military crashed in July in a guerrilla-controlled area in Colombia.... Developments following the incident and official statements have shown the spirit and the character of the U.S. presence in the region, which are similar to those of a war."

"The Risk Of Colombia"

With commentary about the fear of an American military intervention in the region and Gen. McCaffrey's statement during his visit, Brasilia's center-left Correio Braziliense (8/2) argued: "Violence in Colombia has reached the dimension of a conflict over which President Andres Pastrana has almost no control. The intensity of the chaos is so broad that it is no longer possible to discern the borders among narcotraffickers, the revolutionary armed forces [FARC], the army of national liberation [ELN] and rightist paramilitary groups. The guerrillas who range over the spectrum of ideological thought seem to find in the drug mafia financial support for their operations.... After Israel and Egypt, Colombia is the country that receives the most support from the United States in terms of money, equipment and technical support. The difference is that in Colombia these funds are destined to support the antidrug fight.... Nevertheless, Latin America analyzes the situation, worried that the risk goes far beyond the Colombian convulsion....

"We should keep in mind that the new doctrine used in the Balkans by NATO, under the Pentagon's leadership, does not recognize the principle of the sovereignty of nations. When supposed human rights are violated and democracy is at risk, intervention becomes a humanitarian obligation. President Carlos Menem from Argentina has admitted...the possibility of putting Argentinian forces at Washington's disposal for an eventual interventionist action in Colombia. It is up to Brazil...to prevent via diplomacy any solution that violates Colombia's sovereignty. It would be a disaster to the stability of the continent to have a repetition here of the tragedy in the Balkans."

CHILE: "The United States In Colombia"

Leading circulation, popular, independent La Tercera (8/3) ran this editorial:

"Colombia is facing one of its most difficult moments in the last decades...and perhaps in its history. President Pastrana's peace plan...is failing...."

"In addition, the United States is studying the possibility of a military intervention...against the guerrillas. If this were to happen, Colombia would crumble and the local war would turn into a patriotic issue of enormous consequences.... White House officials have secretly and informally met with South American governments. Clinton wants the support of the (South American) leaders to form a joint force to fight the Colombian guerrillas.... Over 300 U.S. military advisors, according to Newsweek, are coordinating the antiguerrilla effort throughout Colombia right now.... A recent poll in Bogota shows that 66.1 percent of Colombians support the intervention. A few days ago, Pastrana's government..asked Washington for 500 million dollars in military aid to fight drug trafficking during the next five years. But, to go from this to a military intervention is...a long and dangerous road.... Colombia is today on the border of tot

al collapse.... In this regard, U.S. financial aid is essential. However...a military intervention would mean renouncing selfdetermination and legitimizing direct intervention as a state policy."

X' hp x (# BOLIVIA: "The Crisis In Colombia"

X' hp x (#

Centrist La Prensa remarked (7/25): "The peace proposal presented by the gove rnment to the guerrillas has not led to a healthy solution, but instead has fur ther worsened the crisis. This hostility has brought once more to the center o f debate the diagnosis of American military experts who claim that the guerrill as with 17 thousand men control 50 percent of the country and will be in a posi tion to take power in five more years. Be it real or not, the fact is that the irregular groups have enough force to turn Colombia into an unlivable country.

However, paradoxically the government's only option is to convince the rebels that their war does not have any possibility of success, nor does the repressi on against them. If this discourse fails, the future of that republic will be catastrophic, with a serious risk for the rest of the countries of the region."

ECUADOR: "To Protect, Not To Attack"

X' hp x (#

Centerleft, influential Hoy (8/4) had this editorial: "We continue to listen t o increasingly worrisome reports about the U.S. presence in the northern border . There has been no official confirmation. However, it is possible to think t hat there is an intention to suffocate the FARC guerrillas from the borders. I f that is true, they must use prudence and set one limit: the protection of the border. Otherwise, if the Ecuadorian detachments become the launching points for an armed attack against the guerrillas, the consequences would be unpredict able and tragic. For years the Ecuadorian armed forces have succeeded in neutr alizing the danger. On various occasions the guerrilla incursions have been co nfirmed, the majority of the cases due

to tactical needs instead of an attempt
to spread insurrection into our
country. Why not continue with this strategy b
ased on our own defensive
capacity? For the United States, a war in the center
of Latin America,
despite its seriousness, is still a conflict away from their
territory.
Therefore, we cannot measure the consequences of an intervention i
n
Colombia's internal conflict based on the same criteria used by the United
St
ates, that is, on its own crusade to fight drug trafficking."
X` hp x (#
"America For The Americans"

Angel F. Rohas wrote in leading, centrist El Comercio (8/3): "The yellow
pres
s in our country has lately featured a fair amount of blood. In the
roads, in
the unprotected fields, in the big and small cities, in the banks
and even in t
he temples blood has flowed freely. This is why the statement
by a highranking
U.S. official during a recent visit, noting that our
country is an island of p
eace, seems weird. It certainly was an island of
peace, but life has turned sa
d watching our northern neighbor as well as our
southern neighbor bleed with gu
errillas, drug trafficking and terrorism.
Especially in Colombia, where kidnap
ping has become one of the most
profitable industries. As a result of all this
, the permit issued for the
U.S. Air Force to use the Manta airport has caused
uneasiness.

"We still remember that a few years ago a platoon of Americans conducted
milita
ry practices in our forest and that they did not stay because of the
resistance
they found. We are still worried about the Monroe Doctrine of
'America for th
e Americans.' Is it because without them, we are not
'Americans?'"

"The Danger Posed By Guerrillas"

Leading, centrist El Comercio's Jaime Bejarano opined (8/3): "Recent
statemen
ts given by the Minister of Defense, Gen. Jose Gallardo, and by U.S.
Ambassador

Leslie Alexander confirm that Colombian guerrillas are indeed attempting to infiltrate Ecuadorian territory. If we go over the history of guerrillas in Colombia and why it still persists after fifty three years, the revelations are a significant warning. While drug trafficking finances the Colombian guerrillas and while the Ecuadorian government contributes to the international control of this traffic on national soil, it is very possible that Colombian subversives will attempt to infiltrate Ecuador for strategic reasons or moved by barbaric and bloody motives. While the guerrilla danger lurks over Ecuador, certain elite leaders foster regionalism, various political leaders foster the economic ruin of Ecuador and other anarchic groups stir antagonistic passions between the inhabitants of the same country."

"U.S. Commandos Would Operate In Ecuador"

Guayaquil's (and Ecuador's) leading centerright El Universo reported (8/3):

"The escalation of violence in Colombia has caused an alert in the neighboring countries. Special forces from the United States have deployed trainers and specialized technicians in the anti drug fight to Ecuadorian and Peruvian bases, with the objective to also fight against guerrilla groups such as FARC, the Colombian daily El Espectador revealed yesterday. Americans are not allowed to participate in combat, but they have noticed the movements of drug traffickers similar to the FARC guerrillas. Venezuela and Brazil don't have U.S. special forces trainers yet."

"And Now The Northern Border?"

Quito's leading, centrist El Comercio ran this analysis (7/29): "Barry McCaffrey's visit was the opportunity to highlight, among other things, that the Colombian domestic crisis hits very close to Ecuador. Until now, that reality seemed a bit distant. However, the security of the northern border and the fight against drug trafficking (one of the sources of the guerrillas)

have become evident in few words: the Manta base.

"The country will slowly start to discover that the guerrilla presence in the Colombian Amazon region has affected for a long time the economic situation of the towns in the Oriente Sucumbios in particular. Nothing irreversible for now.

Nothing, except the armed forces' conviction that the issue requires more than only the military presence. Thanks to those problems in the north (something similar had happened in the south) the country discovers that the border towns have been neglected and that 'live borders' are only electoral campaign slogans.

The guerrilla threats pose another challenge for the country: conquer again the Oriente and develop it. Ecuador does not process drugs, but the Colombian authorities have assured and the Ecuadorian ones have admitted that precursor chemicals and weapons transit freely through its territory. This fact, and the need to create a protection rim on the northern border are the reasons to include Ecuador in a strategy directly related with the United States and Colombia. It has been reported that Ecuador will not participate in any form in an alleged intervention in the neighboring country, which has also been denied by Presidents Clinton and Pastrana. The Manta base comes within this context. Despite the little information provided, we understand that the base will remain under the

control and management of the Ecuadorian Air Force. Aircraft carrying any kind of weapons will not be allowed to land there, only those carrying electronic surveillance equipment. However, there are points on which the presidency should inform the country.

"McCaffrey's visit is evidence that integration will not only involve trade but also the goodness and problems of the neighbors."

"Colombian Peace Difficulties"

Centerleft, influential Hoy said (7/30): "There is talk about the fact that if

peace conversations fail, the conflict might internationalize. For the neighboring countries, Colombia with its government at the mercy of violence, drug trafficking, kidnappings and crime in general, could become a threat to regional peace. The United States itself might come to the conclusion that the Colombian situation is too dangerous and consider stronger measures to stop it from destabilizing the whole region. Nobody wants another Vietnam in Latin America. Considering the experience in southern Asia, in Somalia, in Bosnia and in Kosovo, President Clinton would think twice. But FARC should also think it over. They won't access power with weapons.... The Colombian people are fed up with this orgy of violence. Marxist-Leninism does not have any future. To follow them is equivalent to closing eyes to reality. As a political force, FARC should enter the democratic process and fight from there for economic and social changes. There is no other rational alternative."

"A Very Risky Bet"

Francisco Borja Cevallos commented in centerleft, influential Hoy (7/30): "Rig htist ABC in Madrid has caused uproar in the Andean region reporting that the United States is preparing to launch a joint military operation against the Colombian guerrillas, involving Ecuador and Peru among others. The idea would be to launch an extermination attack against FARC and ELN, the guerrilla groups that disrupt the Colombian state and maintain control over more than half of its territory. The 'antidrug czar' Gen. McCaffrey, has denied such a plan, but there are signals that suggest it. The prestigious Colombian magazine Semana talks about a 'new Vietnam.' "The 'czar' stated that two thirds of the drug trafficking business ends up with FARC and, immediately after, announced that his presence is aimed at organizing a war against drug trafficking. Things are very clear: If the guerrillas are fueled by drug trafficking and if the United States insists to fight against them, then

the United States will have to face the guerrilla
s. How can we separate one
thing from the other? It is better to eliminate bot
h at the same time. Not
doing so would be an unforgivable ingenuity of the 'an
ti drug czar.'"

"Manta Base"

Guayaquil's leading centerright El Universo informed readers (7/30):
"Former
president Leon Febres Cordero considered that every effort made to
fight drug t
rafficking and drug consumption is worthwhile. 'I don't think
there is a proble
m of sovereignty,' he added, and reminded everyone that
during World War II, Ec
uador ceded the military base of Salinas to the United
States and that it broug
ht along important benefits such as the construction
of a concrete aerial landi
ng strip instead of problems."

"The Colombian Crisis, A Regional Crisis?"

Joaquin Hernandez opined in centerleft, influential Hoy (7/29): "It is
unlikel
y that the United States would spearhead a multinational intervention
force in
Colombia in the near future. Despite the fact that the crisis seems
to have ar
rived at its worst moment due to the failed peace conversations
between the gov
ernment and the FARC guerrilla movement, there are important
signals that such
an intervention is halted for the moment. The problem
continues, for the moment
, in the Colombian government's hands. And of
course, in the FARC hands. But
should the situation deteriorate further,
everything is possible. President Pa
strana is fighting against the clock; he
is threatened not only by the escalati
on of the war with its share of
casualties, destruction, migration and losses,
but also by another
unprecedented crisisthe economic one.

"Despite all that, it is not easy to conduct an invasion, not even headed by
th
e United States and with the support of the countries of the region. The
compa
rison of the Colombian case to the one of Kosovo, heard lately, is not
applicab

le. Will the United States, because of Colombia, defeat the Vietnam ghost that ended up victorious in the Gulf War and in Kosovo? In other words: Are they willing to risk American lives in countries their own citizens don't know anything about or do not care at all about? Will it be only a virtual war with 'collateral effects' over one portion of the Colombian territory? It is not the same to attack Yugoslavia as Colombia. If a war takes place, the only similarity will be that the neighboring countries will suffer as much as Albania and the other Balkan states did which, in the end, could cause another crisis and destabilize Europe."

"Drugs: Challenges And Dangers"

Commenting on General McCaffrey's visit to Ecuador, leading Quito's centrist El Comercio stressed (7/28): "The presence of the U.S. antidrug 'czar,' General Barry McCaffrey, in various countries of South America...highlights both the serious drug trafficking problems and the challenges the region is facing. McCaffrey's visit had special reverberations in Colombia for obvious reasons related to the extent of the drug business in that country and its exports to the United States, besides its apparent links with the guerrillas. Within this framework, various statements of the visitor caused an uproar because they coincided with the announcements about a possible U.S. intervention denied until now and the repeated suspicion that drugs and subversion are linked, especially in the economic field. Those issues are on the rise in Colombia and become explosive. Besides, there is international concern about the dimension of the guerrilla attacks and the difficulties the (Colombian) peace process is encountering.

"In the Ecuadorian case, the statements by top military officials in reference to the United States use of the Manta base weigh in. It is emphasized and it should be that it will only be used for antidrug purposes. That is the spirit of the agreement and we have to highlight it.

There is expectation in the country over the events in Colombia because of their consequences in Ecuador. We wish President Pastrana success in achieving peace and we expect the guerrilla's contribution by stopping their armed incursions. In reference to drugs, there is a binational agreement, explainable because of the international extent of this business. Ecuador is not free of those implications and has contributed its share, although it is always expected that the United States may be able to reduce its internal demand which is the most important cause of the drug trafficking activities in the Latin American zone."

MEXICO: "The War The U.S. Has Been Preparing To Fight"

Jeanette Becerra Acosta wrote in nationalist, progovernment Excelsior (8/6): "It has taken time and heavy investment, but the scenario for the Vietnam of the 21st century is ready for the war that the United States has been preparing to fight. The presence of U.S. troops in Colombia, denied for a long time by Washington and Bogota, is a confirmed fact. Of course, drugs are a pretext to help President Pastrana to eliminate the FARC once and for all. Washington announced it will send a diplomatic mission headed by Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering so that the President of the free and sovereign Republic of Colombia can explain his strategy in view of the growing power of the guerrillas and his failed fight against drugs. All this explains many things, such as the lack of sympathy the [United States] has for Hugo Chavez. If he is not careful, he could end the same way that Salvador Allende did, since he does not allow the United States to carry out hot pursuits on Venezuela's air space and that has already bothered Barry MaCaffrey.

PANAMA: "Clear And Present Danger"

Independent El Universal carried this editorial (7/23): "President Clinton labels the Colombian situation as an issue of 'national security' to the United States

ates.

"That same day Pastrana advises the guerrillas that 'patience has its limits' and the top guerrilla chief reminds him that those who have taken up arms have 'no vocation for martyrdom.' And we already know that when the United States uses the 'national security' argument we can expect any action true to a Tom Clancy plot, one set in a Colombian scenario: 'Clear and Present Danger'."

VENEZUELA: "McCaffrey's Overflight"

Leading El Nacional asserted (8/2): "Drug trafficking into the United States is only possible because in that country there exists large numbers of people ready to take them and because within American society, conditions exist that encourage thousands of young people to consume them.... To pretend that the high consumption of drugs in the United States is caused solely by the existence of countries that produce and distribute drugs...is an oversimplification that diverts attention from the urgent and more serious problems.... The broad participation of important members of the American political and economic community in the trafficking and distribution of drugs in the United States has not received the same emphasis as that usually given to producing countries.... Is it possible to think that the power of [Latin American] traffickers is so great that they can place drugs on the streets of New York without the FBI or CIA being able to stop them?"

EUROPE

FRANCE: "The NarcoGuevarist Terror"

In a story on Colombia published a year after the election of President Pastrana, rightofcenter Le Figaro remarked (8/3): "On August 7, 1998, Andres Pastrana was taking up his duties as President of Colombia in an enthusiastic atmosphere. Highly regarded in Washington, supported by business circles, Colombians considered him the providential man, the one who would bring peace back.... A year

ar later, Colombians are disappointed by the fact that the opening of negotiations for peace is always postponed. Illusions have faded as fast as the economy has collapsed.... The United States is disappointed by President Pastrana. In a statement in midJuly, Bill Clinton declared that U.S. aid was aimed to 'contribute to find a solution to conflicts' in Colombia. And, as a consequence, it would have 'favored U.S. investments.' We are far from that."

SPAIN: "Crisis In Colombia"

Conservative ABC commented (8/4): "The disclosure by Peruvian military source of a planned American intervention in Colombia, whether such a plan actually existed or not, demonstrates the difficulties faced by Pastrana's government in its negotiations with the guerrillas and the seriousness of the country's crisis. The idea may have been broached as an alternative course of action should the peace talks fail. It is hardly a secret that the FARC obtains financing from the drug trade and that it has created a kind of illegitimate state within a state, while sowing pain and misery throughout the country."

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

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Dag Vega@EOP@LNGTWY@LNGTWY (Dag Vega@EOP@LNGTWY@LNGTWY [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-AUG-1999 14:42:09.00

SUBJECT: Event Checklist #2: Medal of Freedom Ceremony

TO: Philip J. Crowley@eop (Philip J. Crowley@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Message Creation Date was at 9-AUG-1999 14:34:00

PRESS OFFICE CHECKLIST FOR EVENT MEETINGS

Press Office Contact: Brenda Anders

New information in italics.

Event: Medal of Freedom Ceremony

Date: Wednesday, August 11, 1999

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date for Announcing / Advisory: Thursday, August 5 (Statement by the Press Secretary) /

Advisory:

Monday,

August 9

Press: Open Press

Site: East Room

Program

Sequence of Speakers:

- The First Lady makes opening remarks and introduces the President.
- The President makes remarks.
- Major William Mullen, USMC reads citation and Lieutenant Colonel Darryl Williams, USA presents

Medal of Freedom to the President for each recipient:

Edgar M. Bronfman, Sr. President of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman,

Sr. has worked to ensure basic rights for Jews around the world and to fight

anti-Semitism and has spearheaded the effort to retrieve the assets of Holocaust victims and their families. Through the Samuel Bronfman Foundation,

he has supported educational, literary, scientific, charitable, and religious organizations throughout the world.

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. Thirty-ninth President of the United States,

Jimmy

Carter brokered the Camp David accords, signed the Panama Canal Treaty, and

reestablished normal diplomatic relations with China. Together, the Carters created the Carter Center to promote peace, democracy, and improved health around the world. Through the Center, they launched the Atlanta Project, a grass-roots program to combat urban social ills in the U.S. As a statesman, President Carter has been a successful diplomat in hot spots around the world. Mrs. Carter is a longtime advocate of improved mental health care, widespread childhood immunization, women's equality, and enhanced care for seniors. Each year, the Carters help to build homes for the needy through Habitat for Humanity.

Gerald R. Ford. Thirty-eighth President of the United States, Gerald Ford was elected to 13 terms in Congress before he was chosen by Richard Nixon to be his Vice President. As President, he brought the Vietnam War to a close. Recognized for his honesty and integrity, he worked to restore confidence in government and the Presidency.

Evy Dubrow. For more than 50 years, Evelyn & Evy Dubrow has advocated for laws that would improve domestic labor conditions. A representative for the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union and for the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, she has been influential in numerous causes, including broadening laws against discrimination and protecting American industry from unfair foreign competition.

Sister M. Isolina Ferr 7. Founder and chief executive officer of Centros Sor Isolina Ferr 7, four community service centers in Puerto Rico, Sister M. Isolina Ferr 7 first gained international recognition in the late 1950s and 1960s for her mediation efforts with youth gangs in Brooklyn, New York. Today, her centers operate clinics and programs to empower the disadvantaged, teach them self-reliance, and lift them out of poverty. For her work with the poor in Puerto Rico, Appalachia, and New York, she received the 1989 Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism.

Oliver White Hill. One of our nation's great civil rights lawyers, Oliver Hill is best known for litigating one of the school desegregation cases

that

became Brown v. Board of Education. He and his team of lawyers filed more civil rights suits in Virginia than were filed in any other southern state during the segregation era. In 1948, he became the first black politician since Reconstruction elected to the Richmond City Council.

Max Kampelman. Lawyer, negotiator, and diplomat, Max Kampelman held major negotiating posts under both Democratic and Republican administrations during the 1980s. In those roles, he emphasized human rights in East-West diplomacy and prepared the foundation for long-term arms reductions between the United States and the Soviet Union. President Reagan awarded Kampelman the Presidential Citizens Medal in 1989.

Edgar Wayburn. Five-time president and a member of board of directors of the Sierra Club for almost 40 years, Edgar Wayburn pushed for the expansion of California's Mt. Tamalpais State Park and fought for the establishment of Point Reyes National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. He also helped to create Redwood National Park in California's Del Norte County and later worked for its expansion. His advocacy helped produce the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, which protects 104 million acres.

Lloyd M. Bentsen. President Clinton's first Secretary of the Treasury, Lloyd Bentsen served in the House of Representatives from 1948 to 1954. In 1970, he was elected to the United States Senate and served 22 years, including six as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Bentsen was the Vice-Presidential nominee for the Democratic Party in 1988.

Note: Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter will receive their medals today in Atlanta.

Audience
Cabinet: TBD
Congress: TBD
Other: TBD

Message: The President will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, to 10 distinguished individuals.

Speechwriter: Paul Glastris

Press Plan

National Media: Open Press Coverage

Regional Media: Regional will pitch medal recipients to relevant regional print/TV.

TV: TBD

Specialty: Specialty will pitch recipients and arrange a mailing to minority press.

Radio: Radio will tape and distribute sound from the event.

Briefing In Addition to Joe's Briefing

Time: None

Location:

Briefers:

Stakeout

Participants / Time: TBD

Press Paper

Policy Paper/Q&A

Originating Office: Staff Secretary

Contact and phone number: David Goodfriend, x62702

Date Press Paper Expected:

Date Q&A Expected:

Event Participant List Staff Secretary

Originating Office: David Goodfriend, x62702

Contact and phone number:

Date Paper Expected:

Event Guest List Staff Secretary

Originating Office: David Goodfriend, x62702

Contact and phone number:

Date Paper Expected:===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

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

TEXT:

The following attachments were included with this message:

TYPE : FILE

NAME : mofadv.doc

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

===== ATTACHMENT 2 =====

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

TEXT:

Unable to convert ARMS_EXT:[ATTACH.D58]ARMS20029112P.236 to ASCII,

The following is a HEX DUMP:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

Contact: 202/456-7150

August 9, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON TO AWARD PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Washington, D.C. -- President Clinton will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, to 10 distinguished individuals on Wednesday, August 11, 1999, at 3:00 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

WHAT: President Clinton will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 10 distinguished individuals.

WHERE: The White House
The East Room

WHEN: Wednesday, August 11, 1999, at 3:00 p.m.

COVERAGE: OPEN PRESS
Pre-set: 12:45 p.m.
Final Access: 2:45 p.m.

NOTE: Media needing White House clearance to attend the event should contact the Office of the Press Secretary at 202-456-7150.

30-30-30

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Dag Vega (CN=Dag Vega/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-AUG-1999 13:23:12.00

SUBJECT: Atlanta Trip Paper

TO: Alexandra M. Glass (CN=Alexandra M. Glass/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: David M. Rothschild (CN=David M. Rothschild/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Julia A. DiGangi (CN=Julia A. DiGangi/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Trip of the President to Atlanta, Georgia
August 9, 1999

Address to the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association
Today, President Clinton will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to address the
121st Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association (ABA). In his
remarks, the President will stress the importance of filling judicial
vacancies nationwide and commend the ABA for its assistance in evaluating
the most qualified and diverse group of judicial appointees nominated by
any president. He also will reiterate his "Call to Action" and highlight
the importance of the Legal Services Corporation.
(Please see attached fact sheet.)

Program
Philip Anderson, President of the ABA
Reverend Henry Hudson delivers invocation
Philip Anderson
Mayor Bill Campbell, Atlanta
Philip Anderson
President Clinton

Medal of Freedom Award Ceremony
Later in the evening at the Carter Center in Atlanta, President Clinton
will present Medals of Freedom to President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn
Carter to honor their devotion to improving this Nation and the world.
The Medal of Freedom is the highest American civilian award given by the
President, recognizing individuals who have made significant meritorious
contributions to the security or national interests of the United States;
world peace; cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.
(Please see attached citation.)

Program
President Clinton makes remarks.

Medal of Freedom Citation is read.
President Clinton presents Medals to President and Mrs. Carter.
President Carter makes remarks.
Mrs. Carter makes remarks.
President Carter concludes.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON ADDRESSES ABA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Georgia
August 9, 1999

Today, in an address to the 121st Annual Convention of the American Bar Association, (ABA) President Clinton stressed the importance of filling the vacancies in our court system nationwide, vacancies that last year, Chief Justice William Rehnquist warned, could actually undermine our legal system's ability to fairly administer justice. The President reiterated the importance of working in a bipartisan way with the Senate on current nominations to help relieve exploding civil and criminal dockets and a justice system strained near breaking point.

President Clinton also commended the ABA for the role it has played in evaluating all judicial nominees, recognizing that under his Administration, these appointees represent not only the most qualified group - they have garnered a higher percentage of top ABA ratings than any other President, since Eisenhower - but also they represent the most diverse group of judges.

PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLS ON THE SENATE TO ACT NOW ON JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS.
Today, President Clinton called on the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty to confirm judges - reiterating that the mounting vacancy crisis is affecting the quality of our courts.

ú During the first three years of President Clinton's administration, tremendous progress was made in reducing the number of judicial vacancies. This progress was halted in 1996, when only 17 judges were confirmed - and for the first time in 40 years, the Senate did not confirm a single circuit court judge. In response to Judge Rehnquist's stern warning on the importance of filling vacancies, in 1998, the Senate, working with the President, confirmed 65 Article III judges.

ú However, the Senate has once again stopped the confirmation process in its tracks. Since January 1999, President Clinton has nominated 61 judicial candidates. In this same period, the Senate has confirmed only 11 judges. Thirteen judicial nominations were left on the Senate calendar when the Senate recessed in August. Sixteen nominees are awaiting Senate action to fill the 21 most urgent vacancies, defined as "judicial emergencies" by the Judicial Conference.

ú Delays in the Senate confirmation appear to disproportionately affect women and minority nominees. Nine of the thirteen judicial nominations awaiting a Senate vote are women or minorities.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S JUDICIAL NOMINEES ARE STRONGLY QUALIFIED AND DIVERSE.
President Clinton today thanked the ABA for the role that they have played in evaluating the most qualified and diverse group of judicial candidates that any president has nominated.

ú President Clinton has appointed the most diverse group of judges in American History. About 50 percent of the President's appointees have been women or minorities

ú His current judicial nominees are the most diverse group nominated during any Congress in history. Over 50 percent of his current nominees are women or minorities.

ú Just last week, President Clinton nominated North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge James A. Wynn to the Fourth Circuit and Northern District of Illinois Judge Ann Williams to the Seventh Circuit. If confirmed, they will be the first African American judges to serve on these courts, courts which represent a large population of African Americans.

ú President Clinton's judicial appointees have garnered a higher percentage of top ABA ratings than any other President since Eisenhower, destroying the myth that diversity precludes quality.

PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLS ON ABA TO HELP BUILD ONE AMERICA. President Clinton today called on the ABA to play a role in building one America by renewing its commitment to combating discrimination, revitalizing our poorest communities, encouraging diversity in the legal profession and its institutions, and continuing the legal community's commitment to pro bono work. He also asked the ABA to use the power of voice to support the Legal Service Corporation, now celebrating its 25th Anniversary, and facing budget cuts in Congress.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Atlanta, Georgia)

For Immediate
Release
August 9, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President today will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to President Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter.

