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001. email	From Bburrill@ssimicro.com to David Des Roches Re: No subject (01IQELJIL8O200UXT8) (4 pages)	11/25/1997	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Tape Restoration Project [Email]
Default ([Panama Canal])
OA/Box Number: 1100000

FOLDER TITLE:

[09/10/1997 - 01/22/1998]

2019-0153-F
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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]

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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]

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SUBJECT: Early Report 9/10: ALBRIGHT TO MIDDLE EAST

TO: Lori Anderson (Lori Anderson@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

As they have in the days leading up to Secretary Albright's departure for
her

first trip to the troubled Middle East region, editors overseas concluded
that

she faces a daunting task, the "biggest challenge" of her career. At the
core

of what a German writer termed the "Sisyphean task" facing the secretary
are

Arab perceptions that, in the words of Amman's independent, liberal
Al-Arab

Al-Yawm, "the U.S. is Israel and Israel is the U.S." Cairo's opposition
Al Wafd

likewise queried: "Does the U.S. realize the consequences of its blind
bias

toward Israel and its humiliation of Arab pride?... We have become
disappointed in the U.S. as a sponsor of peace." Israeli papers, however,
had

a different view of the challenges facing the secretary of state. Tel
Aviv's

independent Haaretz argued that the "toughest hurdle" would be "the lack

of

mutual trust between Palestinians and Israelis." Another Tel Aviv daily proposed that by addressing the people--rather than the governments--of the

opposing sides, Ms. Albright might be able to "prevent the protagonists from

falling into the abyss." Although few analysts discounted the seriousness of

the current impasse in the Middle East, most felt that, in the words of London's independent Financial Times, Ms. Albright "is a secretary of state

like no other." To a similar assessment, Milan's centrist,

top-circulation

Corriere della Sera added: "The main novelty of this mission will be

Albright's style.... She (will) make each side confront its own responsibilities."

BOSNIA: BANJA LUKA CLASH, CROAT PULLOUT THREATEN ELECTIONS, DAYTON

Yesterday's successful ouster by NATO forces of a group of hardline

Bosnian

Serb leaders from Banja Luka and the announcement by a Bosnian Croat party that

it will boycott this weekend's municipal elections in Bosnia heightened

concerns among European commentators that the poll might be headed for

"failure" and that the entire Dayton peace process is at yet another

crisis

point. Observers--reflecting the confusing, shifting situation in Bosnia--disagreed as to the implications of the Banja Luka clash with opponents of Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic. Right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin painted the incident as a victory for Ms. Plavsic and a defeat for the minions of her opponent, indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic. Milan's centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera, in turn, judged that the confrontation proved that the West's SFOR has failed to "isolate" Mr. Karadzic and is now heading for a "trap," caught as it is between two militant Serb factions. The events moved London's liberal Guardian and other dailies, including Moscow's centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta, to conclude that "the purported aim of Dayton--to lay the basis for a unified multi-ethnic democracy in Bosnia--is more remote than ever." According to these analysts, NATO's SFOR must extend its planned stay in Bosnia if the Dayton accords are to be fully implemented.

BRIEFS

-- Fast Track: 'An Important Test'

-- Panama Canal Conference: 'Asian Arm-Wrestling Match'

-- Hong Kong's C.H. Tung In Washington

-- Philippines' Charter Change: 'Collision Course' By Year's End?

EDITORS: Mildred Sola Neely and Kathleen J. Brahney

ALBRIGHT TO MIDDLE EAST: A 'SISYPHEAN TASK' LOOMS

ISRAEL: "She Might Pull Off Something"

Senior analyst Hemmi Shalev opined in mass-appeal, pluralist Maariv

(9/10):

"Secretary Albright is bringing a fresh and creative mind to a frustrated

and

tired region where even atrocities have become routine.... If anyone can

still

stop the protagonists from falling into the abyss, it is Madeleine

Albright.... Albright may win a first-of-a-kind assistance from the

Israeli

and Palestinian peoples. Both are frustrated with their leaders'

inability to

move the peace process forward.... The Israelis at least appear ready

more

than ever before to listen to Washington's advice on how to break the

vicious

cycle of violence."

"The Secretary Is Coming"

Top-circulation Yediot wrote in its lead editorial (9/10): "There is a difference between Secretary Albright's visit and the visits of her predecessors.... The United States has decided to stop being a 'honest broker.' Instead, Washington has become directly involved in the conflict.

This is indicated by the involvement of the CIA in the security talks with the Palestinians as well as by the Secretary's plan to talk directly to the Israelis over the heads of their leaders.... This is not so good for Israel because we're far more open to U.S. pressure than the Palestinians and the Syrians."