President Kennedy established the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Executive Order on February 22, 1963. He announced the first Presidential Medal of Freedom award recipients in 1963; and President Johnson made the first presentations of the Medal in a ceremony at the White House on December 6, 1963. It is the highest civilian award bestowed by the United States Government. The Medal is awarded by the President only to those persons whom he deems to have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. Citizens of other nations may receive the Medal, and honorees may receive it posthumously. Recipients are awarded a medal and a citation signed by the President.

The text of the citation presented to the Carters reads as follows:

JIMMY AND ROSALYNN CARTER

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter have forged an extraordinary partnership, devoting their lives to improving our Nation and our world. As America's 39th Chief Executive, President Carter placed human rights at the center of his foreign policy, achieved an extraordinary breakthrough for peace in the Middle East, and embraced America's challenges at home with unusual innovation and vigor. As a universally respected international statesman, he has worked to advance peace, democracy and human rights, and to diminish hunger and disease around the globe. A path-breaking First Lady and a powerful force for good, Rosalynn Carter has been a national leader for improved mental health care, childhood immunization, women's equality, and better care for seniors. Together, through their many good works and their powerful example, they have lifted the dignity of people everywhere. For this, they have earned a unique place in our history and the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate
Release
5, 1999

August

Statement by the Press Secretary

President Clinton announced today that he will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, to 10 distinguished individuals. The President will bestow the medals at ceremonies to take place during the week of August 9, 1999.

Lloyd M. Bentsen. President Clinton's first Secretary of the Treasury, Lloyd Bentsen served in the House of Representatives from 1948 to 1954. In 1970, he was elected to the United States Senate and served 22 years, including six as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Bentsen was the Vice-Presidential nominee for the Democratic Party in 1988.

Edgar M. Bronfman, Sr. As President of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman, Sr. has worked to ensure basic rights for Jews around the world and to fight anti-Semitism and has spearheaded the effort to retrieve the assets of Holocaust victims and their families. Through the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, he has supported educational, literary, scientific, charitable, and religious organizations throughout the world.

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Canal Treaty, and reestablished normal diplomatic relations with China. Together, the Carters created the Carter Center to promote peace, democracy, and improved health around the world. Through the Center, they launched the Atlanta Project, a grass-roots program to combat urban social ills in the U.S. As a statesman, President Carter has been a successful diplomat in hot spots around the world. Mrs. Carter is a longtime advocate of improved mental health care, widespread childhood immunization, women's equality, and enhanced care for seniors. Each year, the Carters help to build homes for the needy through Habitat for Humanity.

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Oliver White Hill. One of our nation's great civil rights lawyers, Oliver Hill is best known for litigating one of the school desegregation cases that became *Brown v. Board of Education*. He and his team of lawyers filed more civil rights suits in Virginia than were filed in any other southern state during the segregation era. In 1948, he became the first African-American politician since Reconstruction elected to the Richmond City Council.

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Edgar Wayburn. Five-time president and a member of board of directors of the Sierra Club for almost 40 years, Edgar Wayburn pushed for the expansion of California's Mt. Tamalpais State Park and fought for the establishment of Point Reyes National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. He also helped to create Redwood National Park in California's Del Norte County and later worked for its expansion. His advocacy helped produce the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation

Act of 1980, which protects 104 million acres.

The President will bestow the medal on President and Mrs. Carter in a ceremony at the Carter Center in Atlanta on August 9. The other honorees will receive their medals at a White House ceremony on August 11.

###

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:
Unable to convert ARMS_EXT:[ATTACH.D48]ARMS206701124.236 to ASCII,
The following is a HEX DUMP:

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===== ATTACHMENT 2 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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===== ATTACHMENT 3 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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===== END ATTACHMENT 3 =====

Trip of the President to Atlanta, Georgia
August 9, 1999

Address to the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association

Today, President Clinton will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to address the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association (ABA). In his remarks, the President will stress the importance of filling judicial vacancies nationwide and commend the ABA for its assistance in evaluating the most qualified and diverse group of judicial appointees nominated by any president. He also will reiterate his "Call to Action" and highlight the importance of the Legal Services Corporation. (Please see attached fact sheet.)

Program

Philip Anderson, President of the ABA
Reverend Henry Hudson delivers invocation
Philip Anderson
Mayor Bill Campbell, Atlanta
Philip Anderson
President Clinton

Medal of Freedom Award Ceremony

Later in the evening at the Carter Center in Atlanta, President Clinton will present Medals of Freedom to President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter to honor their devotion to improving this Nation and the world. The Medal of Freedom is the highest American civilian award given by the President, recognizing individuals who have made significant meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States; world peace; cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. (Please see attached citation.)

Program

President Clinton makes remarks.
Medal of Freedom Citation is read.
President Clinton presents Medals to President and Mrs. Carter.
President Carter makes remarks.
Mrs. Carter makes remarks.
President Carter concludes.

###

PRESIDENT CLINTON ADDRESSES ABA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Georgia

August 9, 1999

Today, in an address to the 121st Annual Convention of the American Bar Association, (ABA) President Clinton stressed the importance of filling the vacancies in our court system nationwide, vacancies that last year, Chief Justice William Rehnquist warned, could actually undermine our legal system's ability to fairly administer justice. The President reiterated the importance of working in a bipartisan way with the Senate on current nominations to help relieve exploding civil and criminal dockets and a justice system strained near breaking point.

President Clinton also commended the ABA for the role it has played in evaluating all judicial nominees, recognizing that under his Administration, these appointees represent not only the most qualified group - they have garnered a higher percentage of top ABA ratings than any other President's since Eisenhower - but also they represent the most diverse group of judges.

PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLS ON THE SENATE TO ACT NOW ON JUDICIAL

NOMINATIONS. Today, President Clinton called on the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty to confirm judges - reiterating that the mounting vacancy crisis is affecting the quality of our courts.

- During the first three years of President Clinton's administration, tremendous progress was made in reducing the number of judicial vacancies. This progress was halted in 1996, when only 17 judges were confirmed - and for the first time in 40 years, the Senate did not confirm a single circuit court judge. In response to Judge Rehnquist's stern warning on the importance of filling vacancies, in 1998, the Senate, working with the President, confirmed 65 Article III judges.
- However, the Senate has once again stopped the confirmation process in its tracks. Since January 1999, President Clinton has nominated 61 judicial candidates. In this same period, the Senate has confirmed only 11 judges. Thirteen judicial nominations were left on the Senate calendar when the Senate recessed in August. Sixteen nominees are awaiting Senate action to fill the 21 most urgent vacancies, defined as "judicial emergencies" by the Judicial Conference.
- Delays in the Senate confirmation appear to disproportionately affect women and minority nominees. Nine of the thirteen judicial nominations awaiting a Senate vote are women or minorities.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S JUDICIAL NOMINEES ARE STRONGLY QUALIFIED AND

DIVERSE. President Clinton today thanked the ABA for the role that they have played in evaluating the most qualified and diverse group of judicial candidates that any president has nominated.

- President Clinton has appointed the most diverse group of judges in American History. About 50 percent of the President's appointees have been women or minorities
- His current judicial nominees are the most diverse group nominated during any Congress in history. Over 50 percent of his current nominees are women or minorities.
 - Just last week, President Clinton nominated North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge James A. Wynn to the Fourth Circuit and Northern District of Illinois Judge Ann Williams to the Seventh Circuit. If confirmed, they will be the first African American judges to serve on these courts, courts which represent a large population of African Americans.
- President Clinton's judicial appointees have garnered a higher percentage of top ABA ratings than any other President since Eisenhower, destroying the myth that diversity precludes quality.

PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLS ON ABA TO HELP BUILD ONE AMERICA. President Clinton today called on the ABA to play a role in building one America by renewing its commitment to combating discrimination, revitalizing our poorest communities, encouraging diversity in the legal profession and its institutions, and continuing the legal community's commitment to pro bono work. He also asked the ABA to use the power of voice to support the Legal Service Corporation, now celebrating its 25th Anniversary, and facing budget cuts in Congress.

###

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Atlanta, Georgia)

For Immediate Release

August 9, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President today will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to President Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter.

President Kennedy established the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Executive Order on February 22, 1963. He announced the first Presidential Medal of Freedom award recipients in 1963; and President Johnson made the first presentations of the Medal in a ceremony at the White House on December 6, 1963. It is the highest civilian award bestowed by the United States Government. The Medal is awarded by the President only to those persons whom he deems to have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. Citizens of other nations may receive the Medal, and honorees may receive it posthumously. Recipients are awarded a medal and a citation signed by the President.

The text of the citation presented to the Carters reads as follows:

JIMMY AND ROSALYNN CARTER

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter have forged an extraordinary partnership, devoting their lives to improving our Nation and our world. As America's 39th Chief Executive, President Carter placed human rights at the center of his foreign policy, achieved an extraordinary breakthrough for peace in the Middle East, and embraced America's challenges at home with unusual innovation and vigor. As a universally respected international statesman, he has worked to advance peace, democracy and human rights, and to diminish hunger and disease around the globe. A path-breaking First Lady and a powerful force for good, Rosalynn Carter has been a national leader for improved mental health care, childhood immunization, women's equality, and better care for seniors. Together, through their many good works and their powerful example, they have lifted the dignity of people everywhere. For this, they have earned a unique place in our history and the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

###

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME:12-AUG-1999 08:53:21.00

SUBJECT: ltravel.com Cruise Deals

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Monday - August 9, 1999

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8. PANAMA CANAL
9. SOUTH AMERICA
10. SOUTH PACIFIC
11. OTHER

XX

AUSTRALIA

XX

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Depart 2/20/00 (President's Week) on a 7 day Carnival Paradise (all nonsmoking ship) from Miami to San Juan, St. Thomas, Virgin Gorda/Tortola. Inside cabin with 2 lower beds that convert to queen - \$719 p/p plus port/tax of \$139.75 p/p; oceanview - \$849 p/p plus \$139.75 port/tax. All cruises/prices subject to availability at time of booking.
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10 NIGHT FROM FT. LAUDERDALE TO SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN - \$819
Depart 1/14, 2/4, 2/25, 3/17, 4/7 from FLL to St. Maarten, St. Lucia,
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DISNEY
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PRINCESS CRUISE LINES SAILS EUROPE & BEYOND
**Set sail Nov. 17, 1999 on the Pacific Princess for 12 days for just
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**Depart Feb. 10, 2000 on the Pacific Princess for 11 days - outside
from \$2115 pp including port charges! Itinerary: Mombasa, Zanzibar,
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**Or, take off May 21, 2000 aboard Princess Cruises' Crown Princess
for 10 days - private balcony from \$2595 pp; outside from \$2195 pp;
and inside from \$1795 pp including port charges.
Itinerary: Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Tallinn,
Gdansk, Oslo and Copenhagen. For reservations or information
call 1-800-999-TRIP or complete an online request at
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WIND SONG 7-DAYS ATHENS TO ROME
Depart October 16, 1999 on Windstar Cruise Line - 50% SAVINGS ONLY
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Italy; and Capri, Italy - ending in Rome, Italy.
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HOLIDAY
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1999 HOLIDAY COSTA RICA OR CARIBBEAN WINDSTAR CRUISES 10 DAY
Depart December 18 or 19 on WindSurf, WindSong, WindSpirit . Rates as
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Depart 12/23 from Miami aboard the Carnival Imagination to the exciting
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the cabin. 3rd/4th/5th passengers pay a reduced rate of \$379 p/p +
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MEXICO
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PRESIDENT'S WEEK - CARNIVAL CELEBRATION FROM NEW ORLEANS - \$569
Depart 2/20/00 for a 7 day cruise from New Orleans on the Carnival
Celebration to Grand Cayman, Cozumel and Montego Bay. Inside cabin
with 2 lower beds that convert to queen - \$569 p/p plus port/tax of
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CARNIVAL SENSATION CRUISE - PRESIDENT'S WEEK - FROM TAMPA

Depart 2/20/00 (President's Week) from Tampa on a 7 day Carnival Sensation cruise to Grand Cayman, Cozumel & New Orleans - Inside cabin with 2 lower beds that convert to queen - \$599 p/p plus port/tax of \$139.75 p/p; oceanview - \$719 p/p plus \$139.75 p/p port/tax. All cruises/prices subject to a availability at time of booking.
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CARNIVAL ELATION FROM LA TO MEXICAN RIVIERA - PRESIDENT'S WEEK
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PANAMA CANAL
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PANAMA CANAL/TRANSCANAL

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Prices start at just \$2299 pp for balcony and \$1939 pp for outside category room - rates include port charges! The Ocean Princess takes off April 22, 2000 for 11 days to the same destinations; packages start at \$1449 for deluxe inside; 1839 pp for deluxe outside and \$2199 for private balcony - includes port charges.
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14 NIGHT ZENITH TRANSCANAL FROM SAN DIEGO - \$799!!

Depart 12/12 from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas, Acapulco, Puerto Caldera, Panama Canal, Cartagena, Aruba, St. Thomas & San Juan for only \$799 p/p + port & tax of \$235.75. This is sure to go fast so call now. Limited number at this price. OR Depart 1/9/00 on same itinerary for only \$300 more!!!!

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Monday - August 16, 1999

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8. SOUTH PACIFIC
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AUSTRALIA

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HOLIDAY CRUISE DOWN UNDER on CRYSTAL

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CARIBBEAN

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11 NIGHT DEEP CELEBRITY CARIBBEAN - \$779

Depart Ft. Lauderdale 1/3 for 11 nights aboard the Celebrity Horizon for only \$779 p/p + port of \$159.75 p/p to Curacao, LaGuaira, Gernada, Barbados, Martinique, St. Thomas & 4 glorious days at sea!!! 1/24, 2/14, 3/6 or 3/27 - only \$200 more p/p. Limited number at this price and subject to availability.

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TEXT:

Events in Russia--notably today's expected confirmation by Russia's State Duma of Vladimir Putin as the country's latest prime minister, and the week-old fighting between Russian military forces and separatist rebels in the southern republic of Dagestan--drew the attention of European commentators. From the Russian capital, dismay at the state of democracy under Mr. Yeltsin's leadership, as evinced by the latest round of prime ministerial firing and hiring, was especially vocal. Arguing that the president's "anointing Putin" had "unmasked our so-called democracy and our so-called liberals," centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta observed bleakly that "if the Family makes its choice definitive and has Putin elected as president, the 'liberal' era will end." This paper joined other Moscow dailies in bemoaning the fact that the constitution accords "Yeltsin and Family" virtually unchecked authority. Elsewhere in Europe, German and Bulgarian pundits agreed with their Russian counterparts that Russia is sorely in need of "a better system of democratic checks and balances...that will restrict the omnipotence of the president." Linking Russian politics to the Dagestan story, one German writer warned that the "power clique in the Kremlin" might use "a war" in Dagestan to postpone December's Duma elections, and urged Western leaders to "make it clear" to Mr. Yeltsin that his "clean departure from the Kremlin" is the only acceptable course. Papers in France, Italy, Hungary and Poland continued to express concern about the "Dagestan powder keg" and worried both that the conflict risks "spreading to the entire region" and that the "old, inefficient and brutal strategies" used by Moscow against Chechnya may be employed again in Dagestan.

ASIAN SECURITY: MOST FOCUS ON U.S.-CHINA TENSIONS

Commentators in Beijing and Hong Kong alleged that U.S. Representative Gilman's

"actions have grossly interfered in China's internal affairs" and characterized Senator Lott's remarks about a Hong Kong-based shipping company's contracts in the Panama Canal as "irresponsible." Beijing's People's Daily Overseas Edition warned "international anti-China politicians" not to "underestimate China's resolve...to safeguard territorial and sovereign integrity," a caution echoed by Hong Kong's independent Sing Tao Daily News. Pundits in Australia and India expressed concern that the Taiwan Relations Act would legally force the U.S. to intervene if Taiwan were attacked. Noting that "China objects strongly" to the "adventurism" of a proposed theater missile defense (TMD), a Singapore

daily said "regional governments...should ask the U.S. and Japan to cease their madness."

BRIEFS

- Mideast Peace Process: Barak 'Lost Ground,' U.S. Role 'Essential'
- Iowa Straw Poll: Bush May Be 'Unstoppable,' But 'Disconcerting Selection Process'

EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Bill Richey, Irene Marr

RUSSIA: THE DUMA VOTE ON PUTIN; MORE ON FIGHTING IN DAGESTAN

"Family Vs. Rest Of Russia"

Natalia Kalashnikova asserted in reformist Segodnya (8/14): "The latest (evidently, not the last) government crisis has conclusively split the Russian elite, with the Family (the Kremlin) up against the rest of Russia. It seems that the non-Family stands to win and, more so, take over control. Practically all, speaking with one voice, want 'the Yeltsin Constitution' revised. So we may be in for surprises concerning the 2000 elections."

"Putin To Be Approved"

Marina Kalmykova predicted on page one of reformist Vremya-MN (8/16): "Boris Yeltsin's new figurehead will leave the Duma as a full premier, unless he unexpectedly says or does something to offend the sensitive deputies. Theirs is a vote not for Putin but a chance to hold an election campaign quietly, without problems. All they want is fair and timely elections, so they will vote him in. Another change of the cabinet has left them so cold that they would not mind temporarily giving up their right to approve a new premier. With a procedure so routine, they might as well approve a list of prospective premiers for a year ahead, along with a federal budget."

"Putin--End Of Liberal Era"

Centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (8/14) front-paged this commentary by Aleksandr Tsipko: "If the Family makes its choice definitive and has Putin elected as president, the 'liberal' era will end. For Russia to have the leader with the face and mentality of a KGB investigator is no blessing. Putin will not change to become a goody-goody czar. The opposite is more likely. In Russia, authority has never helped anyone become more ethical. Yeltsin has done a great thing by anointing Putin--there is no other way to unmask our so-called democracy and our so-called liberals and show the world what we really are. Yeltsin and Family can do to Russia anything they want. We have no political force to resist this authoritarian regime. Our selfish and wily political elite will not rise from its knees. The Yeltsin era will continue for a long time after Yeltsin. As long as our democracy has the face of Colonel Putin."

FRANCE: "The Dagestan Powder Keg"

Laure Mandeville opined in right-of-center Le Figaro (8/16): "Bassayev's involvement in Dagestan is a major challenge for the Russian army, which has yet to recover from its defeat in the Chechnyan mountains. With Bassayev as an opponent, the war may well turn out to be long and unpredictable."

"A New Crisis In The Caucasus"

Veronique Soule wrote in left-of-center Liberation (8/16): "The declared state of emergency in Chechnya is added proof of how quickly the conflict with Dagestan could spread to the entire region."

GERMANY: "The New Man"

Right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine (8/16) front-paged this editorial by Werner Adam: "The ex-KGB president in the former GDR, who has now advanced to the new premier in Russia, can hope to be confirmed in the first ballot in the Duma as new prime minister for Russia. Four months before the parliamentary elections, the parliamentarians will hardly risk resisting the appeal of President Yeltsin since this would result in an early resignation and in a loss of their various privileges. However, the feeling of political humiliation will remain. If Russia really

established a better system of democratic checks and balances, we can only wish to the future parliament that it achieves an amendment to the constitution that will restrict the omnipotence of the president."

"Russia's Superpower Hubris"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (8/14) argued: "Over the past few months, Moscow's policy has consisted mainly of intrigues and rancors. The struggle for power does not leave any time to concentrate on the problems of the country. In addition, there is the fatal adherence to its superpower role. Former General Lebed is rightfully wondering why the few operational Russian forces are in Kosovo and Bosnia, while volunteer corps have to be set up in Dagestan. This superpower hubris on the one side and the inability to create law and order on the other side: This does not fit together."

"No Minor War"

Georg Watzlawek commented in business Handelsblatt of Duesseldorf (8/14): "Instead of (allowing Yeltsin to provoke parliament), the Duma is likely to confirm new Premier Putin in the first vote. By doing so, the Duma does not want to give Yeltsin the chance to dissolve it. Then Yeltsin and his aides will have no chance to avoid a debacle at the Duma elections. There is only one chance for them: a state of emergency in Dagestan. But it is an open question whether the power clique in the Kremlin is willing to cling to this straw, since it would only gain a few months more time. On the other hand, there is still time for a final deal. In return for a clean departure from the Kremlin, Yeltsin could negotiate an honorable pension, his apparatchicks could side with his opponents, and his financial advisors could follow their dirty capital to Switzerland. For months, an

increasing number of aides has been leaving the sinking ship. Clinton, Schroeder, and co. could intensify this trend by making clear that they do not accept a 'minor war.' Not even in Dagestan."

ITALY: "It Is A Massacre In The Caucasus Already"

Piero Sinatti commented in leading business *Il Sole 24-Ore* (8/15): "The conflict in Dagestan is getting more serious.... Moscow is using its well known threatening voice while also making grotesque proposals, as the one from Interior Minister Zubov who invited Maskhadov to send Chechnyan troops to Daghestan.... Old, inefficient and brutal strategies are coming up again. With the same arrogance in which in December, 1994, Russian ministers promised to get rid of Dudaev's separatist militias in two days.... Putin today promises to close the conflict with the 'gangsters' in two weeks.... Once more, we have a heavy, barely mobile and inefficient army sent to fight a very motivated and mobile enemy.... It would be a farce, if there weren't already dead people and if there were not already 6,000 refugees on top of the million or more refugees in the never-ending post-Soviet tragedy."

"The Powder Keg In The Caucasus"

Giandomenico Picco commented on the front-page of pro-DS (leading Government party) *L'Unita'* (8/14): "The economic meaning of the Caucasus, the clear 'foreign' interference, the opportunity that the guerrillas offer to strengthen relations among the moderate in power at Gronzny and those in Dagestan and the fact that Moscow is already in an electoral campaign lead toward a rather tough Russian military action in the Caucasus. And this time with a greater possibility to succeed than in Chechnya."

BULGARIA: "Yeltsin's Theater Of The Absurd"

Influential weekly *Kapital* (8/14-20) commented: "In the last 18 months Yeltsin fired four prime ministers and appointed five. It is very difficult to prove that these changes have anything to do

with Russia's national interest. The most egotistical of all changes was the last one, which lead to the rise to power of the eminence grise and possible successor of Yeltsin, the former KGB operative Vladimir Putin, a rookie in politics. He holds a double attraction for Yeltsin. He is a provincialist with no charm, public image and experience in government to speak of. Apart from that, as a former employee of the secret police, he possesses connections which could prove very useful to Yeltsin and his family in the game of accusations, counter-accusations, secrets and lies--the essence of Moscow's politics these days."

HUNGARY: "New Test Of Russian Military"

Conservative *Napi Magyarorszag* carried this item by foreign affairs writer Gabor Zord (8/14): In the view of military observers, Russian forces in their current condition are not sufficient for the handling of a lasting partisan war in Dagestan. Although the condition and the insufficient financing of the Russian military is no good omen to Moscow in the spreading Dagestan war, experts air their view that experiences of wars

fought under similar conditions in Afghanistan and in Chechnya have already been thoroughly studied in the Kremlin. And, this way, even if a conflict could not have been prevented, the applied military techniques could be modified...in a way that defeats that could be serious and quite humiliating to the Russian leadership, can be prevented at least."

POLAND: "Increasingly Diminished Russia"

Aleksander Kropiwnicki wrote in right-of-center Zycie (8/14-15): "Russia is more dangerous externally than internally. World powers need Russia as a crucial element on the international scene. Besides, Moscow successfully blackmails the world with the threat of proliferation of nuclear technology or the outbreak of a civil war where an aspect of the conflict would be throwing nuclear bombs like invectives. The citizens of the Russian state, however, feel that it is as weak as never before in centuries.... If the [Islamic] rebels managed to seize and maintain a substantial part of Dagestan, it means that Russia can really be pushed out from the Caucasian region."

ASIAN SECURITY: MOST FOCUS ON U.S.-CHINA TENSIONS

CHINA: "How Dare Lee Teng-hui Be So Arrogant?"

A Xinhua commentator said in the official Communist Party People's Daily Overseas Edition

(Renmin Ribao Haiwaiban, 8/14): "We solemnly warn those international anti-China politicians, who scheme to use Lee Teng-hui to sabotage Sino-U.S. relations and China's reunification, not to underestimate China's resolve and capability to safeguard territorial and sovereign integrity. Otherwise, they will inevitably induce trouble to themselves."

[Comment: All Chinese newspapers continued their attacks on Lee Teng-hui and his 'two-nations' concept.]

"Proposal On Taiwan's 'Representation' Condemned"

Xinhua news agency said in the official English-language China Daily (8/14): "Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zhu Bangzao said the Chinese government and people are strongly indignant at and firmly opposed to the support of some U.S. Congressmen for Lee Teng-hui's 'two states' statement.... U.S. Congressman Benjamin Gilman's actions have grossly interfered in China's internal affairs and gone against the U.S. government's commitment of adherence to the 'one China' policy, Zhu said.

HONG KONG: "U.S. Is Rude And Unreasonable; Hutchison Is Innocent"

Centrist Hong Kong Daily News wrote in its editorial (8/14): "The majority leader of the Senate, Trent Lott, claimed that Mr. Lee Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa is 'an organization under the command of the People's Liberation Army'. This allegation is an irresponsible remark. We don't believe that a business organization like Hutchison Whampoa will deny U.S. ships passage

through the Panama Canal. Even if it denied the ships, the U.S. with its strong military power could easily reopen navigation. Hence, Hutchison Whampoa does not have the ability to seal up the Panama Canal. Trent Lott's allegation is unreasonable.... The U.S. views the Panama Canal as a chunk of meat for its exclusive consumption. Now, Hutchison Whampoa wants to eat this meat. It will, of course, try its best to stop it.... No matter how innocent Hutchison Whampoa is, the Americans will make an 'unwarranted' charge."

"U.S. Factors In Taiwan Strait Crisis "

Independent Hong Kong Economic Journal had this editorial (8/14): "U.S. factors may become obstacles for Taiwan and China to reunify. However, the fact is that, due to the U.S., peace has been maintained in the Taiwan Strait for more than ten years and Taiwan has had a chance to develop peacefully. No matter whether the Chinese people in Mainland China or the Chinese people in Taiwan like it or not, if they want to settle the Taiwan issue, they cannot but consider the U.S. attitude."

"U.S. Should Not Add Oil To The Taiwan Strait"

Independent Sing Tao Daily News commented in its editorial (8/16): "Will Beijing bow its head under pressure from the U.S.? The answer will be no. Some Americans have underestimated the determination and ability of the Chinese government to safeguard Chinese territory and sovereignty."

AUSTRALIA: "Danger Of Dragon Baiting"

An op-ed commentary from federal MP and former diplomat Kevin Rudd in the Sydney Morning Herald noted (8/16): "Overall, post-Mao relations between China and the US have rarely been this bad. This makes for a somewhat problematic environment for the effective management of what could turn into a genuine crisis across the Taiwan Strait by year's end. Fortunately, President Clinton acted decisively after Lee's July 9 statement and phoned the Chinese president to tell him the U.S. one-China policy had not changed. But the parties are still in the early stages of this confrontation, and the Clinton administration must contend with the Taiwan Relations Act."

PHILIPPINES: "Chinese Would-Be Hegemony"

Max Soliven, publisher of the independent and conservative Philippine Star wrote in his column (8/15): "Perhaps it is useful to us in Asia, already under the shadow of a powerful Chinese would-be hegemony, to have Taiwan as...a burr in China's blanket...an irritant and a challenge. Taipei is, by definition, an irritating but deterrent factor in Asia's balance of power."

SINGAPORE: "Slouching Towards War"

Pro-government Straits Times (8/16) had this editorial: "One almost wishes the Cold War had not ended. Fear elicited caution in the Western alliance. The absence of fear has led it to substitute adventurism for statesmanship. The latest example of such adventurism is the agreement between the U.S.

and Japan to develop a theater missile defence system (TMD) jointly.... China objects strongly. The U.S. and Japan, it argues, are exploiting the threat of North Korean missiles to develop a shield the main purpose of which is to neutralize Chinese

lances. China has good reasons for its objections. To begin with, TMD is not a defensive but an offensive system.... Just as tanks begat anti-tank weapons, and airplanes anti-aircraft systems, TMD will no doubt spawn anti-anti-missile strategies. A system meant to provide added security will thus, by the grim logic of arms, instigate a series of counter-measures which will make Asia less, not more, stable. For this reason, regional governments, including ASEAN's, should ask the U.S. and Japan to cease their madness."

THAILAND: "China's Credibility Rests On Taiwan Stand?"

The lead editorial of the independent, English-language Nation commented (8/16): "Asia's confidence in China's peaceful intention is important. While Asian countries understand and fully support Beijing's One-China policy, they have never backed its policy on the use of force against Taiwan.... An Asia that has no confidence in China's intentions, imagined or real, can ignite an arms race once again in the region."

"A Little Restraint In China, Please"

The lead editorial of top-circulation, moderately conservative, English language Bangkok Post commented (8/16): "It is time for the Taiwanese to button up... As for China, if it wants the respect of the world, it should act a little more respectably, and show some respect for the opinions, thoughts and cultures of the rest of the world as well. If China wants to attract Taiwan to its offer of a merger, it should make itself look a little more attractive."

INDIA: "U.S. Left With Little Choice"

Tokyo correspondent F.J. Khargamvala said in the centrist Hindu (8/16): "The U.S. policy to deter any armed conflict between China and Taiwan is one of 'strategic ambiguity.' These words work during peace time, but once the deterrence phase turns to an armed conflict, there will be no ambiguity at all about the U.S. choices. Legally, diplomatically, politically and for commercial reasons there is just one choice forced upon the U.S. An armed intervention to protect and if necessary rescue Taiwan.... Failure to intervene effectively will undermine every single one of the several regional interlocking bilateral military alliances that the U.S. has in the region.... Much as Beijing might object, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979...does override all Sino-U.S. communiques. It is U.S. law.... Though this extreme scenario is most unlikely at the moment, the totality of interests gives the U.S. a Hobson's choice."

ITALY: "New Winds Of War In Asia"

Stefano Silvestri commented on the front-page of leading business Il Sole 24-Ore (8/14): "The main role of balancing factor played these days by the U.S. is today much more difficult because more and more interlocutors, with

different interests, arrive onstage.... China is still a huge puzzle.... The U.S. cannot have a coherent policy toward the Chinese giant...and the same is true for too many countries in the region.... Asia is too big, too rich and too important to be ignored. But it is also too complex to be dealt with without a common strategic vision and a precise choice of priorities between Europeans and Americans."

BRIEFS

MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS: BARAK 'LOST GROUND,' U.S. ROLE 'ESSENTIAL'

ISRAEL: "Barak Losing Ground In Washington"

Analyst Akiva Eldar wrote in independent Haaretz (8/16): "As a consequence of losing Palestinian confidence, Barak also lost ground among the Americans, who up until two weeks ago were enthusiastic about him.... The disappointment is evident in all the accounts of Beilin's

meetings in Washington.... Albright suggested that the prime minister improve Israel's relations with the U.N., and that he would consider appearing next month at the General Assembly. Clinton too, will show up.... It is hard to tell whether what the senior administration officials are saying reflects President Clinton's position, or whether they are just getting even with Barak for saying that they were not needed in the peace process."

"Arafat Does Not Trust Barak--And With Good Reason"

Liberal analyst Uri Avnery wrote in popular, pluralist Maariv (8/15): "They say that Prime Minister Barak wishes to put off the next FRD because he fears a clash with Jewish settlers and the disintegration of his government. Well, if Barak fears the settlers even before a single settlement is evacuated, how will he carry out the evacuation of scores of settlements under a permanent agreement.... The record shows that Israel always wants to reopen and renegotiate signed agreements. Barak appears to be following this pattern, complete with new committees and endless rounds of talks. All this indicates that Barak's first FRD is a thing for the distant future. And this explains Arafat's suspicions."

"Syria Feels Let Down"

Analyst Zvi Barel wrote in independent Haaretz (8/15): "Syria expected a few Israeli and American goodwill gestures in return for what it considers its more flexible approach toward Israel.... Syria hoped that the United States would remove its name from the list of terror-supporting states, particularly in the wake of the expulsion of Kurdish rebel leader Adbullah Ocalan from Syria.... If neither Israel nor Syria is willing to make the first move, it would be good to call in a mediator to jump-start the process. Therefore, Barak's attempt to reduce the role of the United States in the peace process does not make sense."

EGYPT: "Future Of Peace Or Violence And Instability Depends On Israel"

According to an unsigned editorial in pro-government daily Al Ahram (8/16):

"It was good that President Clinton conditioned the success of Secretary Albright's upcoming visit to the region on Barak's cooperation.... The future of peace or of violence and instability depends on Israel, not on Arab countries. The current dispute is not about the concept of peace or about Israel's right to exist. It is now about land which Israel occupies.... The time to face the reality of the peace process has come. Israel should take the decision of withdrawing from Golan, the West Bank and southern Lebanon so that the peace process would reach its desired end. If Israel has not made a decision after all this maneuvering, neither Albright's tour or any effort to achieve a comprehensive and just peace will succeed."

"U.S. Position On Arms Control Contradictory To Spirit Of Peace Process"

Abdel Azim Hammad, columnist with pro-government daily Al Ahram argued (8/16): "Strategic balance does not depend only on the arms race. It can be achieved by arms control, which is closer to the spirit of peace. That is why the U.S. position on this issue is strange and contradictory to the spirit of the peace process and with the very American commitments. The United States constantly supplies Israel with advanced weapons without a real strategic need.... The contradiction between the American position and the spirit of peace, which Washington sponsors, is manifest. But the deeper contradiction, which Arabs can exploit, is the contradiction with declared American commitments."

JORDAN: "Federation Or Confederation?"

Columnist Shahadeh Abu Bakr argued on the op-ed page of center-left, influential Arabic daily Al-Dustur (8/16): "At a time when most still believe that discussing the future relationship between Jordan and Palestine is a sensitive issue, we propose that reinitiating the talk about a

confederation does stem from good intentions and from the need to have some unity between the brotherly peoples.... The most lasting form of unity is a federation, which we call for its implementation in the case of Jordan and an independent Palestinian state by the will of the people and only after the Palestinian State is established.... [A] federation can become the nucleus of a comprehensive Arab federation, the demand and hope of every Arab on...earth."

SAUDI ARABIA: "All Will Work According To Barak's Plan"

London-based, pan-Arab Al-Hayat ran this editorial (8/16): "The beginning of September has become an official date for re-activating the peace process. The arrival of the U.S. secretary of state to the area is regarded as an indication of this. The essential role of the United States is natural, but it has become known that Washington will work--or in other words, will implement--the plan worked out by the Israeli prime minister. Arab parties' movement also will be according to what they hear from the Americans. Thus, all will work according to Barak's plan.... The (Arab) role which Israel accepts --and which is therefore (accepted) by the United States--is that role which puts pressure on the Palestinians to offer concessions and to approve Israel's gains.... It is no longer allowed (for

Arabs) to provide collective support for the Palestinian cause. Moreover, this ban has become effective in regard to all other Arab issues."

BRITAIN: "Optimistic Mood About Peace Changing"

On the Middle East, BBC Radio reported (8/16): "In Syria, the optimistic mood about peace in the Middle East is changing. The line in the official media now is that Israel hasn't moved fast enough to start talks about the return of the Golan Heights. The Syrians are ready for peace, but only if they get the Golan back; on that, they are unanimous. President Hafez al-Assad was defense minister when Syria lost the Golan Heights in 1967. That national humiliation of it still burns within Syrians, and it must burn within him too. Getting the Golan back has become a national obsession. Now, after 32 years, they are starting to feel it might just happen."

IOWA STRAW POLL: BUSH MAY BE 'UNSTOPPABLE,' BUT 'DISCONCERTING' SELECTION PROCESS

BRITAIN: "Bush Trail"

The conservative Times editorialized (8/16): "There are only six months left before the real caucus and primary season begins and no contender has yet emerged to give George W. Bush a run for his enormous war-chest of money.... Mr. Bush's clear lead...was impressive. It suggests that the governor of Texas has established a broad appeal to mainstream conservatives who now seem more concerned with recapturing the Oval Office than with ideological purity. If this continues to be the case, countrywide, Mr. Bush could become unstoppable."

"Iowan Straws"

The independent Financial Times ran this editorial (8/16): "Nobody should take the weekend straw poll in Iowa of Republican hopefuls for the U.S. presidency too seriously. It is a thoroughly dubious political exercise in a distinctly unrepresentative state, where candidates pay for their supporters to vote for them, on top of filling them full of food, music and campaign hype. Still, it tells us who has got the cash, the organization and the sheer audacity to make the running in the race. After watching most of the Republican presidential contenders slug it out in Iowa on Saturday evening, American voters will have been left with a clear impression that money talks more eloquently than the average candidate, at least at this early stage."

"A Fistful Of Votes"

In the view of the centrist Independent (8/16): "The lunacy has begun. George W. Bush has won the first real test of the ability of U.S. presidential hopefuls to beg, borrow or buy votes. The candidate who raised the most campaign money came first, the one with the most private worth came second. Less a feast of democracy than a junk-food blowout.

Prepare for more spectacular entertainment."

FRANCE: "A Symbolic Poll"

Jean-Jacques Mevel in right-of-center Le Figaro commented (8/16): "The Iowa straw poll is one more example of a disconcerting selection process, including for Americans. It could be said that it is a challenge to political common sense...In almost thirty years, the straw poll has never pointed to the future Republican candidate, and even less to the next president...It cannot be said that Iowa's straw poll has brought any clear answers."

GERMANY: "A Few Snares Are Still Waiting"

Jeanne Rubner wrote in centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (8/16): "Together with Elizabeth Dole, who is favored by many women as a candidate for the vice presidency and who achieved a respectable result in Iowa, George Walker Bush has a good chance to move into the White House. This will particularly be the case if Al Gore is unable to get rid of his image as a boring speaker. Bush's platform, however, as vague as it is, will certainly meet with response among the voters of the center. But the question is what will be more decisive: The wish to see a new face in the White House or the feeling that the United States is well off after eight years of a Democratic government?"

"George W. Bush Has Almost Gained The Nomination"

Washington correspondent Peter de Thier filed the following editorial for left-of-center Berliner Zeitung (8/16): "For the Republicans, (this straw poll) was a good advertisement for their own cause. Before a national TV audience, even hopeless presidential candidates were allowed to attack Bill Clinton, preach family values, and call for a strong military apparatus. But, in the end, there are George Bush Jr., and a handful of candidates whocould really jeopardize Bush in the near future. But U.S. politics is unforeseeable, and we should not dare to make any predictions. But George W. Bush enjoys the support of the party's rank and file, and, in addition, record sums are flowing into his election campaign coffers. The result from this straw poll will give him further momentum. He is practically in the lead and cannot be caught up again."

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#Xn\ P6Qy&P#Monday, August 16, 1999

X' hp x RUSSIA: THE DUMA VOTE ON PUTIN; MORE ON FIGHTING IN DAGESTAN

X' hp x

Events in Russianotably today's expected confirmation by Russia's State

Duma o

f Vladimir Putin as the country's latest prime minister, and the

weekold fighti

ng between Russian military forces and separatist rebels in

the southern republ

ic of Dagestandrew the attention of European

commentators. From the Russian ca

pital, dismay at the state of democracy

under Mr. Yeltsin's leadership, as evin

ced by the latest round of prime

ministerial firing and hiring, was especially

vocal. Arguing that the

president's "anointing Putin" had "unmasked our socall

ed democracy and our

socalled liberals," centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta observed

bleakly that "if

the Family makes its choice definitive and has Putin elected a

s president,

the 'liberal' era will end." This paper joined other Moscow daili

es in

bemoaning the fact that the constitution accords "Yeltsin and Family"

vir

tuallly unchecked authority. Elsewhere in Europe, German and Bulgarian

pundits

agreed with their Russian counterparts that Russia is sorely in

need of "a bett

er system of democratic checks and balances...that will

restrict the omnipotenc

e of the president." Linking Russian politics to

the Dagestan story, one Germa

n writer warned that the "power clique in the

Kremlin" might use "a war" in Dag

estan to postpone December's Duma

elections, and urged Western leaders to "make

it clear" to Mr. Yeltsin that

his "clean departure from the Kremlin" is the on

ly acceptable course.
Papers in France, Italy, Hungary and Poland continued to
express concern
about the "Dagestan powder keg" and worried both that the conf
lict risks
"spreading to the entire region" and that the "old, inefficient and
brutal
strategies" used by Moscow against Chechnya may be employed again in
Dag
estan.

X` hp x ASIAN SECURITY: MOST FOCUS ON U.S.CHINA TENSIONS

X` hp x Commentators in Beijing and Hong Kong alleged that U.S. Representative
Gilman's
"actions have grossly interfered in China's internal affairs" and
characterized
Senator Lott's remarks about a Hong Kongbased shipping
company's contracts in
the Panama Canal as "irresponsible." Beijing's
People's Daily Overseas Edition
warned "international antiChina
politicians" not to "underestimate China's res
olve...to safeguard
territorial and sovereign integrity," a caution echoed by H
ong Kong's
independent Sing Tao Daily News. Pundits in Australia and India exp
ressed
concern that the Taiwan Relations Act would legally force the U.S. to
in
tervene if Taiwan were attacked. Noting that "China objects strongly" to
the "
adventurism" of a proposed theater missile defense (TMD), a Singapore
daily sai
d "regional governments...should ask the U.S. and Japan to cease
their madness.
"

X` hp x BRIEFS

Mideast Peace Process: Barak 'Lost Ground,' U.S. Role 'Essential'
X` hp x Iowa Straw Poll: Bush May Be 'Unstoppable,' But 'Disconcerting
Selec
tion Process'

EDITORS: Katherine Starr, Bill Richey, Irene Marr

RUSSIA: THE DUMA VOTE ON PUTIN; MORE ON FIGHTING IN DAGESTAN
"Family Vs. Rest Of Russia"

Natalia Kalashnikova asserted in reformist Segodnya (8/14): "The latest (evidence, not the last) government crisis has conclusively split the Russian elite, with the Family (the Kremlin) up against the rest of Russia. It seems that the non-Family stands to win and, more so, take over control. Practically all, speaking with one voice, want 'the Yeltsin Constitution' revised. So we may be in for surprises concerning the 2000 elections."

"Putin To Be Approved"

Marina Kalmykova predicted on page one of reformist VremyaMN (8/16): "Boris Yeltsin's new figurehead will leave the Duma as a full premier, unless he unexpectedly says or does something to offend the sensitive deputies. There is a vote not for Putin but a chance to hold an election campaign quietly, without problems. All they want is fair and timely elections, so they will vote him in. Another change of the cabinet has left them so cold that they would not temporarily giving up their right to approve a new premier. With a procedure so routine, they might as well approve a list of prospective premiers for a year ahead, along with a federal budget."

"Putin End Of Liberal Era"

Centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (8/14) frontpaged this commentary by Aleksandr Tsipko: "If the Family makes its choice definitive and has Putin elected as president, the 'liberal' era will end. For Russia to have the leader with the face and mentality of a KGB investigator is no blessing. Putin will not change to become a goodygoody czar. The opposite is more likely. In Russia, authority has never helped anyone become more ethical. Yeltsin has done a great thing by appointing Putin there is no other way to unmask our so-called democracy and our so-called liberals and show the world what we really are. Yeltsin and Family can do to Russia anything they want. We have no political force to resist this authoritarian regime."

Our selfish and wily political elite will not rise from its knees. The Yeltsin era will continue for a long time after Yeltsin. As long as our democracy has the face of Colonel Putin."

FRANCE: "The Dagestan Powder Keg"

Laure Mandeville opined in rightofcenter Le Figaro (8/16): "Bassayev's involvement in Dagestan is a major challenge for the Russian army, which has yet to recover from its defeat in the Chechnyan mountains. With Bassayev as an opponent, the war may well turn out to be long and unpredictable."

"A New Crisis In The Caucasus"

Veronique Soule wrote in leftofcenter Liberation (8/16): "The declared state of emergency in Chechnya is added proof of how quickly the conflict with Dagestan could spread to the entire region."

X X' hp x

X X' hp x GERMANY: "The New Man"

Rightofcenter Frankfurter Allgemeine (8/16) frontpaged this editorial by Werner Adam: "The exKGB president in the former GDR, who has now advanced to the new premier in Russia, can hope to be confirmed in the first ballot in the Duma as a new prime minister for Russia. Four months before the parliamentary election, the parliamentarians will hardly risk resisting the appeal of President Yeltsin since this would result in an early resignation and in a loss of their various privileges. However, the feeling of political humiliation will remain. If Russia really

established a better system of democratic checks and balances, we can only wish to the future parliament that it achieves an amendment to the constitution that will restrict the omnipotence of the president."

"Russia's Superpower Hubris"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (8/14) argued: "Over the past few months, Moscow's policy has consisted mainly of intrigues and rancors. The

struggle for power does not leave any time to concentrate on the problems of the country. In addition, there is the fatal adherence to its superpower role. Former General Lebed is rightfully wondering why the few operational Russian forces are in Kosovo and Bosnia, while volunteer corps have to be set up in Dagestan. This is his superpower hubris on the one side and the inability to create law and order on the other side: This does not fit together."

"No Minor War"

Georg Watzlawek commented in business Handelsblatt of Duesseldorf (8/14): "In stead of (allowing Yeltsin to provoke parliament), the Duma is likely to confirm new Premier Putin in the first vote. By doing so, the Duma does not want to give Yeltsin the chance to dissolve it. Then Yeltsin and his aides will have no chance to avoid a debacle at the Duma elections. There is only one chance for them: a state of emergency in Dagestan. But it is an open question whether the power clique in the Kremlin is willing to cling to this straw, since it would only gain a few months more time. On the other hand, there is still time for a final deal. In return for a clean departure from the Kremlin, Yeltsin could negotiate an honorable pension, his apparatchicks could side with his opponents, and his financial advisors could follow their dirty capital to Switzerland. For months, an increasing number of aides has been leaving the sinking ship. Clinton, Schroeder, and co. could intensify this trend by making clear that they do not accept a 'minor war.' Not even in Dagestan."

ITALY: "It Is A Massacre In The Caucasus Already"

Piero Sinatti commented in leading business Il Sole 24Ore (8/15): "The conflict in Dagestan is getting more serious.... Moscow is using its well known threatening voice while also making grotesque proposals, as the one from Interior Minister Zubov who invited Maskhadov to send Chechnyan troops

to Daghestan.... O
ld, inefficient and brutal strategies are coming up
again. With the same arroga
nce in which in December, 1994, Russian
ministers promised to get rid of Dudaev
's separatist militias in two
days.... Putin today promises to close the confl
ict with the 'gangsters'
in two weeks.... Once more, we have a heavy, barely m
obile and inefficient
army sent to fight a very motivated and mobile enemy....
It would be a
farce, if there weren't already dead people and if there were no
t already
6,000 refugees on top of the million or more refugees in the neverend
ing
postSoviet tragedy."

"The Powder Keg In The Caucasus"

Giandomenico Picco commented on the frontpage of proDS (leading
Government par
ty) L'Unita' (8/14): "The economic meaning of the Caucasus,
the clear 'foreign'
interference, the opportunity that the guerrillas offer
to strengthen relation
s among the moderate in power at Gronzny and those in
Dagestan and the fact tha
t Moscow is already in an electoral campaign lead
toward a rather tough Russian
military action in the Caucasus. And this
time with a greater possibility to
succeed than in Chechnya."

BULGARIA: "Yeltsin's Theater Of The Absurd"

Influential weekly Kapital (8/1420) commented: "In the last 18 months
Yeltsin
fired four prime ministers and appointed five. It is very
difficult to prove
that these changes have anything to do

with Russia's national interest. The most egotistical of all changes was
the l
ast one, which lead to the rise to power of the eminence grise and
possible suc
cessor of Yeltsin, the former KGB operative Vladimir Putin, a
rookie in politic
s. He holds a double attraction for Yeltsin. He is a
provincialist with no ch
arm, public image and experience in government to
speak of. Apart from that, a
s a former employee of the secret police, he
possesses connections which could

prove very useful to Yeltsin and his family in the game of accusations, counter accusations, secrets and lies the essence of Moscow's politics these days."

HUNGARY: "New Test Of Russian Military"

Conservative Napi Magyarorszag carried this item by foreign affairs writer Gab or Zord (8/14): In the view of military observers, Russian forces in their current condition are not sufficient for the handling of a lasting partisan war in Dagestan. Although the condition and the insufficient financing of the Russian military is no good omen to Moscow in the spreading Dagestan war, experts air their view that experiences of wars fought under similar conditions in Afghanistan and in Chechnya have already been thoroughly studied in the Kremlin. And, this way, even if a conflict could not have been prevented, the applied military techniques could be modified...in a way that defeats that could be serious and quite humiliating to the Russian leadership, can be prevented at least."

POLAND: "Increasingly Diminished Russia"

Aleksander Kropiwnicki wrote in rightofcenter Zycie (8/1415): "Russia is more dangerous externally than internally. World powers need Russia as a crucial element on the international scene. Besides, Moscow successfully blackmails the world with the threat of proliferation of nuclear technology or the outbreak of a civil war where an aspect of the conflict would be throwing nuclear bombs like invectives. The citizens of the Russian state, however, feel that it is as weak as never before in centuries.... If the [Islamic] rebels managed to seize and maintain a substantial part of Dagestan, it means that Russia can really be pushed out from the Caucasian region."

X' hp x

ASIAN SECURITY: MOST FOCUS ON U.S.CHINA TENSIONS

X' hp x CHINA: "How Dare Lee Tenghui Be So Arrogant?"

A Xinhua commentator said in the official Communist Party People's Daily

Overs

East Edition

(Renmin Ribao Haiwaiban, 8/14): "We solemnly warn those international anti-China

politicians, who scheme to use Lee Tenghui to sabotage

Sino-U.S. relations and

China's reunification, not to underestimate China's

resolve and capability to

safeguard territorial and sovereign integrity.

Otherwise, they will inevitably

bring trouble to themselves."

[Comment: All Chinese newspapers continued their attacks on Lee Tenghui and his

'two nations' concept.]

"Proposal On Taiwan's 'Representation' Condemned"

Xinhua news agency said in the official English-language China Daily

(8/14): "Foreign

Ministry Spokesman Zhu Bangzao said the Chinese government

and people are

strongly indignant at and firmly opposed to the support of

some U.S. Congress

members for Lee Tenghui's 'two states' statement.... U.S.

Congressman Benjamin Gi

lman's actions have grossly interfered in China's

internal affairs and gone aga

inst the U.S. government's commitment of

adherence to the 'one China' policy, Z

hu said.

HONG KONG: "U.S. Is Rude And Unreasonable; Hutchison Is Innocent"

Centrist Hong Kong Daily News wrote in its editorial (8/14): "The majority

lea

der of the Senate, Trent Lott, claimed that Mr. Lee Kashing's Hutchison

Whampoa

is 'an organization under the command of the People's Liberation

Army'. This

allegation is an irresponsible remark. We don't believe that

a business organi

zation like Hutchison Whampoa will deny U.S. ships passage

through the Panama C

anal. Even if it denied the ships, the U.S. with its

strong military power cou

ld easily reopen navigation. Hence, Hutchison

Whampoa does not have the abilit

y to seal up the Panama Canal. Trent

Lott's allegation is unreasonable.... Th

e U.S. views the Panama Canal as a

chunk of meat for its exclusive consumption.

Now, Hutchison Whampoa wants to eat this meat. It will, of course, try its best to stop it.... No matter how innocent Hutchison Whampoa is, the Americans will make an 'unwarranted' charge."

"U.S. Factors In Taiwan Strait Crisis "

Independent Hong Kong Economic Journal had this editorial (8/14): "U.S. factor s may become obstacles for Taiwan and China to reunify. However, the fact is that, due to the U.S., peace has been maintained in the Taiwan Strait for more than ten years and Taiwan has had a chance to develop peacefully. No matter whether the Chinese people in Mainland China or the Chinese people in Taiwan like it or not, if they want to settle the Taiwan issue, they cannot but consider the U.S. attitude."

"U.S. Should Not Add Oil To The Taiwan Strait"

Independent Sing Tao Daily News commented in its editorial (8/16): "Will Beiji ng bow its head under pressure from the U.S.? The answer will be no. Some Americans have underestimated the determination and ability of the Chinese government to safeguard Chinese territory and sovereignty."

AUSTRALIA: "Danger Of Dragon Baiting"

An oped commentary from federal MP and former diplomat Kevin Rudd in the Sydney Morning Herald noted (8/16): "Overall, postMao relations between China and the US have rarely been this bad. This makes for a somewhat problematic environment for the effective management of what could turn into a genuine crisis across the Taiwan Strait by year's end. Fortunately, President Clinton acted decisively after Lee's July 9 statement and phoned the Chinese president to tell him the U.S. oneChina policy had not changed. But the parties are still in the early stages of this confrontation, and the Clinton administration must contend with the Taiwan Relations Act."

PHILIPPINES: "Chinese WouldBe Hegemony"

Max Soliven, publisher of the independent and conservative Philippine Star wrote in his column (8/15): "Perhaps it is useful to us in Asia, already under the shadow of a powerful Chinese wouldbe hegemony, to have Taiwan as...a burr in China's blanket...an irritant and a challenge. Taipei is, by definition, an irritating but deterrent factor in Asia's balance of power."

SINGAPORE: "Slouching Towards War"

Progovernment Straits Times (8/16) had this editorial: "One almost wishes the Cold War had not ended. Fear elicited caution in the Western alliance. The absence of fear has led it to substitute adventurism for statesmanship. The latest example of such adventurism is the agreement between the U.S. and Japan to develop a theater missile defence system (TMD) jointly.... China objects strongly. The U.S. and Japan, it argues, are exploiting the threat of North Korean missiles to develop a shield the main purpose of which is to neutralize Chinese

lances. China has good reasons for its objections. To begin with, TMD is not a defensive but an offensive system.... Just as tanks begat antitank weapons, and airplanes antiaircraft systems, TMD will no doubt spawn antiantimissile strategies. A system meant to provide added security will thus, by the grim logic of arms, instigate a series of countermeasures which will make Asia less, not more, stable. For this reason, regional governments, including ASEAN's, should ask the U.S. and Japan to cease their madness."

THAILAND: "China's Credibility Rests On Taiwan Stand?"

The lead editorial of the independent, Englishlanguage Nation commented (8/16): "Asia's confidence in China's peaceful intention is important. While Asian countries understand and fully support Beijing's OneChina

policy, they have never backed its policy on the use of force against Taiwan.... An Asia that has no confidence in China's intentions, imagined or real, can ignite an arms race once again in the region."

"A Little Restraint In China, Please"

The lead editorial of top circulation, moderately conservative, English language Bangkok Post commented (8/16): "It is time for the Taiwanese to button up...

As for China, if it wants the respect of the world, it should act a little more respectably, and show some respect for the opinions, thoughts and cultures of the rest of the world as well. If China wants to attract Taiwan to its offer of a merger, it should make itself look a little more attractive."

INDIA: "U.S. Left With Little Choice"

Tokyo correspondent F.J. Khergamvala said in the centrist Hindu (8/16): "The U.S. policy to deter any armed conflict between China and Taiwan is one of 'strategic ambiguity.' These words work during peace time, but once the deterrence phase turns to an armed conflict, there will be no ambiguity at all about the U.S. choices. Legally, diplomatically, politically and for commercial reasons there is just one choice forced upon the U.S. An armed intervention to protect and if necessary rescue Taiwan.... Failure to intervene effectively will undermine every single one of the several regional interlocking bilateral military alliances that the U.S. has in the region.... Much as Beijing might object, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979...does override all SinoU.S. communiques. It is U.S. law.... Though this extreme scenario is most unlikely at the moment, the totality of interests gives the U.S. a Hobson's choice."