"Untrustworthy"

Analyst Akiva Eldar wrote in independent Haaretz (9/10): "It remains to be seen whether Madeleine Albright resembles James Baker, who managed to bring Israelis and Arabs to Madrid, rather than Warren Christopher, who left them to themselves. So far, the new Secretary of State has excelled mostly in public relations.... Albright's decision to devote a great deal of time talking directly to Israelis and Palestinians may indicate that she has spotted the region's toughest hurdle, namely the lack of mutual trust between

Palestinians

and Israelis.... However, before Albright sets out to deal with the faulty

credibility of Netanyahu and Arafat, she had better ask herself whether Israelis and Palestinians have any faith in her and those who sent her....

Peace lovers on both sides of the fence do not believe that the fate of peace,

of Israeli terror victims and of hungry Palestinian children in Gaza are as

important to Bill Clinton and the U.S. Congress as the mood of a Jewish

Miami

fund-raiser."

EGYPT: "Israeli, Arab Views On Visit Differ"

Gamal Badawi, editor-in-chief of opposition Al Wafd, pointed out (9/10):

"Naturally, Albright will be welcomed in Israel with feelings of gratitude....

In the Arab world, the picture is different...[because,] Arabs are angry at the

American administration's policies and enmity to Arabs.... Truly the United

States is a superpower and is controlled by Jewish votes in Congress, but how

can the United States ignore its huge strategic interests in the Arab world and

see things through Israel's eyes only?... We have never heard Mrs.

Albright

[condemn the Israeli attack on Lebanon.]... Does the United States

realize

the consequences of its blind bias toward Israel and its humiliation of

Arab

pride?.... We have become disappointed in the U.S. as a sponsor of peace

and

freedom in the world. Mrs. Albright may excuse us if we do not give her a

warm

welcome."

JORDAN: "Israel Responsible For America's Defamed Image"

Senior editor Saleh Qallab opines on the back page of independent, liberal

Arabic daily Al-Arab Al-Yawm (9/10): "Albright should know that Israel

is

responsible for the defamed image that Arabs and Muslims have of the

United

States. People on the street feel that the United States is Israel and

that

Israel is the United States.

"To change this feeling, the United States must change its policies

vis-a-vis

the Mideast."

"Albright's Program"

Islamist columnist Yaser Zaatreh opined on the op-ed page of center-left, influential Al-Dustur (9/10): "Albright arrives in the region with threats

and intimidation. Arafat is asked to fulfill the Zionist demand that the resistance movements be destroyed. The Arab leaders are asked to attend the

Doha MENA summit and the Gulf countries are asked to reconsider improving relations with Iran.... These issues constitute Albright's mission....

We are

not optimistic about the results of this visit, particularly when some resistance fighters have been arrested in the PNA area, which reveals the possibility

that Arabs will succumb to American and Israeli dictates."

MOROCCO: "Hopes For Albright Visit"

Government-owned RTM Radio broadcast this (9/10): "Mrs. Albright will continue

the process of building confidence between Israelis and Palestinians.

Her

trip will also touch on all the other aspects of the Mideast peace process.

There cannot be real peace in the region without the involvement of all parties. We hope she does the best she can to advance the prospects of dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis so that a just and fair

peace can be established."

GERMANY: "Lost Confidence"

Wolfgang Guenter Lerch noted in an editorial in right-of-center
Frankfurter

Allgemeine (9/10): "The significance of Secretary of State Madeleine
Albright's visit to the Middle East is that she is going at all. Nobody
expects a breakthrough. If she succeeded in prompting Benjamin Netanyahu
and

Yasser Arafat in resuming their dialogue, this would be quite an
achievement.

Since the beginning of the peace process four years ago, it is now in its
deepest crisis."

"Albright At Sisyphus's Mountain"

Centrist Leipziger Volkszeitung told its readers (9/10): "A Sisyphean
task

faces Madeleine Albright. Without massive U.S. pressure on the
conflicting
sides, a new beginning of the peace talks will remain an illusion."

BRITAIN: "Albright's Biggest Challenge"

BBC Radio previewed Secretary Albright's Middle East trip (9/10): "Mrs.
Albright's mission is to try to breathe new life into the peace process,

which

has all but broken down in the wake of the Palestinian bomb attacks

against

Jewish targets. She has made it clear that she does not underestimate the

task

ahead of her, but on arrival she asserted that terrorism could not defeat

hope.... This is her biggest challenge since becoming secretary of state

earlier this year."

"Reconsidering Madeleine"

The independent Financial Times ran this op-ed commentary by diplomatic

editor

Bruce Clark (9/10): "Madeleine Albright, who embarks today on a desperate

effort to salvage the Middle East peace process, is a secretary of state

like

no other. She arrives in the region with a high reputation. In the eight

months since she took office, she has proved to be an exceptionally good

communicator and an able exponent of the difficult (and sometimes

neglected)

art of negotiating foreign policy with the U.S. Congress. She also has a

solid

list of achievements to her name and seems to many a breath of fresh air

in

U.S. diplomacy. Now she faces her sternest test. Though her aides are

carefully reducing expectations by talking down hopes of a breakthrough,

she

has to show whether she possesses the formidable mixture of skills

demanding by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: historical vision, attention to detail, and an ability to distinguish emotion from reality."

FRANCE: "Last Chance For Peace"

Philippe Gelie argued in right-of-center Le Figaro (9/10): "In spite of repeated warnings that she is no 'magician,' Madeleine Albright's visit to the Middle East is considered by diplomatic circles as the 'last chance' for peace.... Palestinians hope she will save them from Netanyahu, while Israelis in favor of peace hope she will 'save the nation from itself.'"

"Albright's Challenges"

Right-of-center economic Les Echos in its editorial (9/10): "It is up to the United States to try and save the peace process.... Madeleine Albright will succeed only if she puts extreme pressure on Israel, a policy which Washington has never been in favor of.... But it appears that for the United States, the time for complacency is over, even if Netanyahu will be difficult

to influence. The best one can hope for in the beginning is for an end
to
the escalating hatred which has overtaken the region."

ITALY: "Imagination And Transparency, Albright's Weapons"

A commentary by Antonio Ferrari in centrist, top-circulation Corriere
della

Sera said (9/10): "Secretary Albright cannot fail and has to achieve one
of

two possible objectives: the highest goal, i.e., saving the 'peace
process,'

and the lowest goal, i.e., preventing the peace process from turning into
a

'war process'.... Albright has one advantage: her open and
straight-forward

personality, which recalls that of James Baker...rather than that of
Warren

Christopher, the master of a sterile 'shuttle diplomacy'.... The main
novelty

of this mission will be Albright's style.... She (will) make each side
confront its own responsibilities.... After all, it is clear at this
point

that only imagination can save a peace process which has no alternatives
other

than more bloody clashes. What is certain is that Madeleine Albright's
visit

has already created expectations and concerns."

RUSSIA: "No Miracles Expected"

Alexander Smirnov reported from Damascus for reformist writers' weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta (#37, 9/10): "Damascus is trying not to impede the American mission and would carefully consider concrete proposals on renewing

the direct talks with Israel, should Albright bring any from Jerusalem.

But it

seems highly improbable that she will. She may well secure Netanyahu's consent

to suspend (for the five to six weeks of Jewish holidays) housing construction

in Jerusalem in return for the Palestinian administration stepping up measures

against Israel's enemies in the runup to important talks on the final status of

the Palestinian Autonomy. Also, there may be fewer travel restrictions for

Arabs, and, if Arafat 'behaves himself,' Palestinians may enjoy free passage

between Gaza and the West Bank and even start building their first airport.

The rest, including the establishment of a Palestinian state, will be put aside

for later. Wherever Secretary Albright goes, she has to fight every step

of
the way, which makes miracles unlikely."

JAPAN: "Hopes Are Pinned On Secretary of State Albright's Mediation"

Conservative Sankei editorialized (9/10), ""Just before her departure,
Secretary Albright urged PLO Chairman Arafat to take strong measures
against
terrorism. When Albright meets with Egyptian President Mubarak and King
Hussein of Jordan, she should also ask their cooperation in fighting
terrorism. The secretary should emphasize there will be no progress in
peace
talks as long as acts of terrorism continue against Israel."

SOUTH KOREA: "Albright's Visit: Pressure Both on Israel and Palestine"

Conservative Segye Ilbo (9/10) commented: "As the Middle East peace
process
is in danger of a total collapse, U.S. Secretary of State Albright is on
her
way there, sending a strong message to the region that the United States
won't
just sit back and watch. She will be tested on her ability as
secretary....
Her success seems quite unlikely."