ITALY: "New Winds Of War In Asia"

Stefano Silvestri commented on the frontpage of leading business Il Sole 24Ore (8/14): "The main role of balancing factor played these days by the

U.S. is to
day much more difficult because more and more interlocutors, with
different int
erests, arrive onstage.... China is still a huge puzzle....
The U.S. cannot h
ave a coherent policy toward the Chinese giant...and the
same is true for too m
any countries in the region.... Asia is too big,
too rich and too important
to be ignored. But it is also too complex to be
dealt with without a common st
rategic vision and a precise choice of
priorities between Europeans and America
ns."
X' hp x
BRIEFS

MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS: BARAK 'LOST GROUND,' U.S. ROLE 'ESSENTIAL'

ISRAEL: "Barak Losing Ground In Washington"

X' hp x
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of l
osing Palestinian confidence, Barak also lost ground among the
Americans, who u
p until two weeks ago were enthusiastic about him.... The
disappointment is evi
dent in all the accounts of Beilin's

meetings in Washington.... Albright suggested that the prime minister
improve
Israel's relations with the U.N., and that he would consider
appearing next mon
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"Arafat Does Not Trust Barak And With Good Reason"

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he carry out the evacuation of scores of
settlements under a permanent agreemen

t.... The record shows that Israel always wants to reopen and renegotiate signed agreements. Barak appears to be following this pattern, complete with new committees and endless rounds of talks. All this indicates that Barak's first FRD is a thing for the distant future. And this explains Arafat's suspicions."

"Syria Feels Let Down"

Analyst Zvi Barel wrote in independent Haaretz (8/15): "Syria expected a few Israeli and American goodwill gestures in return for what it considers its more flexible approach toward Israel.... Syria hoped that the United States would remove its name from the list of terror-supporting states, particularly in the wake of the expulsion of Kurdish rebel leader Adbullah Ocalan from Syria.... If neither Israel nor Syria is willing to make the first move, it would be good to call in a mediator to jumpstart the process. Therefore, Barak's attempt to reduce the role of the United States in the peace process does not make sense."

X` hp x

EGYPT: "Future Of Peace Or Violence And Instability Depends On Israel"

X` hp x

According to an unsigned editorial in progovernment daily Al Ahram (8/16): "It

was good that President Clinton conditioned the success of Secretary Albright's

upcoming visit to the region on Barak's cooperation.... The future of peace

is not about violence and instability depends on Israel, not on Arab countries. The c

urrent dispute is not about the concept of peace or about Israel's right to exi

st. It is now about land which Israel occupies.... The time to face the reality of the peace process has come.

Israel should take the decision of withdrawing from Golan, the West Bank

and southern Lebanon so that the peace process would reach its desired end.

If Israel has not made a decision after all this maneuvering, neither

Albright's tour or any effort to achieve a comprehensive and just peace will succeed."

X` hp x

"U.S. Position On Arms Control Contradictory To Spirit Of Peace Process"

Abdel Azim Hammad, columnist with progovernment daily Al Ahram argued (8/16):

"Strategic balance does not depend only on the arms race. It can be achieved by arms control, which is closer to the spirit of peace. That is why the U.S. position on this issue is strange and contradictory to the spirit of the peace process and with the very American commitments. The United States constantly supplies Israel with advanced weapons without a real strategic need.... The contradiction between the American position and the spirit of peace, which Washington sponsors, is manifest. But the deeper contradiction, which Arabs can exploit, is the contradiction with declared American commitments."

JORDAN: "Federation Or Confederation?"

X' hp x

Columnist Shahadeh Abu Bakr argued on the oped page of centerleft, influential

Arabic daily AlDustur (8/16): "At a time when most still believe that discussing the future relationship between Jordan and Palestine is a sensitive issue, we propose that reinitiating the talk about a

confederation does stem from good intentions and from the need to have some unity between the brotherly peoples.... The most lasting form of unity is a federation, which we call for its implementation in the case of Jordan and an independent Palestinian state by the will of the people and only after the Palestinian State is established.... [A] federation can become the nucleus of a comprehensive Arab federation, the demand and hope of every Arab on...earth."

X' hp x

SAUDI ARABIA: "All Will Work According To Barak's Plan"

X' hp x Londonbased, panArab AlHayat ran this editorial (8/16): "The beginning of September has become an official date for reactivating the peace process.

The arrival of the U.S. secretary of state to the area is regarded as an indication of this. The essential role of the United States is natural, but it has

become known that Washington will work or in other words, will implement the plan worked out by the Israeli prime minister. Arab parties' movement also will be according to what they hear from the Americans. Thus, all will work according to Barak's plan.... The (Arab) role which Israel accepts and which is therefore (accepted) by the United States is that role which puts pressure on the Palestinians to offer concessions and to approve Israel's gains.... It is no longer allowed (for Arabs) to provide collective support for the Palestinian cause. Moreover, this ban has become effective in regard to all other Arab issues."

BRITAIN: "Optimistic Mood About Peace Changing"

On the Middle East, BBC Radio reported (8/16): "In Syria, the optimistic mood about peace in the Middle East is changing. The line in the official media now is that Israel hasn't moved fast enough to start talks about the return of the Golan Heights. The Syrians are ready for peace, but only if they get the Golan back; on that, they are unanimous. President Hafez al-Assad was defense minister when Syria lost the Golan Heights in 1967. That national humiliation of it still burns within Syrians, and it must burn within him too. Getting the Golan back has become a national obsession. Now, after 32 years, they are starting to feel it might just happen."

IOWA STRAW POLL: BUSH MAY BE 'UNSTOPPABLE,' BUT 'DISCONCERTING' SELECTION PROCESS

BRITAIN: "Bush Trail"

The conservative Times editorialized (8/16): "There are only six months left before the real caucus and primary season begins and no contender has yet emerged to give George W. Bush a run for his enormous war chest of money.... Mr. Bush's clear lead...was impressive. It suggests that the governor of Texas has established a broad appeal to mainstream conservatives who now seem more concerned with recapturing the Oval Office

than with ideological purity. If this continues to be the case, countrywide, Mr. Bush could become unstoppable."

"Iowan Straws"

The independent Financial Times ran this editorial (8/16): "Nobody should take the weekend straw poll in Iowa of Republican hopefuls for the U.S. presidency too seriously. It is a thoroughly dubious political exercise in a distinctly unrepresentative state, where candidates pay for their supporters to vote for them, on top of filling them full of food, music and campaign hype. Still, it tells us who has got the cash, the organization and the sheer audacity to make the running in the race. After watching most of the Republican presidential contenders slug it out in Iowa on Saturday evening, American voters will have been left with a clear impression that money talks more eloquently than the average candidate, at least at this early stage."

"A Fistful Of Votes"

In the view of the centrist Independent (8/16): "The lunacy has begun. George W. Bush has won the first real test of the ability of U.S. presidential hopefuls to beg, borrow or buy votes. The candidate who raised the most campaign money came first, the one with the most private worth came second. Less a feast of democracy than a junkfood blowout. Prepare for more spectacular entertainment."

FRANCE: "A Symbolic Poll"

JeanJacques Mevel in rightofcenter Le Figaro commented (8/16): "The Iowa straw poll is one more example of a disconcerting selection process, including for Americans. It could be said that it is a challenge to political common sense... In almost thirty years, the straw poll has never pointed to the future Republic

an candidate, and even less to the next president...It cannot be said that Iowa's straw poll has brought any clear answers."

GERMANY: "A Few Snares Are Still Waiting"

Jeanne Rubner wrote in centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (8/16): "Togeth
er with Elizabeth Dole, who is favored by many women as a candidate for the vic
e presidency and who achieved a respectable result in Iowa, George Walker Bush
has a good chance to move into the White House. This will particularly be the
case if Al Gore is unable to get rid of his image as a boring speaker. Bush's
platform, however, as vague as it is, will certainly meet with response among t
he voters of the center. But the question is what will be more decisive: The
wish to see a new face in the White House or the feeling that the United States
is well off after eight years of a Democratic government?"

"George W. Bush Has Almost Gained The Nomination"

Washington correspondent Peter de Thier filed the following editorial for left
ofcenter Berliner Zeitung (8/16): "For the Republicans, (this straw poll) was a
good advertisement for their own cause. Before a national TV audience, even h
opeless presidential candidates were allowed to attack Bill Clinton, preach fam
ily values, and call for a strong military apparatus. But, in the end, there a
re George Bush Jr., and a handful of candidates who could really jeopardize Bus
h in the near future. But U.S. politics is unforeseeable, and we should not da
re to make any predictions. But George W. Bush enjoys the support of the party'
s rank and file, and, in addition, record sums are flowing into his election ca
mpaign coffers. The result from this straw poll will give him further momentum.
He is practically in the lead and cannot be caught up again."

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

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CREATION DATE/TIME:16-AUG-1999 14:30:50.00

SUBJECT: Daily Digest: COLOMBIAN CRISIS

TO: Melissa M. Murray (CN=Melissa M. Murray/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TEXT:
Recent displays of U.S. interest in the Colombian internal

conflict--highlighted by last week's visit of Under Secretary of State Pickering to Bogota, and Secretary Albright's op-ed piece in The New York Times--fueled editorial commentary in the Latin American press concerning U.S. policy in the region, the possibility of U.S. military intervention, and the regional impact of Colombia's inability to contain the spread of "narco-guerrilla" activity. Pundits in Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela and Cuba agreed that Colombia's instability posed a threat to the region, echoing one Mexican writer's assessment that "various negative phenomena have come together to produce a crisis of great proportions." The majority recognized that Colombia's situation had worsened--had taken on a "regional character"--and that the government alone "cannot win the war against the guerrillas." Most Colombian press welcomed the recent U.S. involvement. They interpreted both the high level mission and the Albright article as evidence that the Clinton administration was now "watching Colombia with more interest than a simple transient one," and were encouraged that the U.S. had given a "balanced" assessment and a "global diagnosis." Meanwhile, the view from Mexico was less complimentary, including accusations that the U.S.' latest interest in Colombia demonstrated its "sporadic, reactive and frequently fragmented" policy toward Latin America, and references to atavistic "Manifest Destiny" designs. In a similar vein, Cuban observers denounced the U.S. for "meddling" in Colombia's internal affairs and "suspiciously" insisting on linking drug traffickers with the guerrillas. The majority of analysts identified the threat of regionalized drug trafficking and organized crime as a "scourge." Noting that the problem has already become a reality for some of its neighbors, a Sao Paulo daily warned, "Brazil runs the risk...of waking up too late in dealing with institutions infected by drug trafficking." Salient themes follow:

SPECULATION ON U.S. INTERVENTION: Despite parallels to the "disturbing example" of Kosovo, another Vietnam and alarmist references to past U.S. forays into Panama, Grenada, Chile and Haiti, most pundits dismissed the notion of an actual U.S. armed intervention in Colombia, but acknowledged the imperative of U.S. support for Colombian armed forces, particularly against the drug traffickers. Several observers predicted a "balkanization" of the conflict, in which no one entity would have complete control. Others saw "preventive diplomacy," enlisting the help of other Latin American countries, as the best scenario.

REGIONAL IMPACT AND RESPONSE: While speculating on active U.S. involvement, observers in Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador also entertained the notion of regional assistance to the Pastrana government. Some admonished that Latin American governments "have done little" to support peace, and further, they lacked agreement on the appropriate form of foreign intervention needed to "pacify the Colombian crisis." Analysts in Ecuador were conflicted over becoming more involved in the U.S.-led fight against "narco-guerrillas"--distressed both about the need to be concerned with "what happens in the neighbor's house," and the spillover effects of the Colombian war, now viewed as a "continental threat" that could "jump borders."

EDITOR: Irene Marr

Editor's Note: This survey is based on 38 reports from 13 countries, August

5-16. The following editorial excerpts are grouped by region; editorials from each country are listed in reverse chronological order.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

COLOMBIA: "Washington's Watching"

Medellin's leading, conservative El Colombiano featured this lead editorial (8/13): "U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's piece clarifies (our) doubts on the way Washington is watching the Colombian conflict, and it clearly shows that President Clinton's administration is watching Colombia with more interest than in a simple transient issue.... We don't believe, as some have insinuated, that Ms. Albright is rejecting (Pastrana's) negotiating model. On the contrary, she supports it, and she does advise on the need for an effective and clear response by the insurgents to government initiatives. It is significant to note the importance Washington is giving to crucial and sensitive issues of its foreign policy such as the relation between narcotics and the war and, on the other hand, the human rights violations issue as a result of the depredations of the conflict... Washington is watching openly and clearly. In this regard the secretary of state has written a direct message and it should be understood as such. Ms. Albright is not in the habit of making useless speeches."

"Thank You Madeleine"

Liberal, leading El Tiempo ran an op-ed piece by former Minister of Interior Fernando Cepeda Ulloa (8/13): "Yes, the United States can and wants to help. Obviously we need to help ourselves first.... To comment on Ms. Albright's piece I would require more space. Today I wish to highlight her generosity which we appreciate, and her message on the need for serious Colombian efforts so the international community knows where to offer its support. Thank-you, Madeleine."

"The Invasion, A Tale"

Cali's leading, conservative El Pais asserted (8/13): "The U.S. invasion of Colombia is nothing but a tale based on unreal facts. It must be understood as such by opinion makers in Colombia, in order to avoid useless distractions which prevent the people of Colombia from focusing on their real problems."

"The Clear Message Of Mrs. Albright"

Liberal, leading El Espectador featured this lead editorial (8/12): "It is not common, in fact it is quite rare--that the secretary of state writes a column to express her opinions about another country.... The article deserves careful reading.... (It) is of particular interest for making U.S. policy clear to an international audience, above all its denial of U.S. plans for unilateral military intervention: The Colombians should resolve their own problems and everyone else should help them.... In general there are many positive points in the article, which should be regarded as a resume of policy set at the highest levels. For the first time, a global diagnosis has been made.... It also recognizes the interdependence of the most serious problems: narcotrafficking, the

guerrillas, the recession, and human rights violations.... The diagnosis is balanced to the point that it refuses to take sides between the guerrillas and the paramilitaries.... It is obvious that the U.S. executive branch has changed its view of Colombia. It maintains...its concern about drug production, but other dangers are noted.... Mrs. Albright, once more has shown unequivocal support for President Pastrana.... Obviously the secretary of state is pursuing political objectives with...this article: She wants to defend herself from Republican criticisms over the lack of results in the fight against narcotics, and shoot down the speculation about armed intervention. In any case, she has raised points which cannot be lightly glossed over."

"The Carrot And The Stick"

Leading national El Tiempo had this lead editorial (8/12): "If any proof were needed of the great concern in the United States about the Colombian situation, it has been provided by the high level mission which met with President Pastrana last Tuesday.... (Neither Albright nor the high level visitors) question Pastrana's will for peace, or the necessity to reach a negotiated solution to the armed conflict, but there exists concern about what are the components...of the government's strategy for peace.... The question which Washington has formulated is the same that many Colombians have been asking since the president set his peace process in motion.... This worrisome episode (between Venezuela and Colombia) is the latest demonstration of the explosive effects of an expanding conflict, which with growing urgency calls for a coherent global strategy. (One which) reflects an international component as well as a domestic socio-economic one...and better coordinates political and military initiatives. Or to put it in Mrs. Albright's terms, one which knows how to use the carrot and the stick."

ARGENTINA: "Worsening Of Colombian Crisis"

An editorial in leading Clarin maintained (8/13): "The worsening of the Colombian domestic war is accompanied by increasing warnings about the danger of a regional spreading of the conflict and of an eventual U.S. involvement in the area. Nevertheless, Latin American foreign ministers have done little to support the peace process. Most of (Latin American) governments...are increasingly concerned and skeptical about President Pastrana's ability to control the situation. Based on that concern and skepticism, the governments disagree about the sort of foreign participation to pacify the Colombian crisis.... To date, the U.S. government is far from admitting the hypothesis of an armed intervention, but that choice has not been ruled out from the horizon, as shown by Colombian opinion surveys. Meanwhile, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said he could meet with the FARC to negotiate. These gestures show the little margin of maneuvering left to the Colombian government...whose peace plan is deadlocked and weakened.... The Colombian situation would merit the implementation of preventive diplomacy formal and informal mechanisms set forth both by Inter-American as well as by intergovernmental institutions. Thus far, the OAS, whose secretary general is a former Colombian president, has not played a relevant role in this crisis which threatens not only the integrity of one of its countries but the whole region's."

"Colombia: Will There Be Intervention?"

According to an opinion piece by Rosendo Fraga in business-financial *Ambito Financiero* (8/13): "The Colombian population shows that it is not easy to implement a military solution of the conflict, like those implemented by the United States in Grenada, Panama and Haiti, through a foreign military intervention. None of the conflicting forces in Colombia is capable of controlling the country and conducting the state in the whole territory.... The most likely Colombian future is a sort of balkanization, in which none of the conflicting forces will be able to handle the whole territory. The possibility of a U.S. open military intervention must be dismissed for the same reasons impeding a land offensive in Kosovo.

"In addition to the drug problem, the United States is concerned about the Panama Canal.... Panama has no army and does not seem capable of keeping Colombian guerrillas away from its own territory. The possibility of an inter-American military intervention could only take place if the conflicting groups come to a certain agreement. In this case, such a force would contribute...to guarantee the fulfillment of the accords, as happened in the Balkans.... But this will not happen in the short run, when perhaps new diplomatic options will appear to renew peace negotiations."

"Where Is Washington Pointing To?"

Oscar Raul Cardoso, leading *Clarín* international analyst, opined (8/12): "Recent U.S. declarations regarding Colombia...are so suggestive that they beg the following question: Is the hemisphere on the verge of a new political and media-oriented campaign aimed at justifying an armed intervention in a country within the region?... Washington did it before and there is no reason for not doing it again. Cases such as Grenada in 1982 and Panama in 1989 cannot be forgotten. In addition, there are two important precedents today which were not present in those earlier cases: the periodic unilateral U.S. military actions against Iraq and the multilateral NATO intervention against Yugoslavia. The development of the Colombian tragedy is looking more like Kosovo as weeks go by. McCaffrey spoke about an 'ominous' regional crisis.... But it is Albright who, with more transparency, carried out the Kosovo model, trying to make it fit into Colombia.... She shares with McCaffrey the 'regional crisis' theory, and, for sure, the key argument regarding the drug threat, but she went even further. Albright...urged the other countries in the region to 'help' Colombia, but gave no details on how this help should be provided. It might be good to bear in mind that...in the case of Colombia, the United States desires a different political and military equation to the one which took place in Kosovo, at least in one sense: If weapons must be used, these should be in hands of Latin American, not U.S. troops."

"U.S. Surveys Region About The Colombian Crisis"

Marina Aizen, New York-based correspondent for leading *Clarín*, wrote (8/11): "Bill Clinton's government focused its attention on the explosive Colombian situation and started to survey the main Latin American countries, including Argentina, in order to analyze the crisis.... The

U.S. mission endorsed Pastrana's efforts to promote a peace dialogue with the FARC, the outcome of which has been meager so far.... However, there is a point of disagreement between the U.S. government and President Pastrana. While Pastrana clearly differentiates guerrillas from drug traffickers, McCaffrey repeatedly stated that both groups are one in the same.... Clinton is being pressured by the 'hawks' from the Republican party in the U.S. Congress, who state that Colombia is almost a drug-state and that it is on its way to becoming another Vietnam, a scenario which will be worsened by the U.S. withdrawal from Panama."

"The U.S. Seeks An Active Regional Role"

Maria O'Donnell, Washington-based correspondent for daily-of-record La Nacion, commented (8/11): "The Clinton administration considers that Latin American countries are not providing enough support to President Pastrana to help him solve the Colombian crisis in his simultaneous struggle against guerrillas and drug-traffickers.... Albright publicly said that 'Colombian guerrillas are bringing instability to the region' and that Latin American countries should play a more active role.'... All the presidents of Colombia's neighboring countries expressed their support to Pastrana for peace negotiations, but...the United States considers this is not enough.... Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the Brazilian president, considers that guerrillas are strictly a Colombian domestic problem. Many fear that the discussion about the regional dimension of the crisis and the view of the FARC as 'drug-guerrillas' (as expressed by McCaffrey) have blurred the line between the U.S. cooperation to fight drug trafficking and...support to Pastrana's military efforts to help control guerrillas.... Assuming that Pastrana is not in a position to pacify Colombia without foreign support, not only must the United States help him, but 'the solution will require a regional cooperation.'"

"A Timely Definition"

According to an editorial in pro-government La Prensa (8/6) "The Colombian president (clearly defined)...the difference between guerrillas and drug-traffickers when he said that it is possible to dialogue with leftist rebels, but there is no and there should not be any kind of understanding with drug-traffickers.... Though late, Pastrana's clarification is useful, because it conveys a clear message within Colombia and beyond its borders, where certain interests--other than desired peace--are at stake. Pastrana says that Colombia is suffering two clearly different wars, one involving drug-trafficking against the country and the entire world, and the other, a confrontation between guerrillas and the present social order. On the narco-guerrillas issue, Pastrana could be making a mistake.... [A]nd he could be making a mistake if he dialogues with a single sector when guerrillas need drug-trafficking for their financial support. But if his suggestion is carried out, then it is easy to suppose that Pastrana will hold talks with the guerrillas while the United States fights against drug-traffickers, or, better said, against drug production. With this

idea, it is hard to forecast whether there will be a solution to the present situation or will it get worse."

"Intervening The Army"

Claudio Uriarte, left-of-center Pagina 12's international analyst, gave this assessment (8/9): "Rather than a U.S. intervention in Colombia, what one witnesses is a U.S. intervention in the Colombian army.... In addition to installing new basis of espionage and acknowledgment of the area, Washington has decided to use the only army it has: the Colombian army. There have been complaints in Colombia... that the country is conveying its sovereignty. The idea is to strengthen the army with new credits and weapons, but it is also necessary to reform it. The reasoning is that if the war in El Salvador could be won with only 55 U.S. advisors..., perhaps something similar may occur in Colombia. But Vietnam also started with only advisors."

BRAZIL: "Suspend U.S. Certification Process"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo's op-ed page held (8/16): "The U.S. policy of attempting to characterize insurgent movements as 'narco-guerrillas,' as well as Washington's warning on 'risks' to the Panama Canal, and the unstable situation in Venezuela are part of a kind of 'area of risk' in northern South America.... If Brazil wants to perform a positive role in the Colombian case, it must be willing to face the U.S. hegemonic policy (not to say 'imperialistic').... The first thing to do is to establish a continental mechanism to deal with the problem, and to remove from the United States the monopoly it has on it [the drug problem]. It is necessary to suspend immediately the U.S. policy of unilateral certification.... An OAS committee might even-mindedly judge the application of anti-drug trafficking policies--including those carried out by the USG, given the fact that 80 percent of the cocaine produced on the continent has as its destination the demand of the U.S. market. At the same time, there is no one important involved in drug trafficking imprisoned in the United States, either because of illegal entry into U.S. territory, or because of money laundering. This shows incompetence and/or collusion by U.S. officials.... If it weren't for the demand for drugs by the world's greatest and richest market, if the USG decided to end such a demand, the problem would be resolved within the very territory of the United States. With its traditional policy of exteriorizing its problems and of demonizing those it considers adversaries, the United States exempts itself from major responsibilities involving worldwide drug production and trafficking, and strengthens even more its political and military domination, by intervening with its troops in other nations."

"A Machiavellian U.S. Strategy"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo (8/15) carried a byliner by Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva: "Everybody in the U.S. government dreams about the possibility of the South American governments taking upon themselves the initiative of helping Colombia to resolve its impasse."

A Machiavellian U.S. strategy would be to give signals that they are ready

to decisively intervene and with this, revive old Brazilian nationalist ghosts of preserving the independence of the Amazon. With this, maybe it would provoke Brazil to enter into action, which would be very convenient."

"U.S. Wants More Political Action From Brazil"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's political analyst Clovis Rossi, on location in Bogota, commented on General Barry McCaffrey's statements asking Brazilian officials for "political involvement" in the Colombian crisis (8/13):

"Since Colombia has an extensive and poorly controlled border with Brazil, through which drug trafficking flows, McCaffrey is expected to ask the Brazilian government officials for more cooperation in anti-drug efforts.... 'Political involvement' may also mean assistance for Colombia to face both the impasse in the peace process with the FARC...and its most serious economic crisis in 70 years. This is how the U.S. theory works: 1) The peace process is a necessary, but not sufficient condition to fight the drug problem. It assumes that by beginning with a peace agreement that the guerrillas will contribute to eradicating coca leaf crops.... Therefore, it is necessary to pull out the peace process from the quagmire it is involved in; 2) Even if they were to reach this point, financial resources would be needed so that peasants substituted coca and poppy with other normal but less profitable crops."

"U.S., Brazil And Narcopolitics,"

A lead editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo contended (8/12): "An action led by high ranking U.S. officials that will transform drug trafficking and the Colombian crisis into a regional matter works. The United States seems it will develop an international intervention strategy to deal with drugs and the guerrillas. One U.S. tactic is to convince Latin American nations that the narco-guerrilla is no longer a Colombian problem.... Even those who rightfully fear such a U.S. offensive cannot ignore that drug trafficking is no longer a police matter; it is a matter of state sovereignty. It is a concrete threat to governability, as U.S. academics and officials like to say.... Brazil should be prepared to deal with this matter on two fronts. One would be the U.S.-led international pressure to act against drug trafficking. The other, the increasing crime element and the indications of drug trafficking presence in Brazilian State institutions.... Brazil runs the serious risk--which is already a reality for some of its neighbors--of waking up too late in dealing with institutions infected by drug trafficking. The [fight against] organized crime, therefore, must become a Brazilian government priority."

"Colombia Cannot Win Alone"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's political analyst Clovis Rossi reported from Bogota (8/12): "The United States is not alone in recognizing that the Colombian crisis has taken on a regional character.... The fact is that Colombia [by itself] cannot win the war against the guerrillas.... This is why the United States, through its Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering, has reiterated its support to the peace process launched by [Colombian] President Andres Pastrana.... As the greatest power in Latin America, Brazil would have to participate actively in any regional scheme, a fact that creates problems for Brazilian diplomacy. To send troops is out of question because there is not an agreement that will

allow the entry of foreign troops, contrary to what happened in Kosovo, for example. [For Brazil] to serve as a mediator in the conflict depends on the FARC's goodwill, which so far has not given any sign that they would approve foreign action. Considering all this, both the U.S. and Colombia's neighboring nations will have to wait for Pastrana's next step."

"Regionalization Of The Colombian Question"

Clovis Rossi, liberal Folha de S. Paulo's political analyst, gave this account from Bogota (8/11): "The presence of Randy Beers, assistant secretary of state...in the U.S. delegation currently visiting Bogota, only increases speculation about a direct intervention.... The United States may become involved--and it is already doing so--in the fight against drugs, but it cannot act against the guerrillas. Unless of course, the armed movement becomes once and for all characterized as a 'narco-guerrilla,' according to the phrase used by General Barry McCaffrey.... If, as Beers says, the FARC have entered direct drug trafficking, exporting drugs to Brazil and Venezuela, there will not be a lack of reasons for a foreign intervention. But it is highly unlikely that the United States wants to commit troops in Colombia the same way it did in Vietnam.... Beers' mention of Brazil seems also an enigmatic invitation to what the United States has called 'regionalization' of the Colombian question, however, without precisely defining what it means. Since McCaffrey will be in Brazil on the 24th, it is possible that he will explain better what type of 'regionalization' Washington has in mind: whether an involvement of other nations in the conflict, or their participation in a peace process formally supported by the United States."

"Fire On the Northern Border"

Clovis Rossi, liberal Folha de S. Paulo's political analyst reporting from Bogota, had this editorial (8/11): "Brazil's Amazon frontier is on fire, but Brazilians, including officials, are not paying the necessary importance to the fact. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is revolutionizing political habits and procedures without giving any positive or negative connotation to the concept of revolution... In Ecuador...a president was impeached, his replacement was arrested after leaving the post, and the current one is as unpopular as [Brazilian] President Cardoso. In Colombia there is a war that occasionally spills over into Brazil. A few months ago, Colombian military invaded Brazil without permission to mount an operation to recover a town from the control of FARC guerrillas.... Now Randy Beers...says the FARC is exporting cocaine to Brazil. It may be just a way of trying to involve Brazil in the Colombian question.... Considering the size of the imbroglio, all suspicions that the United States is preparing to carry out a more active intervention in South America, which Brazil claims as its area of influence, seems to make sense.... No one should then complain if the United States decides to take advantage of the situation to stick its feet in the Amazon region."

"The U.S. Demands An Active Regional Role"

Maria O'Donnell, Washington-based correspondent for daily-of-record La Nacion, commented (8/11): "The Clinton administration considers that Latin American countries are not providing enough support to President Pastrana to help him solve the Colombian crisis in his simultaneous struggle against guerrillas and drug-traffickers.... (US Secretary of State) Albright publicly said that 'Colombian guerrillas are bringing instability to the region' and that Latin American countries should play a more active role...since 'all of them would benefit from a solution.'... All the presidents of Colombia's neighboring countries expressed their support to Pastrana in peace negotiations, but...the United States considers this is not enough.... Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the Brazilian president, considers that guerrillas are a Colombian domestic problem. Many fear that the speech about the crisis' regional involvement and the treatment of FARC as 'drug-guerrillas'...have blurred the limit between the U.S. cooperation to fight drug trafficking and...support to Pastrana's military efforts to put guerrillas under control."

"A Worldwide Problem"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo's lead editorial asserted (8/9): "In view of the armed conflict in Colombia...a semantic trap seems to upset the understanding that sooner or later the international community will be called on to perform a military role in that nation.

"The trap consists of using the word 'intervention' to define an eventual act of this nature--which suggests the willingness to carry out armed actions in the territory of a sovereign nation.... At the request of its own government, the objective in Colombia would be to rescue a nation state experiencing an advanced stage of disintegration by the combined effects of the guerrillas...and the almighty drug cartels...with which the terrorists live in a symbiosis that is the secret of their power and longevity.... The truth is that in the Colombian situation there is no alternative to a military victory.... And Colombia's legitimate government will not have the means to get a military victory over the guerrillas if it does not resort to...help from the international community.... The U.S. help to fight drug trafficking already involves logistical support to the Colombian armed forces, and such support tends to evolve towards joint action by Latin American nations. The international community must...help Colombia because drug trafficking, linked with insurgency, is a worldwide problem."

"Between Drug Trafficking And The Guerrillas"

An editorial in independent Jornal da Tarde remarked (8/7): "The expectation of a U.S. direct intervention overshadows the Colombian situation. President Clinton's recent statements refer to his administration's 'vital interests' being at stake in Colombia.... The preceding military interventions in Kosovo, in Panama and Grenada, which were carried out under diverse pretexts of doubtful legitimacy, are still alive in everyone's mind. The involvement of U.S. combat troops is an initiative to be avoided, since such a possibility would jeopardize Colombian sovereignty, and the line between repression of drug trafficking and participation of foreign troops in the fight against the guerrillas, would be very difficult to establish. Even though based on the best

intentions, such action would be a frightening precedent for Latin America."

"The General's Strategy Is To Play Tough"

Commenting on Gen. McCaffrey's speech before Congress, liberal Folha de S. Paulo's stressed (8/7): "Colombia is fighting what could be its most important war--against drugs. General McCaffrey knows that he will not be considered victorious if he doesn't reduce the importation of cocaine from South America to the United States.... McCaffrey's power in the White House...seems unshakable. But to continue in his job in 2001 or to leave it with honor and go to a job in the private sector, McCaffrey considers it indispensable to be successful in Colombia. A Vietnam and Gulf War hero, famous for his acts of bravery, McCaffrey doesn't feel intimidated by challenges."

"Colonel Chavez, Venezuela's Strongman"

An editorial in center-right O Estado de S. Paulo (8/7) said that Colonel Hugo Chavez "has become Venezuela's strongman thanks to electoral votes but also to the complete failure of the traditional political parties. One cannot have any illusion vis-a-vis Chavez's authoritarian trend.... Chavez's 'Bolivarian project' is a capricious and personal power project. Venezuela's strongman is using the weaknesses of a democratic regime strongly affected by years of economic crisis and corruption, to create a 'democracy of results.'... Colonel Chavez's 'Bolivarian project' follows the classic model of assaults against democracy by means of the vote of which Hitler's Germany, a drastic extreme, and Fujimori's Peru, a less radical version, are typical examples."

MEXICO: "U.S. Denials Hardly Convincing"

Left-leaning La Jornada commented (8/14): "U.S. denials of a possible invasion of Colombia have been hardly convincing and scarcely soothing.... The warring factions in Colombia and Venezuela should to cast aside intransigent, authoritarian and belligerent attitudes and respond to the aspirations and expectations of their compatriots."

"Pentagon Only Guided By Manifest Destiny"

Left-leaning La Jornada opined (8/15): "Since in the past, the U.S. supported Chiang Kai Chek, whose generals got their financing from opium, the Kieu government in South Vietnam (similarly linked to drug trafficking) Irangate, and the sales of drugs in the United States to finance the Nicaraguan contras, one can deduce that the Pentagon doesn't necessarily guide itself by public health concerns or moral reasons but, more prosaically, by geopolitics and the theory of Manifest Destiny.... So it would behoove Latin American authorities and societies to openly oppose all attempt (by the U.S.) to interfere in Colombia."

"Colombia In Crisis"

An op-ed piece in left-of-center La Jornada (8/11), examining the various

internal reasons for the growing instability in Colombia and its effect on the country's neighbors, maintained: "In the present political, economic and social situation in Colombia, various negative phenomena have come

together to produce a crisis of great proportions. This could destabilize not only Colombia but its Andean neighbors. And, it's in this context that Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering's visit occurs. The U.S. representative arrived last night with a calming message in which he discarded any notion that the United States had plans to intervene in Colombia either unilaterally or multilaterally. But, given simple historical reflection, his words generated suspicion in Latin American opinion. Whatever the Washington proposal toward Colombia is, the visit should make clear to Latin American governments the necessity that they offer to Colombia their solidarity and help."

"Clinton Directing Sight To Own Back Yard"

Local journalist/commentator Luca Luna Elek wrote in Guadalajara's independent *Publico* (8/7): "In foreign political affairs, the government and media focus have shown coincidence.... More than a few times, the U.S. press has acted as the detonator of a conflict or to create a climate favorable to interference by its government, as was proven in Latin America with Chile in 1973 and Panama in 1989.... It seems Clinton is directing his sight to his own back yard, and very specifically to Colombia and Venezuela. Though different cases, in both countries the necessary ingredients are mixed so that the U.S. government can justify its concern for what is going on there.... The official discourse is still about combating narcotrafficking. But Barry McCaffrey has already declared that 'the key in the struggle is to take the leftist guerrillas out' of the growing areas.... In Colombia...he underlined that it is a 'humanitarian tragedy of great proportions on our own continent.' Does that sound familiar?

"In Venezuela...the media bombardment is on.... Aside from his 'coup' antecedents, Chavez is a pretty popular and rude guy, with black blood and florid language, acting like an enlightened 'caudillo.'... All features figuring in the discriminatory prejudices of the First World middle classes and in their governing elites. This is not far from the handling of Noriega's image, which ended with the invasion of Panama."

"The Sowing Of Colombia"

Ivan Restrepo in left-of-center, nationalistic *Jornada* wrote (8/9): "After several years of fighting the power of drug trafficking, the formula used by the two responsible parties (producer and consumer...) is not having the expected results. Barry McCaffrey saw this himself in his recent visit to South America. [T]he president of the Farmers Association of Colombia, said that the producing countries spent important amounts of their small budgets to fight the sowing of drugs while consumer countries cannot even control the contraband of merchandise, weapons and chemical products used to process cocaine and heroine. He added he does not understand how a peasant who sows cocaine to survive can be accused of being the executioner of a New York executive who takes cocaine."

"The Attention Of The U.S. To Latin America, Sporadic"

According to an op-ed piece in independent Universal (8/8): "The problems in Colombia have provoked speculation about the possible intervention of the United States, but they have also highlighted the lack of a U.S. policy toward Latin America. The attention toward Latin America has been sporadic, reactive and frequently fragmented. In this context, the Colombian problem is typical. It could be said that each sector of the U.S. government has its own vision of what the policy toward Colombia should be. The growing urgency of the problems has made the sector represented by anti-narcotics 'czar' McCaffrey the prevailing one--although there is no real agreement. McCaffrey proposes political, military, police and economic regional cooperation to confront the aggravating deadlock of the civilian conflict in Colombia and its tragic companion, drug trafficking."

ECUADOR: "Colombia: Everybody's War?"

In leading centrist El Comercio's opinion column (8/11), commentator Xavier Lasso asserted: "Colombia...continues to endure an escalation of the conflict which until now has resulted in more than a million and a half domestic refugees. The poor peasants who abandon their lands--which are snatched by drug traffickers or guerrilla members--end up living with their families in miserable camps, without jobs, without dignity, without income--everything in an effort to escape from the brutality of the bloody forces. The fight is among regular Armed Forces, those of the formal state, who cannot show credentials for respect for human rights either, those of FARC, ELN, and the most brutal ones from the rightist paramilitary. Colombia, a country so close to us, with gentle, entrepreneurial, loquacious people has burned up in one year with President Pastrana's peace efforts. His war is now a continental matter.

"The United States has sent some signals such as the tour of the anti drug 'czar' from the White House, Barry McCaffrey, as if it were studying the possibility of an invasion. Such a war would drag us into it.... Colombia is our neighbor, those displaced would cross the border; they will be desperate. Nobody can guarantee that the members of the four armies would not make our territory the base for their operations and that is why we are on alert, with a good number of military positioned in border areas."

"Armed Forces And Narco-Guerrillas"

Quito's left-sensationalist La Hora ran this lead editorial (8/11): "The conflict among FARC, ELN, paramilitary and common criminals is so big and complex that it has undermined the foundations of Colombia on so many levels but mainly in the fields of human rights, industry and agriculture. It has become a cruel and inhuman war where the concept of life has lost its value. Many peasants and innocent people, who have nothing to do with the conflict, are mercilessly killed. Now we are living the internationalization of the war. For the Americans this is an issue for democracy and hemispheric security, in which the armies from neighboring countries--including ours--might get involved with unspeakable consequences."

"Colombia: A Sad Balance"

Leading, centrist El Comercio editorialized (8/8): "A year later, the scene is distressing. No effective steps have been taken and President Pastrana is suffering the disdain of those who only twelve months ago were applauding him, sharing his faith and confidence. The guerrillas are not only a problem for Colombia, but a continental threat. The search for peace is tarnished by the fear that the true objective of subversion would be to seize the whole country. Moreover, Colombia--the country that continues functioning despite deaths and kidnappings--is showing signs of economic difficulties. That is serious for the Colombians and causes concern in Ecuador. We cannot lose sight of what happens in the neighbor's house. Such concerns have jumped borders.

"President Pastrana continues to be confident in his plan and willing to keep the peace flag waving high. And not only Colombia is watching. The president and the country have the world's attention."

"Danger In The Northern Border"

Cuenca's center-right El Tiempo's (8/5) main editorial read: "Although the minister of defense has denied the reports...that Ecuador would get involved in the Colombian civil war taking place among its armed forces--the ELN and FARC guerrillas and the so-called paramilitary--the possibility has stirred concern in the national media because Ecuador shares an extensive border with Colombia.... If the Manta base is going to be used to fight drug traffickers and if no one can tell drug traffickers from guerrilla members, the risk to involve Ecuador in the Colombian civil war is real and, regrettably, a short-term one. The worst that could happen to us would be to be indifferent to a war that is literally banging on our own doors; one that would cost Ecuadorian lives and bring destruction if it spreads in any way into our country. Let's support peace in Colombia."

CUBA: "A Ghost Haunts Colombia"

Party-line columnist Joaquin Rivery commented in Communist Party Granma (8/10): "Let's make something clear. The only way that the United States can stay involved in the Colombian conflict is by meddling in Colombia's internal affairs, (leading to) a possible decision by Washington to intervene militarily.... However, there is a significant difference in points of view between Colombian President Andres Pastrana and the United States, because while the president insists that the guerrillas have nothing to do with drug trafficking, Washington continues accusing the rebel forces of acting in collusion with the illegal drug dealers, evidently with the goal of finding a pretext to open up the possibility of intervention, under cover of the subject of drugs, which are very controversial and roundly condemned. It is evident that the phantom of foreign intervention hovers over Colombia, and the threat must be denounced, and followed very closely."

"Help That Kills"

Party-line columnist Marina Menendez Quintero offered this commentary in Communist Youth League Juventud Rebelde (8/7): "Drug trafficking was the weapon that the United States used against former Colombian President Ernesto Samper, and it may also be the means used to destroy the reputation of his successor, Andres Pastrana, whose popularity has dropped these days to the lowest level of any Colombian leader in recent years. The support that Washington says that it wants to give to Colombia in order to fight that scourge, and its insistence on linking the drug dealers with the guerrillas, does nothing but hinder the peace making attempts of the president and, far from helping him, seems to add pressure. Meanwhile, any real negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas are being delayed by the lack of agreement on the details for the process of implementation. Only now there is an official policy--with the disturbing example left for the world by the case of Yugoslavia, where they inaugurated a new style of war and interference that is still being practiced in that Balkan country: "humanitarian" intervention, which can be justified through denunciations of ethnic massacres, or, equally, through confrontations with guerrilla groups that are supposedly linked--as Washington suspiciously insists--with drug money."

VENEZUELA: "On The Razor's Edge"

An editorial in influential, left-of-center El Nacional (8/11) asserted: "The Colombian question does not stop at its frontiers. President Chavez last Monday said something which was not unnoticed in Colombia: He expressed his willingness to dialogue with FARC, directly, because of sovereignty.

"Prime Minister Fernandez de Soto responded that the president 'was sovereign in Venezuela, but not in Colombia.'... The communications between Bogota and Caracas seem to have lost the necessary fluidity and daily [aspects], in moments when dialogue and diplomatic interchange require greater dynamism and consideration.... When Under Secretary Pickering talks with President Chavez, the agenda will revolve around regional problems. The situation is complicated and becomes more complicated every day, in a manner so sensitive that we can be at the cusp of unforeseen events. Prime Minister Fernandez de Soto asked that citizens divest themselves of the idea of an American intervention in Colombia. It is a good counsel to be calm. Nevertheless, reality offers too many adverse signs: the people do not hide their fatigue. The region is on the point of a razor. Never before has so much discretion and good judgement been required."

EUROPE

ITALY: "Colombia In Crisis, The Government Fails"

Rocco Cotroneo maintained in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera (8/13): "In Washington they swear that Colombia will not be the next Kosovo, and, even less will it become a Latin Vietnam.... For days, rumors and denials are following one another in Bogota. U.S. Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering...has stated to be a 'mad hypothesis' any direct military intervention.... However, at the same time, Madeleine Albright has used a formula that, in the American diplomatic language, has often

anticipated cannon thunders: 'The Colombian crisis is expanding beyond the country's border and holds implications for the security and stability in the region.' The situation is already a half defeat for Washington. Despite 289 million dollars spent...against drug trafficking...Colombia has become the main producer of cocaine in the world and the principal supplier of the United States.... On the political-military front, it is even worse. The truce...between President Andres Pastrana and FARC has turned out to be a hoax."

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COLOMBIAN CRISIS: U.S. TAKES A MORE 'SERIOUS' INTEREST

X' hp x (#Recent displays of U.S. interest in the Colombian internal conflict

highlighted by last week's visit of Under Secretary of State Pickering to Bogota

, and Secretary Albright's oped piece in The New York Timesfueled editorial com

mentary in the Latin American press concerning

U.S. policy in the region, the p

ossibility of U.S. military intervention, and

the regional impact of Colombia's

inability to contain the spread of

"narcoguerrilla" activity. Pundits in Colo

mbia, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil,

Ecuador, Venezuela and Cuba agreed that Colomb

ia's instability posed a threat

to the region, echoing one Mexican writer's assessment that "various negative phenomena have come together to produce a crisis of great proportions." The majority recognized that Colombia's situation had worsened had taken on a "regional character" and that the government alone "cannot win the war against the guerrillas." Most Colombian press welcomed the recent U.S. involvement. They interpreted both the high level mission and the Albright article as evidence that the Clinton administration was now "watching Colombia with more interest than a simple transient one," and were encouraged that the U.S. had given a "balanced" assessment and a "global diagnosis." Meanwhile, the view from Mexico was less complimentary, including accusations that the U.S.' latest interest in Colombia demonstrated its "sporadic, reactive and frequently fragmented" policy toward Latin America, and references to atavistic "Manifest Destiny" designs. In a similar vein, Cuban observers denounced the U.S. for "meddling" in Colombia's internal affairs and "suspiciously" insisting on linking drug traffickers with the guerrillas. The majority of analysts identified the threat of regionalized drug trafficking and organized crime as a "scourge." Noting that the problem has already become a reality for some of its neighbors, a Sao Paulo daily warned, "Brazil runs the risk...of waking up too late in dealing with institutions infected by drug trafficking." Salient themes follow:

SPECULATION ON U.S. INTERVENTION: Despite parallels to the "disturbing example" of Kosovo, another Vietnam and alarmist references to past U.S. forays into Panama, Grenada, Chile and Haiti, most pundits dismissed the notion of an actual U.S. armed intervention in Colombia, but acknowledged the imperative of U.S. support for Colombian armed forces, particularly against the drug traffickers. Several observers predicted a "balkanization" of the conflict, in which no one entity would have complete control. Others saw "preventive diplomacy," enlis

ting the help of other Latin American countries,
as the best scenario.

REGIONAL IMPACT AND RESPONSE: While speculating on active U.S. involvement,
observers in Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador also entertained the notion of
regional assistance to the Pastrana government. Some admonished that Latin
American governments "have done little" to support peace, and further, they
lacked agreement on the appropriate form of foreign intervention needed to
"pacify the Colombian crisis." Analysts in Ecuador were conflicted over
becoming more involved in the U.S.-led fight against
"narcoguerrillas" distressed both about the need to
be concerned with "what happens in the neighbor's house," and the spillover effects
of the Colombian war, now viewed as a "continental threat" that could "jump
borders."

EDITOR: Irene Marr

Editor's Note: This survey is based on 38 reports from 13 countries, August
1996.
The following editorial excerpts are grouped by region; editorials
from each country are listed in reverse chronological order.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

COLOMBIA: "Washington's Watching"

Medellin's leading, conservative El Colombiano featured this lead editorial
(8/13): "U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's piece clarifies (our)
doubts on the way Washington is watching the Colombian conflict, and it
clearly shows that President Clinton's administration is watching Colombia
with more interest than in a simple transient issue.... We don't believe, as
some have insinuated, that Ms. Albright is rejecting (Pastrana's) negotiating
model. On the contrary, she supports it, and she does advise on the need for
an effective and clear response by the insurgents to government initiatives.
It is significant to note the importance Washington is giving to crucial and
sensitive issues of its foreign policy such as the relation between narcotics

and the war and, on the other hand, the human rights violations issue as a result of the depredations of the conflict... Washington is watching openly and clearly. In this regard the secretary of state has written a direct message and it should be understood as such. Ms. Albright is not in the habit of making useless speeches."

"Thank You Madeleine"

Liberal, leading El Tiempo ran an oped piece by former Minister of Interior Fernando Cepeda Ulloa (8/13): "Yes, the United States can and wants to help. Obviously we need to help ourselves first.... To comment on Ms. Albright's piece I would require more space. Today I wish to highlight her generosity which we appreciate, and her message on the need for serious Colombian efforts so the international community knows where to offer its support. Thankyou, Madeleine."

"The Invasion, A Tale"

Cali's leading, conservative El Pais asserted (8/13): "The U.S. invasion of Colombia is nothing but a tale based on unreal facts. It must be understood as such by opinion makers in Colombia, in order to avoid useless distractions which prevent the people of Colombia from focusing on their real problems."

"The Clear Message Of Mrs. Albright"

Liberal, leading El Espectador featured this lead editorial (8/12): "It is not common, in fact it is quite rare that the secretary of state writes a column to express her opinions about another country.... The article deserves careful reading.... (It) is of particular interest for making U.S. policy clear to an international audience, above all its denial of U.S. plans for unilateral military intervention: The Colombians should resolve their own problems and everyone else should help them.... In general there are many positive points in the article, which should be regarded as a resume of policy set at the highest levels. For the first time, a global diagnosis has

been made.... It also recognizes the interdependence of the most serious problems: narcotrafficking, the guerrillas, the recession, and human rights violations.... The diagnosis is balanced to the point that it refuses to take sides between the guerrillas and the paramilitaries.... It is obvious that the U.S. executive branch has changed its view of Colombia. It maintains...its concern about drug production, but other dangers are noted.... Mrs. Albright, once more has shown unequivocal support for President Pastrana.... Obviously the secretary of state is pursuing political objectives with...this article: She wants to defend herself from Republican criticisms over the lack of results in the fight against narcotics, and shoot down the speculation about armed intervention. In any case, she has raised points which cannot be lightly glossed over."

"The Carrot And The Stick"

Leading national El Tiempo had this lead editorial (8/12): "If any proof were needed of the great concern in the United States about the Colombian situation, it has been provided by the high level mission which met with President Pastrana last Tuesday.... (Neither Albright nor the high level visitors) question Pastrana's will for peace, or the necessity to reach a negotiated solution to the armed conflict, but there exists concern about what are the components...of the government's strategy for peace.... The question which Washington has formulated is the same that many Colombians have been asking since the president set his peace process in motion.... This worrisome episode (between Venezuela and Colombia) is the latest demonstration of the explosive effects of an expanding conflict, which with growing urgency calls for a coherent global strategy. (One which) reflects an international component as well as a domestic socioeconomic one...and better coordinates political and military initiatives. Or to put it in Mrs. Albright's terms, one which knows how to use the carrot and the stick."

ARGENTINA: "Worsening Of Colombian Crisis"

An editorial in leading Clarin maintained (8/13): "The worsening of the Colombian domestic war is accompanied by increasing warnings about the danger of a regional spreading of the conflict and of an eventual U.S. involvement in the area . Nevertheless, Latin American foreign ministers have done little to support the peace process. Most of (Latin American) governments...are increasingly concerned and skeptical about President Pastrana's ability to control the situation . Based on that concern and skepticism, the governments disagree about the sort of foreign participation to pacify the Colombian crisis.... To date, the U.S. government is far from admitting the hypothesis of an armed intervention, but that choice has not been ruled out from the horizon, as shown by Colombian opinion surveys. Meanwhile, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said he could meet with the FARC to negotiate. These gestures show the little margin of maneuvering left to the Colombian government...whose peace plan is deadlocked and weakened. ... The Colombian situation would merit the implementation of preventive diplomacy formal and informal mechanisms set forth both by InterAmerican as well as by intergovernmental institutions. Thus far, the OAS, whose secretary general is a former Colombian president, has not played a relevant role in this crisis which threatens not only the integrity of one of its countries but the whole region's."

"Colombia: Will There Be Intervention?"

According to an opinion piece by Rosendo Fraga in businessfinancial Ambito Financiero (8/13): "The Colombian population shows that it is not easy to implement a military solution of the conflict, like those implemented by the United States in Grenada, Panama and Haiti, through a foreign military intervention. None of the conflicting forces in Colombia is capable of controlling the country and

d conducting the state in the whole territory....
The most likely Colombian future is a sort of balkanization, in which none of the conflicting forces will be able to handle the whole territory. The possibility of a U.S. open military intervention must be dismissed for the same reasons impeding a land offensive in Kosovo.

"In addition to the drug problem, the United States is concerned about the Panama Canal.... Panama has no army and does not seem capable of keeping Colombian guerrillas away from its own territory. The possibility of an interAmerican military intervention could only take place if the conflicting groups come to a certain agreement. In this case, such a force would contribute...to guarantee the fulfillment of the accords, as happened in the Balkans.... But this will not happen in the short run, when perhaps new diplomatic options will appear to new peace negotiations."

"Where Is Washington Pointing To?"

X` hp x (#

Oscar Raul Cardoso, leading Clarin international analyst, opined (8/12):

"Recent U.S. declarations regarding Colombia...are so suggestive that they beg the following question: Is the hemisphere on the verge of a new political and media-oriented campaign aimed at justifying an armed intervention in a country within the region?... Washington did it before and there is no reason for not doing it again. Cases such as Grenada in 1982 and Panama in 1989 cannot be forgotten.

In addition, there are two important precedents today which were not present in those earlier cases: the periodic unilateral U.S. military actions against Iraq and the multilateral NATO intervention against Yugoslavia. The development of the Colombian tragedy is looking more like Kosovo as weeks go by. McCaffrey spoke about an 'ominous' regional crisis.... But it is Albright who, with more transparency, carried out the

Kosovo model, trying to make it fit into Colombia.... She shares with McCaffrey the 'regional crisis' theory, and, for sure, the key argument regarding the drug threat, but she went even further. Albright...urged the other countries in the region to 'help' Colombia, but gave no details on how this help should be provided. It might be good to bear in mind that...in the case of Colombia, the United States desires a different political and military equation to the one which took place in Kosovo, at least in one sense: If weapons must be used, these should be in hands of Latin American, not U.S. troops."

X hp x (#

"U.S. Surveys Region About The Colombian Crisis"

Marina Aizen, New York-based correspondent for leading Clarin, wrote (8/11):

"Bill Clinton's government focused its attention on the explosive Colombian situation and started to survey the main Latin American countries, including Argentina, in order to analyze the crisis.... The U.S. mission endorsed Pastrana's efforts to promote a peace dialogue with the FARC, the outcome of which has been meager so far.... However, there is a point of disagreement between the U.S. government and President Pastrana. While Pastrana clearly differentiates guerrillas from drug traffickers, McCaffrey repeatedly stated that both groups are on the same.... Clinton is being pressured by the 'hawks' from the Republican party in the U.S. Congress, who state that Colombia is almost a drug state and that it is on its way to becoming another Vietnam, a scenario which will be worsened by the U.S. withdrawal from Panama."

"The U.S. Seeks An Active Regional Role"

Maria O'Donnell, Washington-based correspondent for dailyofrecord La Nacion, commented (8/11): "The Clinton administration considers that Latin American countries are not providing enough support to President Pastrana to help him solve the Colombian crisis in his simultaneous struggle against

guerrillas and drugtraf
 fickers.... Albright publicly said that 'Colombian
 guerrillas are bringing in
 stability to the region' and that Latin American
 countries should play a more a
 ctive role.'... All the presidents of
 Colombia's neighboring countries express
 ed their support to Pastrana for
 peace negotiations, but...the United States co
 nsiders this is not enough....
 Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the Brazilian presid
 ent, considers that guerrillas
 are strictly a Colombian domestic problem. Many
 fear that the discussion
 about the regional dimension of the crisis and the vi
 ew of the FARC as
 'drugguerrillas' (as expressed by McCaffrey) have blurred the
 line between
 the U.S. cooperation to fight drug trafficking and...support to P
 astrana's
 military efforts to help control guerrillas.... Assuming that Pastra
 na is
 not in a position to pacify Colombia without foreign support, not only mu
 st
 the United States help him, but 'the solution will require a regional
 cooper
 ation.'"