BOSNIA: BANJA LUKA CLASH, CROAT PULLOUT THREATEN ELECTIONS, DAYTON

CROATIA: "A Difficult And Logical Decision"

The decision by the Presidency of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) in Bosnia-Herzegovina not to participate in this weekend's municipal elections evoked comment only in state-controlled Vjesnik (9/10) and on Croatian TV last night. On Vjesnik's front page, editor-in-chief (and regular Croatian TV commentator) Nenad Ivankovic said, "The HDZ of Bosnia and Herzegovina has made a difficult and dramatic decision. But, of course, a necessary one. The election engineering of the OSCE assumed such proportions that Croats even beforehand had no chance.... (T)he international community, under the director's baton of the Americans and contrary to the Dayton and other related agreements, decided to change the election rules.... Naturally, since the leading global power, together with those who unreservedly (or semi-unreservedly) follow, have invested powerful political and other prestige in these local elections, we have to expect reactions congruent to this. In other words, new pressure, new stigmatization. And not only for the Bosnian-Herzegovinian HDZ and the local Croats, who made this decision

completely autonomously, but also for Zagreb. But in spite of this no other path is possible, for it is a question of the fate of Croatia ("hrvatstva") in Bosnia-Herzegovina and...Croatian interests."

GERMANY: "Plavsic Strikes Back"

Boris Kalnoky concluded in an editorial in right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin (9/10), "Momcilo Krajisnik, leader of the hardliners of the Bosnian Serbs in Pale and Serbian representative in the Bosnian state presidium, had to accept his toughest and politically most humiliating defeat. He played for high stakes and lost. In Banja Luka, he wanted to prove that Serb President Biljana Plavsic does not enjoy much support among the Bosnian Serbs. But this attempt failed. Instead, he had to swallow two bitter pills. The president simply outmaneuvered him.... And he had to realize how much his own people want to get rid of him and Serb leader Karadzic....

"Plavsic demonstrated to her opponents that she is able to strike back.... It is painful for the Serbs when someone who acts as a strongman can be

outmaneuvered that simply by a woman. For the planned municipal elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina this weekend, this means trouble and maybe even their failure.... However, with SFOR's support, they could be carried out. If the people take part in them everywhere, the government in Pale could be told that it is superfluous."

"Arrest Karadzic"

Thomas Wittke stated in an editorial in centrist General-Anzeiger of Bonn (9/10), "SFOR's threatening gestures against the leadership in Pale may be very impressive, but SFOR's commanders are dodging a core demand of the Dayton Treaty. The international peacekeeping force has the ability to arrest Karadzic.... Fanatic Serbs will react with retaliation, but this risk is militarily calculable and in view of its profit acceptable."

"HDZ Cancelled Its Participation In Elections"

Sandro Schmidt pointed out in an editorial in right-of-center Bonner Rundschau (9/10), "The leading Croatian party HDZ canceled its participation in the municipal

elections this weekend. The HDZ is also not interested in the establishment of democratic structures. It must be feared that more blood will be shed in Bosnia."

BRITAIN: "Bosnia: Next Year's Headline Crisis In The Making"

An editorial in the liberal Guardian remarked (9/10): "Bosnia is next year's headline crisis in the making. Yesterday's clashes in Banja Luka may reinforce hopes that the a split on the Bosnian Serb side is now beyond repair. The local elections to be held this weekend may be hailed as another formal step forward in the Dayton peace process. But the purported aim of Dayton--to lay the basis for a unified multi-ethnic democracy in Bosnia--is more remote than ever....

"Yet why should NATO's continued presence depend on the Americans?...

Whatever

moral judgement may be passed, there is merit in the argument that

Europeans

should assume prime responsibility for what is after all a European crisis. It

makes a mockery too of NATO expansion if it cannot tackle a crisis already underway.... (British Foreign Secretary) Cook has established a close rapport with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright over Bosnia; he is well placed to broker a continuing European commitment in exchange for assurances that American withdrawal will be carried out gently while U.S. logistical support and financial aid is fully maintained. The alternative prospect of a return to civil war--perhaps with the now better armed government in Sarajevo taking the offensive--would finally demolish any chance of a multi-ethnic Bosnia."

FRANCE: "U.S. Soldiers Should Stay"

Joseph Limagne insisted in regional newspaper Ouest France (9/10):

"Everything

is pointing to it: war will return as soon as NATO soldiers have left.... It

will mark the end of the Dayton accords, the U.S. president's main success....

In order to avoid a new Bosnian conflict, U.S. soldiers must stay longer than planned. Clinton has begun to prepare public opinion for this."

"International Community Determined Accords Are Respected"

According to Didier Francois in left-of-center Liberation (9/10): "The latest events in Pale are proof that times are changing. The message sent to the Serb factions is eminently clear: For once the international community is determined to see that the Dayton agreements are respected. To do so, it has decided to play on divisions that oppose and weaken the two factions in the Srpska Republic."