"A Timely Definition"

According to an editorial in progovernment La Prensa (8/6) "The Colombian
 pres
 ident (clearly defined)...the difference between guerrillas and
 drugtraffickers
 when he said that it is possible to dialogue with leftist
 rebels, but there is
 no and there should not be any kind of understanding
 with drugtraffickers....
 Though late, Pastrana's clarification is useful,
 because it conveys a clear mes
 sage within Colombia and beyond its borders,
 where certain interestsother than
 desired peaceare at stake. Pastrana
 says that Colombia is suffering two clearl
 y different wars, one involving
 drugtrafficking against the country and the ent
 ire world, and the other, a
 confrontation between guerrillas and the present so

cial order. On the narcoguerrillas issue, Pastrana could be making a mistake... . [A]nd he could be making a mistake if he dialogues with a single sector when guerrillas need drugtrafficking for their financial support. But if his suggestion is carried out, then it is easy to suppose that Pastrana will hold talks with the guerrillas while the United States fights against drugtraffickers, or, better said, against drug production. With this idea, it is hard to forecast whether there will be a solution to the present situation or will it get worse."

"Intervening The Army"

Claudio Uriarte, leftofcenter Pagina 12's international analyst, gave this assessment (8/9): "Rather than a U.S. intervention in Colombia, what one witnesses is a U.S. intervention in the Colombian army.... In addition to installing new basis of espionage and acknowledgment of the area, Washington has decided to use the only army it has: the Colombian army. There have been complaints in Colombia... that the country is conveying its sovereignty. The idea is to strengthen the army with new credits and weapons, but it is also necessary to reform it . The reasoning is that if the war in El Salvador could be won with only 55 U.S. advisors..., perhaps something similar may occur in Colombia. But Vietnam also started with only advisors."

BRAZIL: "Suspend U.S. Certification Process"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo's oped page held (8/16): "The U.S. policy of attempting to characterize insurgent movements as 'narcoguerrillas,' as well as Washington's warning on 'risks' to the Panama Canal, and the unstable situation in Venezuela are part of a kind of 'area of risk' in northern South America.... If Brazil wants to perform a positive role in the Colombian case, it must be willing to face the U.S. hegemonic policy (not to say 'imperialistic').... The first thing to do is to establish a continental mechanism to deal with the problem."

m, and to remove from the United States the monopoly it has on it [the drug problem]. It is necessary to suspend immediately the U.S. policy of unilateral certification.... An OAS committee might evenmindedly judge the application of antidrug trafficking policiesincluding those carried out by the USG, given the fact that 80 percent of the cocaine produced on the continent has as its destination the demand of the U.S. market. At the same time, there is no one important involved in drug trafficking imprisoned in the United States, either because of illegal entry into U.S. territory, or because of money laundering. This shows incompetence and/or collusion by U.S. officials.... If it weren't for the demand for drugs by the world's greatest and richest market, if the USG decided to end such a demand, the problem would be resolved within the very territory of the United States. With its traditional policy of exteriorizing its problems and of demonizing those it considers adversaries, the United States exempts itself from major responsibilities involving worldwide drug production and trafficking, and strengthens even more its political and military domination, by intervening with its troops in other nations."

"A Machiavellian U.S. Strategy"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo (8/15) carried a byliner by Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva: "Everybody in the U.S. government dreams about the possibility of the South American governments taking upon themselves the initiative of helping Colombia to resolve its impasse."

A Machiavellian U.S. strategy would be to give signals that they are ready to decisively intervene and with this, revive old Brazilian nationalist ghosts of preserving the independence of the Amazon. With this, maybe it would provoke Brazil to enter into action, which would be very convenient."

"U.S. Wants More Political Action From Brazil"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's political analyst Clovis Rossi, on location in Bogota, commented on General Barry McCaffrey's statements asking Brazilian officials for "political involvement" in the Colombian crisis (8/13): "Since Colombia has an extensive and poorly controlled border with Brazil, through which drug trafficking flows, McCaffrey is expected to ask the Brazilian government officials for more cooperation in antidrug efforts.... 'Political involvement' may also mean assistance for Colombia to face both the impasse in the peace process with the FARC...and its most serious economic crisis in 70 years. This is how the U.S. theory works: 1) The peace process is a necessary, but not sufficient condition to fight the drug problem. It assumes that by beginning with a peace agreement that the guerrillas will contribute to eradicating coca leaf crops... Therefore, it is necessary to pull out the peace process from the quagmire in which it is involved; 2) Even if they were to reach this point, financial resources would be needed so that peasants substituted coca and poppy with other normal but less profitable crops."

"U.S., Brazil And Narcopolitics,"

A lead editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo contended (8/12): "An action led by high ranking U.S. officials that will transform drug trafficking and the Colombian crisis into a regional matter works. The United States seems it will develop an international intervention strategy to deal with drugs and the guerrillas. One U.S. tactic is to convince Latin American nations that the narcoguerrilla is no longer a Colombian problem.... Even those who rightfully fear such a U.S. offensive cannot ignore that drug trafficking is no longer a police matter; it is a matter of state sovereignty. It is a concrete threat to governability, as U.S. academics and officials like to say.... Brazil should be prepared to deal with this matter on two fronts. One would be the U.S.-led international pressure to act against drug

trafficking. The other, the increasing crime element and the indications of drug trafficking presence in Brazilian State institutions.... Brazil runs the serious risk which is already a reality for some of its neighbors of waking up too late in dealing with institutions infected by drug trafficking. The [fight against] organized crime, therefore, must become a Brazilian government priority."

"Colombia Cannot Win Alone"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's political analyst Clovis Rossi reported from Bogota (8/12): "The United States is not alone in recognizing that the Colombian crisis has taken on a regional character.... The fact is that Colombia [by itself] cannot win the war against the guerrillas.... This is why the United States, through its Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering, has reiterated its support to the peace process launched by [Colombian] President Andres Pastrana.... As the greatest power in Latin America, Brazil would have to participate actively in any regional scheme, a fact that creates problems for Brazilian diplomacy. To send troops is out of question because there is not an agreement that will allow the entry of foreign troops, contrary to what happened in Kosovo, for example. [For Brazil] to serve as a mediator in the conflict depends on the FARC's goodwill, which so far has not given any sign that they would approve foreign action. Considering all this, both the U.S. and Colombia's neighboring nations will have to wait for Pastrana's next step."

"Regionalization Of The Colombian Question"

Clovis Rossi, liberal Folha de S. Paulo's political analyst, gave this account from Bogota (8/11): "The presence of Randy Beers, assistant secretary of state ...in the U.S. delegation currently visiting Bogota, only increases

speculation
about a direct intervention.... The United States may become
involved and it is
already doing so in the fight against drugs, but it
cannot act against the gue
rillas. Unless of course, the armed movement
becomes once and for all charact
erized as a 'narcoguerrilla,' according to
the phrase used by General Barry McC
affrey.... If, as Beers says, the FARC
have entered direct drug trafficking, e
xporting drugs to Brazil and
Venezuela, there will not be a lack of reasons for
a foreign intervention.
But it is highly unlikely that the United States want
s to commit troops in
Colombia the same way it did in Vietnam.... Beers' menti
on of Brazil seems
also an enigmatic invitation to what the United States has c
alled
'regionalization' of the Colombian question, however, without precisely
d
efining what it means. Since McCaffrey will be in Brazil on the 24th, it is
po
ssible that he will explain better what type of 'regionalization'
Washington ha
s in mind: whether an involvement of other nations in the
conflict, or their pa
rticipation in a peace process formally supported by the
United States."

"Fire On the Northern Border"

Clovis Rossi, liberal Folha de S. Paulo's political analyst reporting from
Bog
ota, had this editorial (8/11): "Brazil's Amazon frontier is on fire, but
Braz
ilians, including officials, are not paying the necessary importance to
the fac
t. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is revolutionizing political
habits and pr
ocedures without giving any positive or negative connotation to
the concept of
revolution... In Ecuador... a president was impeached, his
replacement was arre
sted after leaving the post, and the current one is as
unpopular as [Brazilian]
President Cardoso. In Colombia there is a war that
occasionally spills over i
nto Brazil. A few months ago, Colombian military
invaded Brazil without permis
sion to mount an operation to recover a town
from the control of FARC guerrilla
s.... Now Randy Beers... says the FARC is

exporting cocaine to Brazil. It may be just a way of trying to involve Brazil in the Colombian question.... Considering the size of the imbroglio, all suspicions that the United States is preparing to carry out a more active intervention in South America, which Brazil claims as its area of influence, seems to make sense.... No one should then complain if the United States decides to take advantage of the situation to stick its feet in the Amazon region."

"The U.S. Demands An Active Regional Role"

Maria O'Donnell, Washington-based correspondent for *dailyofrecord La Nacion*, commented (8/11): "The Clinton administration considers that Latin American countries are not providing enough support to President Pastrana to help him solve the Colombian crisis in his simultaneous struggle against guerrillas and drug traffickers.... (US Secretary of State) Albright publicly said that 'Colombian guerrillas are bringing instability to the region' and that Latin American countries should play a more active role...since 'all of them would benefit from a solution.'... All the presidents of Colombia's neighboring countries expressed their support to Pastrana in peace negotiations, but...the United States considers this is not enough.... Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the Brazilian president, considers that guerrillas are a Colombian domestic problem. Many fear that the speech about the crisis' regional involvement and the treatment of FARC as 'drug guerrillas'...have blurred the limit between the U.S. cooperation to fight drug trafficking and...support to Pastrana's military efforts to put guerrillas under control."

"A Worldwide Problem"

Centerright O Estado de S. Paulo's lead editorial asserted (8/9): "In view of the armed conflict in Colombia...a semantic trap seems to upset the understanding that sooner or later the international community will be called

on to perform
in a military role in that nation.

"The trap consists of using the word 'intervention' to define an eventual act
of this nature which suggests the willingness to carry out armed actions in
the territory of a sovereign nation.... At the request of its own
government, the objective in Colombia would be to rescue a nation state
experiencing an advanced
stage of disintegration by the combined effects of
the guerrillas...and the almighty drug cartels...with which the terrorists
live in a symbiosis that is the
secret of their power and longevity.... The
truth is that in the Colombian situation there is no alternative to a
military victory.... And Colombia's legitimate government will not have the
means to get a military victory over the guerrillas if it does not resort
to...help from the international community.... The
U.S. help to fight drug
trafficking already involves logistical support to the
Colombian armed
forces, and such support tends to evolve towards joint action
by Latin
American nations. The international community must...help Colombia because
drug trafficking, linked with insurgency, is a worldwide problem."

"Between Drug Trafficking And The Guerrillas"

An editorial in independent Jornal da Tarde remarked (8/7): "The expectation
of a U.S. direct intervention overshadows the Colombian situation. President
Clinton's recent statements refer to his administration's 'vital interests'
being
at stake in Colombia.... The preceding military interventions in
Kosovo, in Panama and Grenada, which were carried out under diverse pretexts
of doubtful legitimacy, are still alive in everyone's mind. The involvement
of U.S. combat troops is an initiative to be avoided, since such a
possibility would jeopardize
Colombian sovereignty, and the line between
repression of drug trafficking and
participation of foreign troops in the
fight against the guerrillas, would be
very difficult to establish. Even
though based on the best intentions, such act

ion would be a frightening precedent for Latin America."

"The General's Strategy Is To Play Tough"

Commenting on Gen. McCaffrey's speech before Congress, liberal Folha de S. Paulo's stressed (8/7): "Colombia is fighting what could be its most important war against drugs. General McCaffrey knows that he will not be considered victorious if he doesn't reduce the importation of cocaine from South America to the United States.... McCaffrey's power in the White House...seems unshakable. But to continue in his job in 2001 or to leave it with honor and go to a job in the private sector, McCaffrey considers it indispensable to be successful in Colombia. A Vietnam and Gulf War hero, famous for his acts of bravery, McCaffrey doesn't feel intimidated by challenges."

"Colonel Chavez, Venezuela's Strongman"

An editorial in centerright O Estado de S. Paulo (8/7) said that Colonel Hugo Chavez "has become Venezuela's strongman thanks to electoral votes but also to the complete failure of the traditional political parties. One cannot have any illusion visavis Chavez's authoritarian trend.... Chavez's 'Bolivarian project' is a capricious and personal power project. Venezuela's strongman is using the weaknesses of a democratic regime strongly affected by years of economic crisis and corruption, to create a "democracy of results.'... Colonel Chavez's 'Bolivarian project' follows the classic model of assaults against democracy by means of the vote of which Hitler's Germany, a drastic extreme, and Fujimori's Peru, a less radical version, are typical examples."

MEXICO: "U.S. Denials Hardly Convincing"

X' hp x (#
Leftleaning La Jornada commented (8/14): "U.S. denials of a possible invasion of Colombia have been hardly convincing and scarcely soothing.... The warring factions in Colombia and Venezuela should to cast aside

intransigent, authoritarian and belligerent attitudes and respond to the aspirations and expectations of their compatriots."
X' hp x (#

"Pentagon Only Guided By Manifest Destiny"

Leftleaning La Jornada opined (8/15): "Since in the past, the U.S. supported Chiang Kai Chek, whose generals got their financing from opium, the Kieu government in South Vietnam (similarly linked to drug trafficking) Irangate, and the sales of drugs in the United States to finance the Nicaraguan contras, one can deduce that the Pentagon doesn't necessarily guide itself by public health concerns or moral reasons but, more prosaically, by geopolitics and the theory of Manifest Destiny.... So it would behoove Latin American authorities and societies to openly oppose all attempt (by the U.S.) to interfere in Colombia."

"Colombia In Crisis"

An op-ed piece in leftofcenter La Jornada (8/11), examining the various internal reasons for the growing instability in Colombia and its effect on the country's neighbors, maintained: "In the present political, economic and social situation in Colombia, various negative phenomena have come together to produce a crisis of great proportions. This could destabilize not only Colombia but its Andean neighbors. And, it's in this context that Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering's visit occurs. The U.S. representative arrived last night with a calming message in which he discarded any notion that the United States had plans to intervene in Colombia either unilaterally or multilaterally. But, given simple historical reflection, his words generated suspicion in Latin American opinion. Whatever the Washington proposal toward Colombia is, the visit should make clear to Latin American governments the necessity that they offer to Colombia their solidarity and help."

X' hp x (# "Clinton Directing Sight To Own Back Yard"

X' hp x (#

Local journalist/commentator Luca Luna Elek wrote in Guadalajara's independent

Publico (8/7): "In foreign political affairs, the government and media focus

have shown coincidence.... More than a few times, the U.S. press has acted as

the detonator of a conflict or to create a climate favorable to interference by

its government, as was proven in Latin America with Chile in 1973 and Panama i

n 1989.... It seems Clinton is directing his sight to his own back yard, and v

ery specifically to Colombia and Venezuela. Though different cases, in both cou

ntries the necessary ingredients are mixed so that the U.S. government can just

ify its concern for what is going on there.... The official discourse is still

about combating narcotrafficking.

But Barry McCaffrey has already declared th

at 'the key in the struggle is to

take the leftist guerrillas out' of the growi

ng areas.... In Colombia...he

underlined that it is a 'humanitarian tragedy of great proportions on our own

continent.' Does that sound familiar?

"In Venezuela...the media bombardment is on.... Aside from his 'coup' antecede

nts, Chavez is a pretty popular and rude guy, with black blood and florid langu

age, acting like an enlightened 'caudillo.'... All features figuring in the d

iscriminatory prejudices of the First World middle classes and in their govern

ing elites. This is not far from the handling of Noriega's image, which ended w

ith the invasion of Panama."

X' hp x (#

X' hp x (# "The Sowing Of Colombia"

Ivan Restrepo in leftofcenter, nationalistic Jornada wrote (8/9): "After sever

al years of fighting the power of drug trafficking, the formula used by the two

responsible parties (producer and consumer...) is not having the expected resu

lts. Barry McCaffrey saw this himself in his recent visit to South America. [

T]he president of the Farmers Association of Colombia, said that the producing

countries spent important amounts of their small budgets

to fight the sowing of
drugs while consumer countries cannot even control the
contraband of merchandi
se, weapons and chemical products used to process
cocaine and heroine. He adde
d he does not understand how a peasant who sows
cocaine to survive can be accus
ed of being the executioner of a New York
executive who takes cocaine."

" The Attention Of The U.S. To Latin America, Sporadic"

According to an oped piece in independent Universal (8/8): "The problems in
Co
lombia have provoked speculation about the possible intervention of the
United
States, but they have also highlighted the lack of a U.S. policy
toward Latin A
merica. The attention toward Latin America has been sporadic,
reactive and fr
equently fragmented. In this context, the Colombian problem
is typical. It co
uld be said that each sector of the U.S. government has its
own vision of what
the policy toward Colombia should be. The growing urgency
of the problems has
made the sector represented by antinarcotics 'czar'
McCaffrey the prevailing on
ealthough there is no real agreement. McCaffrey
proposes political, military,
police and economic regional cooperation to
confront the aggravating deadlock o
f the civilian conflict in Colombia and
its tragic companion, drug trafficking.
"

X' hp x (# ECUADOR: "Colombia: Everybody's War?"

X' hp x (#

In leading centrist El Comercio's opinion column (8/11), commentator Xavier
L
asso asserted: "Colombia...continues to endure an escalation of the
conflict w
hich until now has resulted in more than a million and a half
domestic refugees
. The poor peasants who abandon their lands which are
snatched by drug trafficke
rs or guerrilla members end up living with their
families in miserable camps, wi
thout jobs, without dignity, without
income everything in an effort to escape fr
om the brutality of the bloody
forces. The fight is among regular Armed Forces
, those of the formal state,
who cannot show credentials for respect for human

rights either, those of
FARC, ELN, and the most brutal ones from the rightist paramilitary.
Colombia, a country so close to us, with gentle, entrepreneurial, loquacious
people has burned up in one year with President Pastrana's peace efforts.
His war is now a continental matter.

"The United States has sent some signals such as the tour of the anti drug czar
from the White House, Barry McCaffrey, as if it were studying the possibility
of an invasion. Such a war would drag us into it.... Colombia is our neighbor,
those displaced would cross the border; they will be desperate. Nobody can
guarantee that the members of the four armies would not make our territory their
base for their operations and that is why we are on alert, with a good number
of military positioned in border areas."

"Armed Forces And NarcoGuerrillas"

Quito's leftsensationalist La Hora ran this lead editorial (8/11): "The conflict
among FARC, ELN, paramilitary and common criminals is so big and complex that
it has undermined the foundations of Colombia on so many levels but mainly in
the fields of human rights, industry and agriculture. It has become a cruel
and inhuman war where the concept of life has lost its value. Many peasants and
innocent people, who have nothing to do with the conflict, are mercilessly killed.
Now we are living the internationalization of the war. For the Americans
this is an issue for democracy and hemispheric security, in which the armies from
neighboring countries including ours might get involved with unspeakable consequences."

"Colombia: A Sad Balance"

Leading, centrist El Comercio editorialized (8/8): "A year later, the scene is
distressing. No effective steps have been taken and President Pastrana is suffering
the disdain of those who only twelve months ago were applauding him, sharing
his faith and confidence. The guerrillas are not only a problem

for Colombia, but a continental threat. The search for peace is tarnished by the fear that the true objective of subversion would be to seize the whole country. Moreover, Colombia the country that continues functioning despite deaths and kidnappings is showing signs of economic difficulties. That is serious for the Colombians and causes concern in Ecuador. We cannot lose sight of what happens in the neighbor's house. Such concerns have jumped borders.

"President Pastrana continues to be confident in his plan and willing to keep the peace flag waving high. And not only Colombia is watching. The president and the country have the world's attention."

"Danger In The Northern Border"

Cuenca's centerright El Tiempo's (8/5) main editorial read: "Although the minister of defense has denied the reports...that Ecuador would get involved in the Colombian civil war taking place among its armed forces the ELN and FARC guerrillas and the so-called paramilitary the possibility has stirred concern in the national media because Ecuador shares an extensive border with Colombia.... If the Manta base is going to be used to fight drug traffickers and if no one can tell drug traffickers from guerrilla members, the risk to involve Ecuador in the Colombian civil war is real and, regrettably, a short-term one. The worst that could happen to us would be to be indifferent to a war that is literally banging on our own doors; one that would cost Ecuadorian lives and bring destruction if it spreads in any way into our country. Let's support peace in Colombia."

CUBA: "A Ghost Haunts Colombia"

X' hp x (#

X' hp x (# Partyline columnist Joaquin Rivery commented in Communist Party Granma

(8/10): "Let's make something clear. The only way that the United States can

stay involved in the Colombian conflict is by meddling in Colombia's internal affairs, (leading to) a possible decision by Washington to intervene

militarily

.... However, there is a significant difference in points of view between Colombian President Andres Pastrana and the United States, because while the president insists that the guerrillas have nothing to do with drug trafficking, Washington continues accusing the rebel forces of acting in collusion with the illegal drug dealers, evidently with the goal of finding a pretext to open up the possibility of intervention, under cover of the subject of drugs, which are very controversial and roundly condemned. It is evident that the phantom of foreign intervention hovers over Colombia, and the threat must be denounced, and followed very closely."

"Help That Kills"

Partyline columnist Marina Menendez Quintero offered this commentary in Commun

ist Youth League Juventud Rebelde (8/7): "Drug trafficking was the weapon that the United States used against former Colombian President Ernesto Samper, and it may also be the means used to destroy the reputation of his successor, Andres Pastrana, whose popularity has dropped these days to the lowest level of any

Colombian leader in recent years. The support that Washington says that it wants to give to Colombia in order to fight that scourge, and its insistence on linking the drug dealers with the guerrillas, does nothing but hinder the peace making attempts of the president and, far from helping him, seems to add pressure. Meanwhile, any real negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas are being delayed by the lack of agreement on the details for the process of implementation. Only now there is an official policy with the disturbing example left for the world by the case of Yugoslavia, where they inaugurated a new style of war and interference that is still being practiced in that Balkan country: "humanitarian" intervention, which can be justified through denunciations of ethnic massacres, or, equally, through confrontations with

guerrilla groups that are supposedly linked as Washington suspiciously insists with drug money."

VENEZUELA: "On The Razor's Edge"

An editorial in influential, left-of-center El Nacional (8/11) asserted: "The Colombian question does not stop at its frontiers. President Chavez last Monday said something which was not unnoticed in Colombia: He expressed his willingness to dialogue with FARC, directly, because of sovereignty."

"Prime Minister Fernandez de Soto responded that the president 'was sovereign in Venezuela, but not in Colombia.'... The communications between Bogota and Caracas seem to have lost the necessary fluidity and daily [aspects], in moments when dialogue and diplomatic interchange require greater dynamism and consideration.... When Under Secretary Pickering talks with President Chavez, the agenda will revolve around regional problems. The situation is complicated and becomes more complicated every day, in a manner so sensitive that we can be at the cusp of unforeseen events. Prime Minister Fernandez de Soto asked that citizens divest themselves of the idea of an American intervention in Colombia. It is a good counsel to be calm. Nevertheless, reality offers too many adverse signs: the people do not hide their fatigue. The region is on the point of a razor. Never before has so much discretion and good judgement been required."

X hp x (#
EUROPE

X hp x (# ITALY: "Colombia In Crisis, The Government Fails"

Rocco Cotroneo maintained in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera (8/13): "In Washington they swear that Colombia will not be the next Kosovo, and, even less will it become a Latin Vietnam.... For days, rumors and denials are following one another in Bogota. U.S. Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering... has stated to be a 'mad hypothesis' any direct military intervention.... How

ever, at the same time, Madeleine Albright has used a formula that, in the American diplomatic language, has often anticipated cannon thunders: 'The Colombian crisis is expanding beyond the country's border and holds implications for the security and stability in the region.' The situation is already a half defeat for Washington. Despite 289 million dollars spent...against drug trafficking ...Colombia has become the main producer of cocaine in the world and the principal supplier of the United States.... On the politicalmilitary front, it is even worse. The truce...between President Andres Pastrana and FARC has turned out to be a hoax."

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X` hp x (#%#Xx\ P6QyXP#

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

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard Denniston (CN=Richard Denniston/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-AUG-1999 18:55:43.00

SUBJECT: Panama Meeting

TO: Skye S. Philbrick (CN=Skye S. Philbrick/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
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TEXT:

Thanks for the return voice mail. I will send you a detailed information e-mail as soon as I get clearance. Basically, we are bringing in some academics, former and current government officials to discuss the Panama Canal in the light of its upcoming transfer. We are looking at September 8 from 11-2:30. (11:00-1:00 meeting/discussion in the Roosevelt Room and 1:00-2:30 Lunch at the Mess). The office of the special envoy for the Americas will handle all arrangements. We will have about 15 attendees. Again, I will send more details soon.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME: 17-AUG-1999 13:12:33.00

SUBJECT: Daily Digest 8/17: U.S.-CHINA: TENSIONS OVER TAIWAN REMAIN

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TEXT:

During the last week most editorialists writing on East Asian security issues focused on tensions surrounding Taiwan's perceived shift away from a "one China" stance and the still-strained state of U.S.-China relations. A handful of observers weighed in with concerns about North Korean missiles and the U.S.-Japanese TMD project. While no analyst predicted an immediate outbreak of hostilities between China and Taiwan, most saw the issue remaining a major security concern and viewed the U.S. as playing a decisive role. Highlights follow:

VIEW FROM BEIJING, HONG KONG: Beijing commentators continued to rail against Taiwanese President Lee and warned "international anti-China politicians...not to underestimate China's resolve." Hong Kong papers devoted much ink to what they characterized as Senate Majority Leader Lott's "irresponsible" and "slandorous" inquiries about Hong Kong-listed Hutchison Whampoa Ltd.'s control of port facilities in the Panama Canal. Center-left Tin Tin Daily News worried that this "incident indicates that anti-China activities by right-wing politicians have spread from Beijing to Hong Kong." Hong Kong pundits emphasized that with respect to Taiwan, "like it or not" the U.S. role and its naval capabilities had to be carefully considered.

VIEW FROM TAIWAN: Two liberal, pro-independence dailies gave different assessments of U.S. support. The Taiwan Daily warned that "Taiwan should not fearlessly believe that it could rely on the assistance of the U.S. military," while the Commons Daily asserted: "Washington will not tolerate Beijing's saber rattling or invasion against Taiwan, nor will it allow Taiwan to deviate from its existing 'policy framework.'" The conservative, pro-unification China Post said that President Lee sees "strong backing from Washington" as a "trump card," but noted that the "only uncertainty is that Beijing is not as predictable as he may think."

VIEW FROM REGION: Pundits in Japan and Australia said "Chinese distrust of the United States remains deep" and "relations have rarely been this bad." The liberal Sydney Morning Herald worried that in the event of a "crisis" over Taiwan, "the Clinton administration must contend with the Taiwan Relations Act." An observer in Singapore said that "China objects strongly" to what it called U.S. and Japanese plans to create a TMD. Thai dailies noted Chinese anger over Taiwan but urged restraint in Beijing and Taipei, emphasizing that "Asia's confidence in China's peaceful intentions is important." The conservative Philippine Star, however, said "under the shadow of a powerful would-be Chinese hegemony," Taiwan is an "irritating but deterrent factor in Asia's balance of power."

ELSEWHERE: Pundits in Europe and South Asia overwhelmingly viewed Taiwan as a flash point and emphasized the key role of the United States. New Delhi's centrist Hindu referred to the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 and worried: "The U.S. policy to deter any armed conflict between China and Taiwan is one of strategic 'ambiguity.' These words work in peace time, but once the deterrence phase turns into an armed conflict, there will be no ambiguity at all about the U.S. choices."

EDITOR: Bill Richey

Editor's Note: This survey is based on 42 reports from 15 countries, August 11-17. The following editorial excerpts are grouped by region; editorials from each country are listed from most recent.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

CHINA: "Japan And U.S. Sign Letters Of Agreement On Mutual Research Of TMD"

Guo Ji said in official Beijing Daily (Beijing Ribao), (8/17): "Experts say the TMD system, on which Japan and the U.S. signed a mutual development pact, will not only disrupt the strategic balance in the Asian-Pacific region, but will incite a new round of arms race in this area."

"How Dare Lee Teng-hui Be So Arrogant?"

A Xinhua commentator said in the official Communist Party People's Daily Overseas Edition (Renmin Ribao Haiwaiban, 8/14): "We solemnly warn those international anti-China politicians, who scheme to use Lee Teng-hui to sabotage Sino-U.S. relations and China's reunification, not to underestimate China's resolve and capability to safeguard territorial and sovereign integrity. Otherwise, they will inevitably induce trouble to themselves." [Comment: All Chinese newspapers continued their attacks on Lee Teng-hui and his 'two-nations' concept.]

"Proposal On Taiwan's 'Representation' Condemned"

Xinhua news agency said in the official English-language China Daily (8/14): "Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zhu Bangzao said the Chinese government and people are strongly indignant at and firmly opposed to the support of some U.S. Congressmen for Lee Teng-hui's 'two states' statement.... U.S. Congressman Benjamin Gilman's actions have grossly interfered in China's internal affairs and gone against the U.S. government's commitment of adherence to the 'one China' policy," Zhu said."

"One China: An Incontrovertible Reality"

Official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao, 8/13) reiterated: "Lee Teng-hui's concept of a 'special nation-to-nation relationship' is a scheme to sabotage the cross-Straits relations as well as the peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region.... As long as Lee Teng-hui sticks to this concept, peace and stability cannot be achieved in the situation across the Taiwan Strait."

"Desperate Gamble"

The official, English-language China Daily had this commentary (8/13): "Even the U.S. government, where Lee Teng-hui has traditional backers, was shocked and issued warnings. Lee Teng-hui is luring the people of Taiwan, as well as his foreign patrons, down his road of destruction and into his suicidal, separatist adventures." [NOTE: All Chinese newspapers (8/13) continued their attacks on Lee Teng-hui and his 'two-nations' concept.]

"See Through The U.S."

Jin Huiyu remarked in official Beijing Youth Daily (Beijing Qingnianbao, 8/13): "Only when the United States realizes that containment of China can also seriously affect U.S. interests, will it give up confronting China and start seeking cooperation.... Only effective and resolute struggle can help China achieve national safety and U.S. cooperation."

HONG KONG: "Massive Exercise Just Raises Tension Further"

The independent Hong Kong Standard had this editorial (8/17): "Is all this U.S.-Japan military posturing to frighten off Pyongyang; or are they in fact creating a North Korean threat to justify Japan's bid to be a big military power again? Certainly China will be viewing these rapid and subtly developing military alliances in the Northeast with more than a little trepidation."

"U.S. Should Not Add Oil To The Taiwan Strait"

Independent Sing Tao Daily News commented in its editorial (8/16): "Will Beijing bow its head under pressure from the United States? The answer will be no. Some Americans have underestimated the determination and ability of the Chinese government to safeguard Chinese territory and sovereignty."

"U.S. Is Rude And Unreasonable; Hutchison Is Innocent"

Centrist Hong Kong Daily News wrote in its editorial (8/14): "The majority leader of the Senate, Trent Lott, claimed that Mr. Lee Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa is 'an organization under the command of the People's Liberation Army.' This allegation is an irresponsible remark. We don't believe that a business organization like Hutchison Whampoa will deny U.S. ships passage through the Panama Canal. Even if it denied the ships, the United States with its strong military power could easily reopen navigation. Hence, Hutchison Whampoa does not have the ability to seal up the Panama Canal. Trent Lott's allegation is unreasonable.... The United States views the Panama Canal as a chunk of meat for its exclusive consumption. Now, Hutchison Whampoa wants to eat this meat. It will, of course, try its best to stop it.... No matter how innocent Hutchison Whampoa is, the Americans will make an 'unwarranted' charge."

"U.S. Factors In Taiwan Strait Crisis"

Independent Hong Kong Economic Journal had this editorial (8/14): "U.S. factors may become obstacles for Taiwan and China to reunify. However, the fact is that, due to the United States, peace has been maintained in the Taiwan Strait for more than ten years and Taiwan has had a chance to develop peacefully. No matter whether the Chinese people in Mainland China or the Chinese people in Taiwan like it or not, if they want to settle the Taiwan issue, they cannot but consider the U.S. attitude."

"Trent Lott's Reams Of Rubbish"

Independent Sing Pao Daily News commented in its editorial (8/14): "The anti-China forces of the U.S. Republican Party once again showed their true qualities by making slanderous and groundless accusations. This is another farce aimed at China after the Cox Report.... Every year, there are around thirteen thousand cargo ships passing through the Panama Canal, among which Chinese ships top the number. If the business in the Canal were held up, China would suffer most. Even if they had the ability to seal up the Canal, would China be so foolish as to lift a rock to drop on its own feet?"

"China-Basher's New Mischief"

The independent Hong Kong Standard had this editorial (8/14): "It is difficult to believe that a man (Trent Lott) who can rise to political eminence in a great nation can really be as stupid as that statement makes him sound, so we can only conclude that he and his Washington allies are ready to hurt anyone in their attacks on the Clinton administration's China policy. This poisonous rhetoric illustrates very well two points we referred to in an editorial just yesterday--the misinformation clouding the China issue in the West and the way in which Hong Kong frequently becomes a whipping boy."

"Lott Of Rot"

The independent South China Morning Post noted in its editorial (8/14): "All of this could be dismissed as a joke, perhaps even an excuse for a good laugh about how ignorant some U.S. politicians can be about the realities of life in Asia. However, there already are more than enough tensions in Sino-U.S. relations without another unnecessary irritant.... In the future, it would be helpful if Mr. Lott and his ilk think before they speak. In particular, they could consider the damage such conspiracy theories can do to their own country when Sino-U.S. relations are passing through such a delicate period."

"U.S. Anti-China Politicians Follow In Cox's Footsteps"

Pro-PRC Hong Kong Commercial Daily commented in its editorial (8/14): "Lott chose Hutchison Whampoa this time simply because he is following in Cox's footsteps, playing anti-China music to create a sensation. Not even U.S. officials have accepted such a clumsy performance. No wonder international shippers say that the Congressmen's retelling of this old story every three months is a pile of rubbish. Proper business behavior is being characterized as an 'earthshaking conspiracy' by U.S. third-class politicians. Anti-China force inside the United States make use of every opportunity to create a false impression of the 'China threat' to 'demonize China', attempting to destroy normal development of Sino-U.S. relations."

"Hutchison Whampoa Incident; Hong Kong Involved In Anti-China Whirlpool"

Center-left Tin Tin Daily News wrote in its editorial (8/14): "The Hutchison Whampoa incident indicates that that anti-China activities by right-wing politicians has spread from Beijing to Hong Kong and Hong Kong businessmen. They even said that Hutchison Whampoa is an organization of the People's Liberation Army. The SAR government and Hong Kong people

should be psychologically prepared that the anti-China activities by the U.S. politicians will be coming one after another. Hong Kong may face yet another 'Hutchison Whampoa incident.'... Business behavior, politics and the military are unexpectedly related. From now on, normal trade relations between Hong Kong and other countries, and Hong Kong's overseas investments, may be affected by comments of anti-China U.S. politicians. This may be what these U.S. politicians want."

"We Need You, Mr. Klosson"

The independent Hong Kong Standard's editorial stressed (8/13): "In welcoming Michael Klosson, the new U.S. consul-general, to Hong Kong, we would like to remind him that he has a very important job to do for the SAR as well as for America. Now, probably more than ever, Hong Kong needs an impartial, informed voice to speak up for it in Washington and in the international community.... While the SAR government needs to make sure it does its own public relations properly, intelligent, informed reports and public statements from Washington's man on the spot can provide irreplaceable support.... The new man has made a good start with his praise for the market economy and the legal system, both of which he described as remaining intact. We look forward to further well-judged assessments of our situation."

"Reality Check"

The independent South China Morning Post noted in its editorial (8/13): "Predictions of U.S. acquiescence have already been proved wrong by the presence of two aircraft carriers in the South China Sea, although they have since left the area. And any action in the run-up to next March's presidential poll in Taiwan will only increase support for candidates hostile to reunification. Beijing has to accept that force is not the way to achieve a united China. It lacks the capability to invade and any other form of military action would only make reunification more difficult, by enraging those who live in Taiwan. Beijing would do better to ignore Mr. Lee's

taunts. Or, at least, find some way of learning to live with them for the few months left before he steps down."

"U.S. Gives Out Reassurances; Lee Teng-hui Becomes More Arrogant"

Independent Sing Pao Daily News featured this editorial (8/13): "Lee Teng-hui is circumspect and astute. He firmly believes that the United States would not act as an onlooker. The U.S. reaction really gives Taiwan a 'reassurance.' The commander of the USS Constellation battle group said that if the 1996 Taiwan crisis happened again, the U.S. Seventh Fleet might be dispatched to the Taiwan Strait from the Persian Gulf. The Seventh Fleet commander also gave a serious warning to China, telling China not to take reckless actions against Taiwan at this tense moment. However, if Taiwan formally announced independence, does the United States still have sufficient grounds to protect Taiwan? Lee Teng-hui should think about it carefully."

"With U.S. Backing, Lee Continues To Play Tricks"

The centrist Hong Kong Daily News argued (8/13): "It is obvious that the United States and Taiwan are breathing with the same nose. Except for supporting Taiwan independence, the United States will support all sorts of tricks played by Lee Teng-hui without its turning back.... When the situation in the Taiwan Strait is so tense, the United States sent its Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers to international waters north and east of Taiwan. This is substantial support to Lee Teng-hui. Taiwan knows how to 'return a present for a present.' Its foreign affairs department immediately claimed that the U.S. military should keep a proper level of military strength in East Asia.... With the back up of the Seventh Fleet...Taiwan is looking to the 12 countries with which it has diplomatic relations to support its joining the UN. The UN will, of course, not accept such an application. However, it has created noises in the international community, conforming to Lee Teng-hui's theory of 'the bigger the trouble, the better.' It also helps to publicize Taiwan independence."

TAIWAN: "Campaign Remarks Cannot Be Regarded As Policy Guidelines"

In comment on what it called "remarks by American presidential front runners to protect Taiwan," liberal/pro-independence Taiwan Daily held (8/17): "No one can be one hundred percent sure that the 'American interests' will include sending troops to help defend Taiwan at the critical moment. Thus, when making its policies on national security, including the military defense, Taiwan should not fearlessly believe that it could rely on the assistance of the U.S. military. It is evident that under all kinds of scenarios, the United States remains the key force for peace and stability across the Taiwan strait. Taiwan should try the best it can to win the United States' support. But since 'American interests' are not equal to 'Taiwan interests,' Taiwan should not ignore the role its flexible cross-strait policy can play in the stability of the cross-strait situation."

"Will The United States Change Its Cross-Strait Policy?"

The liberal/pro-independence Commons Daily had this editorial (8/17): "Washington will not tolerate Beijing's saber rattling or invasion against Taiwan, nor will it allow Taiwan to deviate from its existing 'policy framework.' In the post-Cold War era, the United States, as usual, plays the role of the 'world policeman.' China, on the other hand, will not directly confront the United States on the Taiwan issue because it is not full-fledged yet. As for Taiwan, it can only maintain the 'status quo' under the protection of the United States now and wait for a favorable moment to make a move."

"It Pays To Raise Hell"

An editorial in the conservative/pro-unification, English-language China Post said (8/14): "President Lee told the nation this week that his 'two-states' theory is not an off-the-cuff remark. 'It was well considered,' he said. It is meant to protect the interests of the nation

and the rights of the people. It is not a slogan or a political gimmick, he asserted. Thus, Beijing's strong reaction is not unexpected. Lee believes that he holds the trump card--strong backing from Washington and the support of his people. It is a big political gamble but he appears to be holding a winning hand. He could win the game if his calculated decision proves correct. The only uncertainty is that Beijing is not as predictable as he may think."

"Lee Teng-Hui Moves Straight Ahead, U.S. Seems To Give Backing"

Wang Ming-Yuan wrote in the liberal/pro-independence Taiwan Daily (8/12):

"Lee Teng-Hui's state-to-state relationship doctrine has indeed generated more and more controversy in international society. It is Lee's wishful thinking that playing the 'international card' would help bring Taiwan out of the current predicament it is in. Lee's tough position on his state-to-state doctrine stems mainly from the international card he is playing, especially, to a certain extent, the support from the United States.... The U.S. administration and Congress share different views [regarding Lee's statement]. But following Representative Benjamin Gilman's indication of support for Lee's doctrine before he departed Taipei, Washington reportedly said that it would likely send battle ships to the Taiwan Strait should a military crisis similar to that in 1996 happen again across the Taiwan strait. Lee's 'fearless' attitude seems, to a certain extent, to have stemmed from the support from the United States."

JAPAN: "China To Prioritize Asian Diplomacy"

Moderate Tokyo Shimbun's Beijing correspondent Kato observed (8/13):

"China is likely to activate diplomacy placing greater importance on Asia in the latter half of this year.... Beijing has distanced itself from the United States and European countries, which give much greater priority to human rights than to the state. Although the United States and China continue talks on the issue of compensation for the victims of the mistaken bombing, a Chinese source has said there has never been a satisfactory explanation from the United States on the bombing. Chinese distrust of the United States remains deep."

AUSTRALIA: "Danger Of Dragon Baiting"

An op-ed commentary from federal MP and former diplomat Kevin Rudd in the liberal Sydney Morning Herald noted (8/16): "Overall, post-Mao relations between China and the United States have rarely been this bad. This makes for a somewhat problematic environment for the effective management of what could turn into a genuine crisis across the Taiwan Strait by year's end.

Fortunately, President Clinton acted decisively after Lee's July 9 statement and phoned the Chinese president to tell him the U.S. one-China policy had not changed. But the parties are still in the early stages of this confrontation, and the Clinton administration must contend with the Taiwan Relations Act."

"Unbalanced Taiwan Policy Does Us No Favors"

This op-ed commentary by foreign editor Greg Sheridan ran in the conservative Australian (8/13): "Sensible Western policy will encourage

the good in China and try to draw lines around the bad.... The Howard government got itself into a terrible tangle with Beijing in 1996 and 1997, mainly...over its support for Washington's deployment of two aircraft carrier battle groups to Taiwanese waters when Beijing was threatening Taiwan with live missile firings. Now Beijing is making similar threats, but Washington's highly unstable and irresponsible policy has this time taken a lurch in favor of Beijing, which takes the form of bullying Lee to retract his remarks.

Despite Washington's weird and unpredictable wobbles, there is a strong case that Canberra is taking the process of sucking up to Beijing needlessly far."

PHILIPPINES: "Chinese Would-Be Hegemony"

Max Soliven, publisher of the independent and conservative Philippine Star wrote in his column (8/15): "Perhaps it is useful to us in Asia, already under the shadow of a powerful Chinese would-be hegemony, to have Taiwan as...a burr in China's blanket...an irritant and a challenge. Taipei is, by definition, an irritating but deterrent factor in Asia's balance of power."

SINGAPORE: "Slouching Towards War"

Pro-government Straits Times (8/16) had this editorial: "One almost wishes the Cold War had not ended. Fear elicited caution in the Western alliance. The absence of fear has led it to substitute adventurism for statesmanship. The latest example of such adventurism is the agreement between the U.S. and Japan to develop a theater missile defense system (TMD) jointly.... China objects strongly. The U.S. and Japan, it argues, are exploiting the threat of North Korean missiles to develop a shield the main purpose of which is to neutralize Chinese lances. China has good reasons for its objections. To begin with, TMD is not a defensive but an offensive system.... Just as tanks begat anti-tank weapons, and airplanes anti-aircraft systems, TMD will no doubt spawn anti-anti-missile strategies. A system meant to provide added security will thus, by the grim logic of arms, instigate a series of counter-measures which will make Asia less, not more, stable. For this reason, regional governments, including ASEAN's, should ask the U.S. and Japan to cease their madness."

SOUTH KOREA: "Missile May Be Negotiated"

Reporter Park Doo Shik of the conservative Chosun Ilbo (8/17) wrote: "Following the recent talks in Geneva, the U.S. government seems to have been assured that the North Korean missile issue is negotiable. There has been talk that North Korea will test fire a Taepodong-2 in late August or early September, but the test seems to have been 'suspended' for the time being. The focus has moved to 'What will North Korea demand in return for a moratorium?' It is hard to tell whether North Korea will accept Dr. Perry's proposal in return for the suspension of a long-range missile test. Chances are that North Korea may separate the missile issue from Perry's proposal."

THAILAND: "North Korea Should Not Complain"

Charnnarish Boonpharod commented in elite Naew Na about joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises (8/17): "Since Pyongyang has on a number of occasions threatened the South and the U.S. with its missiles, they have no justification to decry the U.S.-South Korea's muscle flexing."

"Red-Hot Intelligence: China To Invade Taiwan"

Cafe Dam commented in elite, business-oriented Krungthep Turakij (8/17): "The U.S. inner intelligence circles have raised the alarm over China's imminent showdown against Taiwan in days ahead.... I should think the Chinese leaders are genuinely frustrated and boiling over with the desire to exercise its firepower to give Taiwan a lesson."

"China's Credibility Rests On Taiwan Stand?"

The lead editorial of the independent, English-language Nation commented (8/16): "Asia's confidence in China's peaceful intention is important. While Asian countries understand and fully support Beijing's one-China policy, they have never backed its policy on the use of force

against Taiwan.... An Asia that has no confidence in China's intentions, imagined or real, can ignite an arms race once again in the region."

"A Little Restraint In China, Please"

The lead editorial of top-circulation, moderately conservative, English language Bangkok Post commented (8/16): "It is time for the Taiwanese to button up.... As for China, if it wants the respect of the world, it should act a little more respectably, and show some respect for the opinions, thoughts and cultures of the rest of the world as well. If China wants to attract Taiwan to its offer of a merger, it should make itself look a little more attractive."

EUROPE

GERMANY: "Taiwan's UN Bid"

Petra Kolonko pointed out in right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine (8/13): "With the support of the Western governments which have recognized the island republic, Taiwan is again trying to be accepted into the UN every year. Taiwan knows that these efforts are doomed to failure. But this year, this symbolic move could dangerously escalate tensions with China. Only a few weeks ago, Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui said that Taiwan wants to consider relations with China as state-to-state relations. The Chinese government has not yet decided how to react to this move. Hawks are calling for a military strike and, according to reports from Hong Kong, China is planning to mobilize half a million soldiers along the coast of Taiwan. This may only be saber rattling, but it could also turn out to be deadly serious."

"Demons In Streets Of Taiwan"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich argued (8/13): "Beijing is increasing its saber rattling. And Hong Kong's media are leading China's

regiments into the propaganda battle. It is a fact that Beijing began a month ago to exorcise the demon of independence from Taiwan whose president mentioned the bad words of two existing Chinese states. This created anger among, Chinese hard-liners although Lee only said what everybody knew before. But because Taiwan's president, despite all of China's threatening gestures, did not revoke his statement, China is obviously planning to increase pressure on Taiwan. In the meantime, Taipei is preparing for the worst, but remains calm, since there is still the United States, which proved before that it is able to chase away the demon of invasion."

"The Strong Man From Taipei"

Left-of-center Berliner Zeitung's Nico Fried emphasized (8/13): "Nobody really understands what is happening to Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui. For weeks, he has now propagated the independence of his island, and is not impressed by angry politicians in Beijing, troop movements on the Chinese mainland or flights of low-flying fighter planes over the streets of Taiwan. And now he has even sent some friendly states to check whether Taiwan can be accepted into the UN. Shortly before the end of his term, Lee seems to like the role of a strongman. But he will achieve nothing, at least not anything that could be of use for anyone. The Taiwanese do not like the Communists, but they prefer the status quo over war. The West is not interested in two Chinas, but it is interested in normalizing relations with China after the destruction of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. China's president is willing to do so because he knows that the modernization of his country is not possible without international support. But in the long run, Jiang Zemin will be in a difficult situation if he constantly needs to appease his hawkish military. It would be good if someone calmed down an unruly Lee. Western foreign policy experts should also consider this a rewarding task."

ITALY: "Under The Global Village The Slow Match Of The East Is Burning"

Edgardo Bartoli commented on the front-page of leading conservative, opposition Il Giornale (8/15): "Noises of war coming from the Far East alarm, but, above all, bewilder Western chanceries.... There are very audible noises from China against Taiwan, which are indeed taken not too seriously even by the United States, which finds itself in the difficult situation of having sponsored Beijing by recognizing 'only one China' while being committed to protecting and defending Taiwan against attacks coming from its motherland.... More sobering...are the noises coming from the border between India and Pakistan.... Indeed everywhere in the world regional equilibria are creaking.... The problem is that globalization remains very asymmetrical: Market globalization is not accompanied by civil rights and freedom globalization.... Until now, supranational instruments forged in the last fifty years to safeguard peace in the world...have worked rather satisfactorily...but it is necessary to correct them, strengthen and extend them constantly."

"Nobody Believes In The War Between China And Taiwan, Besides The Generals Who Arm Missiles And Submarines"

A very extensive story in provocative, classical liberal Il Foglio said (8/14): "It is now clear that China aspires to replace Moscow in its role of direct contrast to U.S. supremacy, and it is not by chance that its present doctrine talks about 'global war'.... Obviously, the United States holds the balance in the crisis between China and Taiwan, and the power of deterrence it will be able to exert against the Chinese expansionist aims in an area which has always been of primary importance, for the whole west is of primary relevance."

"New Winds Of War In Asia"

Stefano Silvestri commented on the front-page of leading business Il Sole 24-Ore (8/14): "The main role of balancing factor being played these days by the United States is today much more difficult because more and more interlocutors, with different interests, arrive on stage.... China is still a huge puzzle.... The U.S. cannot have a coherent policy toward the Chinese giant...and the same is true for too many countries in the region.... Asia is too big, too rich and too important to be ignored. But it is also too complex to be dealt with without a common strategic vision and a precise choice of priorities between Europeans and Americans."

AUSTRIA: "One-China Trap"

Karl-Peter Schwarz comments in conservative Die Presse (8/14): "Why does China provoke a dangerous crisis right now?... One of the reasons may be that the U.S. policy vis-a-vis China under Bill Clinton has lost its balance and is behaving increasingly submissively towards Beijing. The Clinton Administration is promoting the absurd exclusion of Taiwan from international organizations in violation of the Taiwan Relations Act, by actually blackmailing Taipei. In Taiwan, the successor of President Lee Teng-hui will be elected next March. Beijing will probably escalate its intimidation campaign, checking carefully how far it can go vis-a-vis a notorious weak U.S. President like Bill Clinton. There is no immediate risk that the hard-liners in Beijing might be tempted to launch the adventure of an invasion of Taiwan for a third time. It is much more probable that they will succeed to simply absorb the economically prospering Taiwan, by a combination of political and military blackmail. Provided that Beijing's interpretation of the 'One-China' concept prevails and the imperial formula of the 'unfaithful province' is accepted, which dates back to the Middle Ages."

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: "U.S. Left With Little Choice"

Tokyo correspondent F.J. Khargamvala said in the centrist Hindu (8/16): "The U.S. policy to deter any armed conflict between China and Taiwan is one of 'strategic ambiguity.' These words work during peace time, but once

the deterrence phase turns to an armed conflict, there will be no ambiguity at all about the U.S.' choices. Legally, diplomatically, politically and for commercial reasons, there is just one choice forced upon the United States. An armed intervention to protect and if necessary rescue Taiwan.... Failure to intervene effectively will undermine every single one of the several regional interlocking bilateral military alliances that the United States has in the region.

"The worse case scenario would be a moderately quick undermining of the alliance with Japan, which will certainly develop nuclear weapons. This will encourage North Korea, and force South Korea to go nuclear and without a shadow of a doubt, so too will Taiwan if it does not surrender.... The real question is not if the United States will come to Taiwan's aid. It is, at what point?.... Action that leads to a trade, overflights or a shipping embargo will probably force the United States to act, but not as much as any Chinese military moves to amass a force large enough to occupy Taiwan, or force Taiwan to declare under duress that it is formally part of one China.... Much as Beijing might object, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979...does override all Sino-U.S. communique. It is U.S. law.... Though this extreme scenario is most unlikely at the moment, the totality of interests gives the United States a Hobson's choice, meaning an apparent freedom to act but in effect no freedom at all."

BANGLADESH: "China-Taiwan Relations"

The centrist, English-language Independent maintained (8/12): "Chinese submarines have been mobilized in seas near the Taiwan Strait 'awaiting orders,' and Chinese warships have stepped up patrols. The United States, on the other hand, while making no hide-and-seek of its annoyance with Lee, has authorized the Pentagon to go ahead with its \$550 million sale of a high-tech weapons system and early-warning planes to Taiwan.... China thinks the increased U.S. arms supply is encouraging Lee toward formal separatism. Hopefully, the September summit between Clinton and Zemin may serve to remove the tension across the Taiwan Strait which is threatening to shake the world."

NEPAL: "China-Taiwan Tensions--U.S. Holds The Key"

Government-owned Rising Nepal featured this op-ed piece (8/11) by senior journalist and Nepal's former deputy permanent representative to the UN, M. R. Josse: "Washington may in fact hold the key to a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question given its 'constructive engagement' relationship with Beijing and her undoubted influence over Taipei. Yet things are far from clear on the American front. For one thing, the Chinese rightly worry over moves at this time to expand U.S.-Taiwan relations. For another, they also fret over the long-term implications of the U.S.-Japan alliance, now exacerbated by the Japanese Diet's approval that the Japanese Defense Forces may provide greater assistance to American troops in Asia if conflicts arise in loosely defined 'areas around Japan.' Finally, of course, there is Beijing's opposition to moves contemplated in the United States to supply Taiwan with the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system which [China] regards as an open violation of three defining Sino-U.S. joint communiqués."

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U.S.CHINA: TENSIONS OVER TAIWAN REMAIN

During the last week most editorialists writing on East Asian security issues
focused on tensions surrounding Taiwan's perceived shift away from a "one
China
" stance and the stillstrained state of U.S.China relations. A
handful of obse
rvers weighed in with concerns about North Korean missiles and
the U.S.Japanese
TMD project. While no analyst predicted an immediate
outbreak of hostilities
between China and Taiwan, most saw the issue
remaining a major security concern
and viewed the U.S. as playing a decisive
role. Highlights follow:

VIEW FROM BEIJING, HONG KONG : Beijing commentators continued to rail against
Taiwanese President Lee and warned "international antiChina
politicians...not
to underestimate China's resolve." Hong Kong papers
devoted much ink to what t
hey characterized as Senate Majority Leader Lott's
"irresponsible" and "slander
ous" inquiries about Hong Konglisted Hutchison

Whampoa Ltd.'s control of port facilities in the Panama Canal. Centerleft Tin Tin Daily News worried that this "incident indicates that antiChina activities by rightwing politicians have spread from Beijing to Hong Kong." Hong Kong pundits emphasized that with respect to Taiwan, "like it or not" the U.S. role and its naval capabilities had to be carefully considered.

VIEW FROM TAIWAN : Two liberal, proindependence dailies gave different assessments of U.S. support. The Taiwan Daily warned that "Taiwan should not fearlessly believe that it could rely on the assistance of the U.S. military," while the Commons Daily asserted: "Washington will not tolerate Beijing's saber rattling or invasion against Taiwan, nor will it allow Taiwan to deviate from its existing 'policy framework.'" The conservative, pronounification China Post said that at President Lee sees "strong backing from Washington" as a "trump card," but noted that the "only uncertainty is that Beijing is not as predictable as he may think."