RUSSIA: "SFOR Must Stay"

Centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (9/10) published this comment by Alexander Kuranov: "Twenty months after the Dayton accords were signed, Bosnia, bled white, is about as far from peace and well-being as it was at the very start of its rise from the ashes. Without international, primarily American, control, which more often than not takes the form of a primitive 'carrot and stick policy,' peace, more declared than real, would not last a few days.... As time goes by, you hear more in Bosnia about the possibility of a war breaking out again, especially after the SFOR pulls out. Holding communal elections, no

matter who wins--dashing army generals or corrupt government officials--will be another point scored in implementation of the Dayton accord. But you can only solve the problem of peaceful coexistence of the three nations if you solve it for good, and if the SFOR stays on."

ITALY: "NATO: A Force Between Two Armies"

In the view of centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera from Sarajevo (9/10): "NATO's actions to save Plavsic's adversaries...confirms a dramatic involvement in the Serb factional fighting

that is turning out to be a dead-end trap. The scorched-earth aim of isolating

Karadzic failed: There are thousands of armed militants who are ready to defend

the war criminal.... In practice, NATO today is a force interposed between two

armies, two police forces, two policies.... The political clash, which has

been going on since July, now risks breaking the delicate institutional balance

in Bosnia and putting at risk the administrative elections scheduled for Saturday and Sunday."

"Dayton Structure Is Shaking"

In a dispatch from Banja Luka, leading business Il Sole 24-Ore commented (9/10): "Bosnia falls into chaos again. Yesterday morning, thanks to a compromise, a direct clash between police faithful to Republica Spsrka President Plavsic and militia hardliners from Pale was avoided.... The situation is further aggravated by the sudden decision of the Croatian party to boycott elections.... Days before the elections, which are considered essential to consolidating the peace process, the entire Dayton structure is shaking, pushed by opposing nationalists."

BRIEFS

FAST TRACK: 'AN IMPORTANT TEST'

BRITAIN: "Best Opportunity To Obtain Fast Track Authority"

The independent Financial Times editorialized (9/10): "President Clinton has rightly identified his push for fresh trade negotiating authority, which he will formally launch today, as his top legislative priority for the rest of this year. Internationally, the fate of his request will have wide

implications for American economic relations. Domestically, it is an important test of Mr. Clinton's handling of relationships with the Republican-dominated Congress and his own party.... The exigencies of the American legislative calendar make this Mr. Clinton's best opportunity to obtain the necessary fast-track authority. He should seek a mandate whose sole objective is the promotion of trade liberalization. Congress should grant it for a reasonable period, without inhibiting the president's freedom of maneuver. A bad fast-track bill, with extraneous provisions or restrictions, would be worse than none at all."

PANAMA CANAL CONFERENCE: 'ASIAN ARM-WRESTLING MATCH'

CANADA: "Panama Playing Host To A New Asian Intrigue"

Stephen Handelman commented in the liberal Toronto Star (9/9): "The Panama Canal actually has become the center of an Asian arm-wrestling match.... The government of Panama launched a three-day conference aimed at convincing the world of its ability to manage the canal.... Panama invited more than 20 heads of state.... But only three leaders turned up. One was Taiwan President

Lee Teng-hui.... China, the third-largest user of the canal, made clear it would look on attendance at the conference as an unfriendly act.... Now, however, the U.S. and Panama are at loggerheads.... Panamanians want some measure of the security provided by U.S. troops.... Americans consider the isthmus an important strategic base for their war against narcotics traffickers. Neither is willing to concede this dependence openly.... The intrusion of Asian power politics...doesn't help matters."

SINGAPORE: "Panama Lost An Opportunity"

The pro-government Straits Times editorialized (9/10/): "The international conference on the Panama Canal this week should have been an occasion for focusing attention on the Central American country and its readiness to run the strategic waterway.... Instead, Panama's decision to invite President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan not only made China boycott the meeting, but also caused many other world leaders to stay away.... The low turnout gave a good indication of China's reach and influence. Its political clout has proved more formidable than Taiwan's dollar diplomacy yet again. This holds important

lessons for Panama--and other countries which might find themselves in a comparable situation in future."

HONG KONG'S C.H. TUNG IN WASHINGTON

HONG KONG: "C.H.Tung's 'Good Mouthing' Journey To America"

Sing Pao Daily News editorialized (9/10): "A number of U.S. senators, on the

first day of C. H. Tung's U.S. visit, tabled a Congressional resolution, criticizing [Hong Kong's] electoral method. On the same day, one of the U.S.'

most prominent newspapers, the Washington Post, also published an editorial

attacking next year's election package.... It is absolutely understandable

that the U.S. government tends to take special care of Hong Kong's Democratic

Party.... But what way to achieve such goals remains a problem. To follow the

media's bashing the electoral method is definitely the least constructive....