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VIEW FROM REGION : Pundits in Japan and Australia said "Chinese distrust of the United States remains deep" and "relations have rarely been this bad." The liberal Sydney Morning Herald worried that in the event of a "crisis" over Taiwan, "the Clinton administration must contend with the Taiwan Relations Act." An observer in Singapore said that "China objects strongly" to what it called U.S. and Japanese plans to create a TMD. Thai dailies noted Chinese anger over Taiwan but urged restraint in Beijing and Taipei, emphasizing that "Asia's confidence in China's peaceful intentions is important." The conservative Philippine Star, however, said "under the shadow of a powerful wouldbe Chinese hegemony, Taiwan is an "irritating but deterrent factor in Asia's balance of power."

X` hp x (# **ELSEWHERE** : Pundits in Europe and South Asia overwhelmingly viewed Taiwan as a flash point and emphasized the key role of the United States. New Delhi's

centrist Hindu referred to the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 and worried

:
"The U.S. policy to deter any armed conflict between China and Taiwan is one

of strategic 'ambiguity.' These words work in peace time, but once the
deter

ence phase turns into an armed conflict, there will be no ambiguity at

all about

t the U.S. choices."

EDITOR: Bill Richey

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August

1117. The following editorial excerpts are grouped by region; editorial

s

from each country are listed from most recent.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

CHINA: "Japan And U.S. Sign Letters Of Agreement On Mutual Research Of TMD"

Guo Ji said in official Beijing Daily (Beijing Ribao), (8/17): "Experts say

th
e TMD-system, on which Japan and the U.S. signed a mutual development pact,
wil

l not only disrupt the strategic balance in the AsianPacific region, but
will i

ncite a new round of arms race in this area."

"How Dare Lee Tenghui Be So Arrogant?"

A Xinhua commentator said in the official Communist Party People's Daily

Overs

eas Edition (Renmin Ribao Haiwaiban, 8/14): "We solemnly warn those

internati

onal antiChina politicians, who scheme to use Lee Tenghui to

sabotage SinoU.S.

relations and China's reunification, not to underestimate

China's resolve and c

apability to safeguard territorial and sovereign

integrity. Otherwise, they wil

l inevitably induce trouble to themselves."

[Comment: All Chinese newspapers c

ontinued their attacks on Lee Tenghui and

his 'twonations' concept.]

"Proposal On Taiwan's 'Representation' Condemned"

Xinhua news agency said in the official Englishlanguage China Daily (8/14):

"

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zhu Bangzao said the Chinese government and

people a

re strongly indignant at and firmly opposed to the support of some

U.S. Congres

smen for Lee Tenghui's 'two states' statement.... U.S. Congressman Benjamin Gilman's actions have grossly interfered in China's internal affairs and gone against the U.S. government's commitment of adherence to the 'one China' policy,' Zhu said."

"One China: An Incontrovertible Reality"

Official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao, 8/13) reiterated: "Lee Tenghui's concept of a 'special nationtonation relationship' is a scheme to sabotage the crossStraits relations as well as the peace and stability in the Asia nPacific region.... As long as Lee Tenghui sticks to this concept, peace and stability cannot be achieved in the situation across the Taiwan Strait."

"Desperate Gamble"

The official, Englishlanguage China Daily had this commentary (8/13): "Even though the U.S. government, where Lee Tenghui has traditional backers, was shocked and issued warnings. Lee Tenghui is luring the people of Taiwan, as well as his foreign patrons, down his road of destruction and into his suicidal, separatist adventures." [NOTE: All Chinese newspapers (8/13) continued their attacks on Lee Tenghui and his 'twonations' concept.]

"See Through The U.S."

Jin Huiyu remarked in official Beijing Youth Daily (Beijing Qingnianbao, 8/13): "Only when the United States realizes that containment of China can also seriously affect U.S. interests, will it give up confronting China and start seeking cooperation.... Only effective and resolute struggle can help China achieve national safety and U.S. cooperation."

HONG KONG: "Massive Exercise Just Raises Tension Further"

The independent Hong Kong Standard had this editorial (8/17): "Is all this U.

S. Japan military posturing to frighten off Pyongyang; or are they in fact creating a North Korean threat to justify Japan's bid to be a big military power again? Certainly China will be viewing these rapid and subtly developing military alliances in the Northeast with more than a little trepidation."

"U.S. Should Not Add Oil To The Taiwan Strait"

Independent Sing Tao Daily News commented in its editorial (8/16): "Will Beijing bow its head under pressure from the United States? The answer will be no. Some Americans have underestimated the determination and ability of the Chinese government to safeguard Chinese territory and sovereignty."

"U.S. Is Rude And Unreasonable; Hutchison Is Innocent"

Centrist Hong Kong Daily News wrote in its editorial (8/14): "The majority leader of the Senate, Trent Lott, claimed that Mr. Lee Kashing's Hutchison Whampoa is 'an organization under the command of the People's Liberation Army.' This allegation is an irresponsible remark. We don't believe that a business organization like Hutchison Whampoa will deny U.S. ships passage through the Panama Canal. Even if it denied the ships, the United States with its strong military power could easily reopen navigation. Hence, Hutchison Whampoa does not have the ability to seal up the Panama Canal. Trent Lott's allegation is unreasonable.... The United States views the Panama Canal as a chunk of meat for its exclusive consumption. Now, Hutchison Whampoa wants to eat this meat. It will, of course, try its best to stop it.... No matter how innocent Hutchison Whampoa is, the Americans will make an 'unwarranted' charge."

"U.S. Factors In Taiwan Strait Crisis"

Independent Hong Kong Economic Journal had this editorial (8/14): "U.S. factors may become obstacles for Taiwan and China to reunify. However, the fact is that, due to the United States, peace has been maintained in the Taiwan Strait

for more than ten years and Taiwan has had a chance to develop peacefully. No matter whether the Chinese people in Mainland China or the Chinese people in Taiwan like it or not, if they want to settle the Taiwan issue, they cannot but consider the U.S. attitude."

"Trent Lott's Reams Of Rubbish"

Independent Sing Pao Daily News commented in its editorial (8/14): "The anti-China forces of the U.S. Republican Party once again showed their true qualities by making slanderous and groundless accusations. This is another farce aimed at China after the Cox Report.... Every year, there are around thirteen thousand cargo ships passing through the Panama Canal, among which Chinese ships top the number. If the business in the Canal were held up, China would suffer most. Even if they had the ability to seal up the Canal, would China be so foolish as to lift a rock to drop on its own feet?"

"ChinaBasher's New Mischief"

The independent Hong Kong Standard had this editorial (8/14): "It is difficult to believe that a man (Trent Lott) who can rise to political eminence in a great nation can really be as stupid as that statement makes him sound, so we can only conclude that he and his Washington allies are ready to hurt anyone in the way of their attacks on the Clinton administration's China policy. This poisonous rhetoric illustrates very well two points we referred to in an editorial just yesterday: the misinformation clouding the China issue in the West and the way in which Hong Kong frequently becomes a whipping boy."

"Lott Of Rot"

The independent South China Morning Post noted in its editorial (8/14): "All of this could be dismissed as a joke, perhaps even an excuse for a good laugh about how ignorant some U.S. politicians can be about the realities of life in Asia. However, there already are more than enough tensions in Sino-U.S.

relations
without another unnecessary irritant.... In the future, it would
be helpful if
Mr. Lott and his ilk think before they speak. In particular,
they could consider
the damage such conspiracy theories can do to their own
country when SinoU
S. relations are passing through such a delicate period."

"U.S. AntiChina Politicians Follow In Cox's Footsteps"

ProPRC Hong Kong Commercial Daily commented in its editorial (8/14): "Lott
chose
Hutchison Whampoa this time simply because he is following in Cox's
footsteps,
playing antiChina music to create a sensation. Not even U.S.
officials have
accepted such a clumsy performance. No wonder international
shippers say that
the Congressmen's retelling of this old story every three
months is a pile of
rubbish. Proper business behavior is being characterized
as an 'earthshaking
conspiracy' by U.S. thirdclass politicians. AntiChina
force inside the United
States make use of every opportunity to create a
false impression of the 'China
threat' to 'demonize China', attempting to
destroy normal development of SinoU
S. relations."

"Hutchison Whampoa Incident; Hong Kong Involved In AntiChina Whirlpool"

Centerleft Tin Tin Daily News wrote in its editorial (8/14): "The Hutchison
Whampoa
incident indicates that that antiChina activities by rightwing
politicians
has spread from Beijing to Hong Kong and Hong Kong businessmen.
They even said
that Hutchison Whampoa is an organization of the People's
Liberation Army. The
SAR government and Hong Kong people should be
psychologically prepared that
the antiChina activities by the U.S.
politicians will be coming one after another.
Hong Kong may face yet another
'Hutchison Whampoa incident.'... Business
behavior, politics and the
military are unexpectedly related. From now on, nor
mal trade relations
between Hong Kong and other countries, and Hong Kong's over
seas investments,
may be affected by comments of antiChina U.S. politicians. This
may be what

these U.S. politicians want."

"We Need You, Mr. Klosson"

The independent Hong Kong Standard's editorial stressed (8/13): "In welcoming Michael Klosson, the new U.S. consulgeneral, to Hong Kong, we would like to remind him that he has a very important job to do for the SAR as well as for America. Now, probably more than ever, Hong Kong needs an impartial, informed voice to speak up for it in Washington and in the international community.... While the SAR government needs to make sure it does its own public relations properly, intelligent, informed reports and public statements from Washington's man on the spot can provide irreplaceable support.... The new man has made a good start with his praise for the market economy and the legal system, both of which he described as remaining intact. We look forward to further welljudged assessments of our situation."

"Reality Check"

The independent South China Morning Post noted in its editorial (8/13): "Predictions of U.S. acquiescence have already been proved wrong by the presence of two aircraft carriers in the South China Sea, although they have since left the area. And any action in the runup to next March's presidential poll in Taiwan will only increase support for candidates hostile to reunification. Beijing has to accept that force is not the way to achieve a united China. It lacks the capability to invade and any other form of military action would only make reunification more difficult, by enraging those who live in Taiwan. Beijing would do better to ignore Mr. Lee's

taunts. Or, at least, find some way of learning to live with them for the few months left before he steps down."

"U.S. Gives Out Reassurances; Lee Tenghui Becomes More Arrogant"

Independent Sing Pao Daily News featured this editorial (8/13): "Lee Tenghui i

s circumspect and astute. He firmly believes that the United States would not act as an onlooker. The U.S. reaction really gives Taiwan a 'reassurance.' The commander of the USS Constellation battle group said that if the 1996 Taiwan crisis happened again, the U.S. Seventh Fleet might be dispatched to the Taiwan Strait from the Persian Gulf. The Seventh Fleet commander also gave a serious warning to China, telling China not to take reckless actions against Taiwan at this tense moment. However, if Taiwan formally announced independence, does the United States still have sufficient grounds to protect Taiwan? Lee Tenghui should think about it carefully."

"With U.S. Backing, Lee Continues To Play Tricks"

The centrist Hong Kong Daily News argued (8/13): "It is obvious that the United States and Taiwan are breathing with the same nose. Except for supporting Taiwan independence, the United States will support all sorts of tricks played by Lee Tenghui without its turning back.... When the situation in the Taiwan Strait is so tense, the United States sent its Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers to international waters north and east of Taiwan. This is substantial support to Lee Tenghui. Taiwan knows how to 'return a present for a present.' Its foreign affairs department immediately claimed that the U.S. military should keep a proper level of military strength in East Asia.... With the back up of the Seventh Fleet...Taiwan is looking to the 12 countries with which it has diplomatic relations to support its joining the UN. The UN will, of course, not accept such an application. However, it has created noises in the international community, conforming to Lee Tenghui's theory of 'the bigger the trouble, the better.' It also helps to publicize Taiwan independence."

TAIWAN: "Campaign Remarks Cannot Be Regarded As Policy Guidelines"

In comment on what it called "remarks by American presidential front runners to protect Taiwan," liberal/proindependence Taiwan Daily held (8/17): "No

one can be one hundred percent sure that the 'American interests' will include sending troops to help defend Taiwan at the critical moment. Thus, when making its policies on national security, including the military defense, Taiwan should not fearlessly believe that it could rely on the assistance of the U.S. military.

It is evident that under all kinds of scenarios, the United States remains the key force for peace and stability across the Taiwan strait. Taiwan should try the best it can to win the United States' support. But since 'American interests' are not equal to 'Taiwan interests,' Taiwan should not ignore the role it has flexible crossstrait policy can play in the stability of the crossstrait situation."

"Will The United States Change Its CrossStrait Policy?"

The liberal/proindependence Commons Daily had this editorial (8/17): "Washington will not tolerate Beijing's saber rattling or invasion against Taiwan, nor will it allow Taiwan to deviate from its existing 'policy framework.' In the postCold War era, the United States, as usual, plays the role of the 'world policeman.' China, on the other hand, will not directly confront the United States on the Taiwan issue because it is not fullfledged yet. As for Taiwan, it can only maintain the 'status quo' under the protection of the United States now and wait for a favorable moment to make a move."

"It Pays To Raise Hell"

An editorial in the conservative/prounification, Englishlanguage China Post said (8/14): "President Lee told the nation this week that his 'twostates' theory is not an offthecuff remark. 'It was well considered,' he said. It is meant to protect the interests of the nation and the rights of the people. It is not a slogan or a political gimmick, he asserted.

Thus, Beijing's strong reaction is not unexpected. Lee believes that he holds the trump card strong backing from Washington and the support of his people. It is a big political gamble but he appears to be holding a winning hand. He could win the game if his calculated decision proves correct. The only uncertainty is that Beijing is not as predictable as he may think."

"Lee TengHui Moves Straight Ahead, U.S. Seems To Give Backing"

Wang MingYuan wrote in the liberal/proindependence Taiwan Daily (8/12):

"Lee TengHui's state-to-state relationship doctrine has indeed generated more and more controversy in international society. It is Lee's wishful thinking that playing the 'international card' would help bring Taiwan out of the current predicament it is in. Lee's tough position on his state-to-state doctrine stems mainly from the international card he is playing, especially, to a certain extent, the support from the United States.... The U.S. administration and Congress share different views [regarding Lee's statement]. But following Representative Benjamin Gilman's indication of support for Lee's doctrine before he departed Taipei, Washington reportedly said that it would likely send battle ships to the Taiwan Strait should a military crisis similar to that in 1996 happen again across the Taiwan Strait. Lee's 'fearless' attitude seems, to a certain extent, to have stemmed from the support from the United States."

JAPAN: "China To Prioritize Asian Diplomacy"

Moderate Tokyo Shimbun's Beijing correspondent Kato observed (8/13): "China is likely to activate diplomacy placing greater importance on Asia in the latter half of this year.... Beijing has distanced itself from the United States and European countries, which give much greater priority to human rights than to the state. Although the United States and China continue talks on the issue of compensation for the victims of the mistaken bombing, a Chinese source has said

there has never been a satisfactory explanation from the United States on the bombing. Chinese distrust of the United States remains deep."

AUSTRALIA: "Danger Of Dragon Baiting"

An oped commentary from federal MP and former diplomat Kevin Rudd in the liberal Sydney Morning Herald noted (8/16): "Overall, postMao relations between China and the United States have rarely been this bad. This makes for a somewhat problematic environment for the effective management of what could turn into a genuine crisis across the Taiwan Strait by year's end. Fortunately, President Clinton acted decisively after Lee's July 9 statement and phoned the Chinese president to tell him the U.S. oneChina policy had not changed. But the parties are still in the early stages of this confrontation, and the Clinton administration must contend with the Taiwan Relations Act."

X' hp x (# "Unbalanced Taiwan Policy Does Us No Favors"

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This oped commentary by foreign editor Greg Sheridan ran in the conservative Australian (8/13): "Sensible Western policy will encourage the good in China and try to draw lines around the bad.... The Howard government got itself into a terrible tangle with Beijing in 1996 and 1997, mainly...over its support for Washington's deployment of two aircraft carrier battle groups to Taiwanese waters when Beijing was threatening Taiwan with live missile firings. Now Beijing is making similar threats, but Washington's highly unstable and irresponsible policy has this time taken a lurch in favor of Beijing, which takes the form of bullying Lee to retract his remarks. Despite Washington's weird and unpredictable wobbles, there is a strong case that Canberra is taking the process of sucking up to Beijing needlessly far."

PHILIPPINES: "Chinese WouldBe Hegemony"

Max Soliven, publisher of the independent and conservative Philippine Star wrote

te in his column (8/15): "Perhaps it is useful to us in Asia, already under the shadow of a powerful Chinese hegemony, to have Taiwan as...a burr in China's blanket...an irritant and a challenge. Taipei is, by definition, an irritating but deterrent factor in Asia's balance of power."

SINGAPORE: "Slouching Towards War"

Progovernment Straits Times (8/16) had this editorial: "One almost wishes the Cold War had not ended. Fear elicited caution in the Western alliance. The absence of fear has led it to substitute adventurism for statesmanship. The latest example of such adventurism is the agreement between the U.S. and Japan to develop a theater missile defense system (TMD) jointly.... China objects strongly. The U.S. and Japan, it argues, are exploiting the threat of North Korean missiles to develop a shield the main purpose of which is to neutralize Chinese advances. China has good reasons for its objections. To begin with, TMD is not a defensive but an offensive system.... Just as tanks begat antitank weapons, and airplanes anti-aircraft systems, TMD will no doubt spawn anti-missile strategies. A system meant to provide added security will thus, by the grim logic of arms, instigate a series of countermeasures which will make Asia less, not more, stable. For this reason, regional governments, including ASEAN's, should ask the U.S. and Japan to cease their madness."

SOUTH KOREA: "Missile May Be Negotiated"

Reporter Park Doo Shik of the conservative Chosun Ilbo (8/17) wrote: "Following the recent talks in Geneva, the U.S. government seems to have been assured that the North Korean missile issue is negotiable. There has been talk that North Korea will test fire a Taepodong2 in late August or early September, but the test seems to have been 'suspended' for the time being. The focus has moved to 'What will North Korea demand in return for a moratorium?' It is hard to tell whether North Korea will accept Dr. Perry's

proposal in return for the suspension of a longrange missile test. Chances are that North Korea may separate the missile issue from Perry's proposal."

THAILAND: "North Korea Should Not Complain"

Charnnarish Boonpharod commented in elite Naew Na about joint U.S.South Korean military exercises (8/17): "Since Pyongyang has on a number of occasions threatened the South and the U.S. with its missiles, they have no justification to decry the U.S.South Korea's muscle flexing."

"RedHot Intelligence: China To Invade Taiwan"

Cafe Dam commented in elite, businessoriented Krungthep Turakij (8/17): "The U.S. inner intelligence circles have raised the alarm over China's imminent showdown against Taiwan in days ahead.... I should think the Chinese leaders are genuinely frustrated and boiling over with the desire to exercise its firepower to give Taiwan a lesson."
X hp x (#
X hp x (# "China's Credibility Rests On Taiwan Stand?"

The lead editorial of the independent, Englishlanguage Nation commented (8/16): "Asia's confidence in China's peaceful intention is important. While Asian countries understand and fully support Beijing's oneChina policy, they have never backed its policy on the use of force against Taiwan.... An Asia that has no confidence in China's intentions, imagined or real, can ignite an arms race once again in the region."

"A Little Restraint In China, Please"

The lead editorial of topcirculation, moderately conservative, English language Bangkok Post commented (8/16): "It is time for the Taiwanese to button up... As for China, if it wants the respect of the world, it should act a little more respectably, and show some respect for the opinions, thoughts and cultures of the rest of the world as well. If China wants to attract Taiwan to its offer of a merger, it should make itself look a little

more attractive."

EUROPE

GERMANY: "Taiwan's UN Bid"

Petra Kolonko pointed out in rightofcenter Frankfurter Allgemeine (8/13):

"Wit

h the support of the Western governments which have recognized the island repub

lic, Taiwan is again trying to be accepted into the UN every year.

Taiwan know

s that these efforts are doomed to failure. But this year, this symbolic move

could dangerously escalate tensions with China. Only a few weeks ago, Taiwan's

President Lee Tenghui said that Taiwan wants to consider relations with China

as statetostate relations. The Chinese government has not yet decided how to r

eact to this move. Hawks are calling for a military strike and, according to r

eports from Hong Kong, China is planning to mobilize half a million soldiers al

ong the coast of Taiwan. This may only be

saber rattling, but it could also tu

rn out to be deadly serious."

"Demons In Streets Of Taiwan"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich argued (8/13): "Beijing is increasing

its saber rattling. And Hong Kong's media are leading China's regiments into t

he propaganda battle. It is a fact that Beijing began a month ago to exorcise

the demon of independence from Taiwan whose president mentioned the bad words o

f two existing Chinese states. This created anger among, Chinese hardliners al

though Lee only said what everybody knew before.

But because Taiwan's presiden

t, despite all of China's threatening gestures,

did not revoke his statement, C

hina is obviously planning to increase

pressure on Taiwan. In the meantime, Ta

ipei is preparing for the worst, but

remains calm, since there is still the Uni

ted States, which proved before

that it is able to chase away the demon of inva
sion."

"The Strong Man From Taipei"

Leftofcenter Berliner Zeitung's Nico Fried emphasized (8/13): "Nobody really understands what is happening to Taiwan's President Lee Tenghui. For weeks, he has now propagated the independence of his island, and is not impressed by angry politicians in Beijing, troop movements on the Chinese mainland or flights of lowflying fighter planes over the streets of Taiwan. And now he has even sent some friendly states to check whether Taiwan can be accepted into the UN. Shortly before the end of his term, Lee seems to like the role of a strongman. But he will achieve nothing, at least not anything that could be of use for anyone. The Taiwanese do not like the Communists, but they prefer the status quo over war. The West is not interested in two Chinas, but it is interested in normalizing relations with China after the destruction of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. China's president is willing to do so because he knows that the modernization of his country is not possible without international support. But in the long run, Jiang Zemin will be in a difficult situation if he constantly needs to appease his hawkish military. It would be good if someone calmed down an unruly Lee. Western foreign policy experts should also consider this a rewarding task."

ITALY: "Under The Global Village The Slow Match Of The East Is Burning"

Edgardo Bartoli commented on the frontpage of leading conservative, opposition Il Giornale (8/15): "Noises of war coming from the Far East alarm, but, above all, bewilder Western chanceries.... There are very audible noises from China against Taiwan, which are indeed taken not too seriously even by the United States, which finds itself in the difficult situation of having sponsored Beijing by recognizing 'only one China' while being committed to protecting and defending Taiwan against attacks coming from its motherland.... More sobering...are the noises coming from the border between India and Pakistan.... Indeed everywhere

ere in the world regional equilibria
are creaking.... The problem is that glob
alization remains very
asymmetrical: Market globalization is not accompanied b
y civil rights and
freedom globalization.... Until now, supranational instrume
nts forged in the
last fifty years to safeguard peace in the world...have worke
d rather
satisfactorily...but it is necessary to correct them, strengthen and e
xtend
them constantly."

"Nobody Believes In The War Between China And Taiwan, Besides The Generals
Who
Arm Missiles And Submarines"

A very extensive story in provocative, classical liberal Il Foglio said
(8/14)
: "It is now clear that China aspires to replace Moscow in its role of
direct c
ontrast to U.S. supremacy, and it is not by chance that its present
doctrine ta
lks about 'global war'.... Obviously, the United States holds the
balance in t
he crisis between China and Taiwan, and the power of deterrence
it will be able
to exert against the Chinese expansionist aims in an area
which has always bee
n of primary importance, for the whole west is of primary
relevance."

"New Winds Of War In Asia"

Stefano Silvestri commented on the frontpage of leading business Il Sole
24Ore
(8/14): "The main role of balancing factor being played these days by
the Unit
ed States is today much more difficult because more and more
interlocutors, wit
h different interests, arrive on stage.... China is still
a huge puzzle.... T
he U.S. cannot have a coherent policy toward the Chinese
giant...and the same i
s true for too many countries in the region.... Asia
is too big, too rich an
d too important to be ignored. But it is also too
complex to be dealt with wit
hout a common strategic vision and a precise
choice of priorities between Europ
eans and Americans."
X` hp x (#
X` hp x (# AUSTRIA: "OneChina Trap"

KarlPeter Schwarz comments in conservative Die Presse (8/14): "Why does China provoke a dangerous crisis right now?... One of the reasons may be that the U.S. policy visavis China under Bill Clinton has lost its balance and is behaving increasingly submissively towards Beijing. The Clinton Administration is promoting the absurd exclusion of Taiwan from international organizations in violation of the Taiwan Relations Act, by actually blackmailing Taipei. In Taiwan, the successor of President Lee Tenghui will be elected next March. Beijing will probably escalate its intimidation campaign, checking carefully how far it can go visavis a notorious weak U.S. President like Bill Clinton. There is no immediate risk that the hardliners in Beijing might be tempted to launch the adventure of an invasion of Taiwan for a third time. It is much more probable that they will succeed in simply absorbing the economically prospering Taiwan, by a combination of political and military blackmail. Provided that Beijing's interpretation of the 'OneChina' concept prevails and the imperial formula of the 'unfaithful province' is accepted, which dates back to the Middle Ages."

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: "U.S. Left With Little Choice"

Tokyo correspondent F.J. Khergamvala said in the centrist Hindu (8/16): "The U.S. policy to deter any armed conflict between China and Taiwan is one of 'strategic ambiguity.' These words work during peace time, but once the deterrence phase turns to an armed conflict, there will be no ambiguity at all about the U.S.' choices. Legally, diplomatically, politically and for commercial reasons, there is just one choice forced upon the United States. An armed intervention to protect and if necessary rescue Taiwan.... Failure to intervene effectively will undermine every single one of the several

regional interlocking bilateral military alliances that the United States has in the region.

"The worse case scenario would be a moderately quick undermining of the alliance with Japan, which will certainly develop nuclear weapons. This will encourage North Korea, and force South Korea to go nuclear and without a shadow of a doubt, so too will Taiwan if it does not surrender.... The real question is not if the United States will come to Taiwan's aid. It is, at what point?.... Action that leads to a trade, overflights or a shipping embargo will probably force the United States to act, but not as much as any Chinese military moves to amass a force large enough to occupy Taiwan, or force Taiwan to declare under duress that it is formally part of one China.... Much as Beijing might object, the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act of 1979...does override all SinoU.S. communique. It is U.S. law.... Though this extreme scenario is most unlikely at the moment, the totality of interests gives the United States a Hobson's choice, meaning an apparent freedom to act but in effect no freedom at all."

BANGLADESH: "ChinaTaiwan Relations"

The centrist, Englishlanguage Independent maintained (8/12): "Chinese submarines have been mobilized in seas near the Taiwan Strait 'awaiting orders,' and Chinese warships have stepped up patrols. The United States, on the other hand, while making no hideandseek of its annoyance with Lee, has authorized the Pentagon to go ahead with its \$550 million sale of a hightech weapons system and earlywarning planes to Taiwan.... China thinks the increased U.S. arms supply is encouraging Lee toward formal separatism. Hopefully, the September summit between Clinton and Zemin may serve to remove the tension across the Taiwan Strait which is threatening to shake the world."

NEPAL: "ChinaTaiwan TensionsU.S. Holds The Key"

X` hp x (#Governmentowned Rising Nepal featured this oped piece (8/11) by seni
or
journalist and Nepal's former deputy permanent representative to the UN, M.

R. Josse: "Washington may in fact hold the key to a peaceful resolution of
th
e Taiwan question given its 'constructive engagement' relationship with
Beijing
and her undoubted influence over Taipei. Yet things are far from
clear on the
American front. For one thing, the Chinese rightly worry over
moves at this t
ime to expand U.S.Taiwan relations. For another, they also
fret over the longt
erm implications of the U.S.Japan alliance, now
exacerbated by the Japanese Die
t's approval that the Japanese Defense Forces
may provide greater assistance to
American troops in Asia if conflicts arise
in loosely defined 'areas around Ja
pan.' Finally, of course, there is
Beijing's opposition to moves contemplated
in the United States to supply
Taiwan with the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) sy
stem which [China] regards as
an open violation of three defining SinoU.S. join
t communiques."

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