The U.S. government should stick to its mild tone that it hopes for an early, open and fair election."

"High Level Personages On Capitol Hill Are Not Dumb"

Ex-legislator Emily Lau editorialized in Sing Tao Daily News (9/10): "It

was

believed that C. H. Tung's long-time connection with the U.S. business community and his friendship with powerful U.S. politicians would help smooth

his U.S. trip. With Hong Kong's situation of 'business as usual' two months

after the handover, the White House may orally accept the story that Hong Kong

is still a free international city ruled and protected by laws as before.

But

these high level personages on Capitol Hill are not dumb. While they warmly

welcomed C. H. Tung, they all have big question marks in their hearts regarding

Hong Kong's future.... Of course, those Americans who only care for commercial

interests would not question C. H. Tung's stance on issues of human rights and

democracy. Fortunately, there are numerous courageous Americans, such as the

U.S. media...who dare to raise issues that embarrass C. H. Tung."

PHILIPPINES 'CHARTER CHANGE': 'COLLISION COURSE' BY YEAR'S END?

PHILIPPINES: "Ramos Has No Choice But To Step Down"

On President Ramos's statement last Friday that he is keeping his "options open" in the next presidential elections, and his clarification yesterday that he was referring to his choice of candidates to endorse, the independent Manila Times (9/8) said: "President Ramos's stand 'cha-cha' [charter change] is as vague as it is pregnant with meaning.... President Ramos has no option but to step down on June 30, 1998. That is what the constitution says.... At a time of 'uncertainty,' speaking in riddles is the last thing a confused citizenry needs. Yet that is what Filipinos have been getting from Malacanang. Fortunately, the same cannot be same of the Catholic Church.... By all indications, there is no stopping the September 21 massive rally [against amending the constitution and extending elective officials' terms]. The rally promises to further divide the country. It is a very disturbing prospect indeed. But as they say, the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing."

"Martial Law?"

Columnist Amando Doronila queried in the independent Philippine Daily

Inquirer

(9/8): "Will Ramos seize the martial law scenario if the ostensibly constitutional options to extend his term fail?... Will the people accept it? What's clear is we are undergoing a rapid political mobilization and political alignment of powerful economic and social forces and we are moving on a collision course before the end of the year."

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

TEXT:

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anderson_l@a1.eop.gov; Wed, 10 Sep 1997 09:59:58 -0400 (EDT)

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Wed, 10 Sep 1997 09:59:25 -0400 (EDT)

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

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

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

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FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

#:2PkCP#EARLY REPORT #XX\ P6QyP#USIA #:Z2PkCP#U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY, WASHIN
GTON DC 20547 OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTIONOO
#XP\ P6QyP#Bill Richey, Branch Chief Media Reaction (R/MR), #:x2PkCXP# #XP\
P6QyP#Richey@usia.gov, (202) 6196511 Ann Pincus,
Director, (
202) 6196511

#Xn\ P6Qy&P#Wednesday, September 10, 1997

X' hp x (# ALBRIGHT TO MIDDLE EAST: A 'SISYPHEAN TASK' LOOMS

X' hp x (#

X' hp x (#As they have in the days leading up to Secretary Albright's departur
e for her

first trip to the troubled Middle East region, editors overseas concl
uded

that she faces a daunting task, the "biggest challenge" of her career. At

the core of what a German writer termed the "Sisyphean task" facing the
secret

ary are Arab perceptions that, in the words of Amman's independent,
liberal AlA

rab AlYawm, "the U.S. is Israel and Israel is the U.S." Cairo's
opposition Al

Wafd likewise queried: "Does the U.S. realize the consequences
of its blind bia

s toward Israel and its humiliation of Arab pride?... We
have become disappoint

ted in the U.S. as a sponsor of peace." Israeli papers,
however, had a differe

nt view of the challenges facing the secretary of
state. Tel Aviv's independen

t Haaretz argued that the "toughest hurdle"
would be "the lack of mutual trust
between Palestinians and Israelis."

Another Tel Aviv daily proposed that by ad
dressing the peoplerather than

the governments of the opposing sides, Ms. Albrig
ht might be able to

"prevent the protagonists from falling into the abyss." Al
though few

analysts discounted the seriousness of the current impasse in the Mi
ddle

East, most felt that, in the words of London's independent Financial Times

,
Ms. Albright "is a secretary of state like no other." To a similar
assessmen

t, Milan's centrist, topcirculation Corriere della Sera added:

"The main nove

lty of this mission will be Albright's style.... She (will)

make each side confront its own responsibilities."

BOSNIA: BANJA LUKA CLASH, CROAT PULLOUT THREATEN ELECTIONS, DAYTON X' hp x (#

Yesterday's successful ouster by NATO forces of a group of hardline Bosnian Serb

leaders from Banja Luka and the announcement by a Bosnian Croat party that it will boycott this weekend's municipal elections in Bosnia heightened concerns

among European commentators that the poll might be headed for "failure" and that

the entire Dayton peace process is at yet another crisis point. Observers reflecting the confusing, shifting situation in Bosnia disagreed as to the implications of the Banja Luka clash with

opponents of Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic. Right of center Die Welt of Berlin painted the incident as a victory for Ms. Plavsic and a defeat for the minions of her opponent, indicted war criminal Radovan

Karadzic. Milan's centrist, top circulation Corriere della Sera, in turn,

judged that the confrontation proved that the West's SFOR has failed to "isolate" Mr. Karadzic and is now heading for a "trap," caught as it is between

two militant Serb factions. The events moved London's liberal Guardian and other dailies, including Moscow's centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta, to conclude that

"the purported aim of Dayton to lay the basis for a unified multiethnic democracy in Bosnia is more remote than ever." According to these analysts, NATO's SFOR

must extend its planned stay in Bosnia if the Dayton accords are to be fully implemented.

BRIEFS

X' hp x (# Fast Track: 'An Important Test'

Panama Canal Conference: 'Asian Arm Wrestling Match'

Hong Kong's C.H. Tung In Washington

Philippines' Charter Change: 'Collision Course' By Year's End?

EDITORS: Mildred Sola Neely and Kathleen J. Brahney

ALBRIGHT TO MIDDLE EAST: A 'SISYPHEAN TASK' LOOMS

ISRAEL: "She Might Pull Off Something"

X' hp x (#

Senior analyst Hemmi Shalev opined in mass appeal, pluralist Maariv (9/10): "Secretary Albright is bringing a fresh and creative mind to a frustrated and

tire
d region where even atrocities have become routine.... If anyone can
still sto
p the protagonists from falling into the abyss, it is Madeleine
Albright.... A
lbright may win a firstofakind assistance from the Israeli
and Palestinian peop
les. Both are frustrated with their leaders' inability
to move the peace proce
ss forward.... The Israelis at least appear ready
more than ever before to lis
ten to Washington's advice on how to break the
vicious cycle of violence."

"The Secretary Is Coming"

Topcirculation Yediot wrote in its lead editorial (9/10): "There is a
differen
ce between Secretary Albright's visit and the visits of her
predecessors.... T
he United States has decided to stop being a 'honest
broker.' Instead, Washing
ton has become directly involved in the conflict.
This is indicated by the inv
olvement of the CIA in the security talks with
the Palestinians as well as by t
he Secretary's plan to talk directly to the
Israelis over the heads of their le
aders.... This is not so good for Israel
because we're far more open to U.S. p
ressure than the Palestinians and the
Syrians."

"Untrustworthy"

Analyst Akiva Eldar wrote in independent Haaretz (9/10): "It remains to be
se
en whether Madeleine Albright resembles James Baker, who managed to bring
Israe
lis and Arabs to Madrid, rather than Warren Christopher, who left them
to thems
elves. So far, the new Secretary of State has excelled mostly in
public relati
ons.... Albright's decision to devote a great deal of time
talking directly to
Israelis and Palestinians may indicate that she has
spotted the region's tough
est hurdle, namely the lack of mutual trust between
Palestinians and Israelis..
.. However, before Albright sets out to deal with
the faulty credibility of Ne
tanyahu and Arafat, she had better ask herself
whether Israelis and Palestinian
s have any faith in her and those who sent

her.... Peace lovers on both sides
of the fence do not believe that the fate
of peace, of Israeli terror victims a
nd of hungry Palestinian children in
Gaza are as important to Bill Clinton and
the U.S. Congress as the mood of a
Jewish Miami fundraiser."

EGYPT: "Israeli, Arab Views On Visit Differ"

Gamal Badawi, editor in chief of opposition Al Wafd, pointed out (9/10):
"Naturally, Albright will be welcomed in Israel with feelings of
gratitude.... In the Arab world, the picture is different...[because,] Arabs
are angry at the American administration's policies and enmity to Arabs....
Truly the United States is a superpower and is controlled by Jewish votes in
Congress, but how can the United States ignore its huge strategic interests
in the Arab world and see things through Israel's eyes only?... We have
never heard Mrs. Albright [condemn the Israeli attack on Lebanon.]... Does
the United States realize the consequences of its blind bias toward Israel
and its humiliation of Arab pride?.... We have become disappointed in the
U.S. as a sponsor of peace and freedom in the world. Mrs. Albright may
excuse us if we do not give her a warm welcome."

JORDAN: "Israel Responsible For America's Defamed Image"

Senior editor Saleh Qallab opines on the back page of independent, liberal
Arab daily AlArab AlYawm (9/10): "Albright should know that Israel is
responsible for the defamed image that Arabs and Muslims have of the United
States. People on the street feel that the United States is Israel and that
Israel is the United States."

"To change this feeling, the United States must change its policies visavis
the Mideast."

"Albright's Program"

Islamist columnist Yaser Zaatreh opined on the open page of centerleft,
influential AlDustur (9/10): "Albright arrives in the region with threats

and into
mediation. Arafat is asked to fulfill the Zionist demand that the
resistance movements be destroyed. The Arab leaders are asked to attend the
Doha MENA summit and the Gulf countries are asked to reconsider improving
relations with Israel.... These issues constitute Albright's mission.... We
are not optimistic about the results of this visit, particularly when some
resistance fighters have been arrested in the PNA area, which reveals the
possibility that Arabs will succumb to American and Israeli dictates."

MOROCCO: "Hopes For Albright Visit"

Government-owned RTM Radio broadcast this (9/10): "Mrs. Albright will
continue the process of building confidence between Israelis and
Palestinians. Her trip will also touch on all the other aspects of the
Mideast peace process. There cannot be real peace in the region without the
involvement of all parties. We hope she does the best she can to advance
the prospects of dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis so that a
just and fair peace can be established."

GERMANY: "Lost Confidence"

X'hp x (#Wolfgang Guenter Lerch noted in an editorial in right-of-center Frankfurter
Allgemeine (9/10): "The significance of Secretary of State Madeleine
Albright's visit to the Middle East is that she is going at all. Nobody
expects a breakthrough. If she succeeded in prompting Benjamin Netanyahu
and Yasser Arafat in resuming their dialogue, this would be quite an
achievement. Since the beginning of the peace process four years ago, it is
now in its deepest crisis."

X'hp x (# "Albright At Sisyphus's Mountain"

Centrist Leipziger Volkszeitung told its readers (9/10): "A Sisyphean task
faces Madeleine Albright. Without massive U.S. pressure on the conflicting
sides, a new beginning of the peace talks will remain an illusion."

X' hp x (# BRITAIN: "Albright's Biggest Challenge"

BBC Radio previewed Secretary Albright's Middle East trip (9/10): "Mrs. Albright's mission is to try to breathe new life into the peace process, which has a little but broken down in the wake of the Palestinian bomb attacks against Jewish targets. She has made it clear that she does not underestimate the task ahead of her, but on arrival she asserted that terrorism could not defeat hope.... That is her biggest challenge since becoming secretary of state earlier this year."

X' hp x (# "Reconsidering Madeleine"

The independent Financial Times ran this op-ed commentary by diplomatic editor Bruce Clark (9/10): "Madeleine Albright, who embarks today on a desperate effort to salvage the Middle East peace process, is a secretary of state like no other. She arrives in the region with a high reputation. In the eight months since she took office, she has proved to be an exceptionally good communicator and an able exponent of the difficult (and sometimes neglected) art of negotiating foreign policy with the U.S. Congress. She also has a solid list of achievements to her name and seems to many a breath of fresh air in U.S. diplomacy. Now she faces her sternest test. Though her aides are carefully reducing expectations by talking down hopes of a breakthrough, she has to show whether she possesses the formidable mixture of skills

demanding by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: historical vision, attention to detail, and an ability to distinguish emotion from reality."

X' hp x (# FRANCE: "Last Chance For Peace"

X' hp x (#

Philippe Gelie argued in right-of-center Le Figaro (9/10): "In spite of repeated warnings that she is no 'magician,' Madeleine Albright's visit to the Middle East is considered by diplomatic circles as the 'last chance' for peace.... Paris

lestinians hope she will save them from Netanyahu, while
Israelis in favor of p
eace hope she will 'save the nation from itself.'
X` hp x (#
"Albright's Challenges"

Rightofcenter economic Les Echos in its editorial (9/10): "It is up to the
Un
ited States to try and save the peace process.... Madeleine Albright will
succ
eed only if she puts extreme pressure on Israel, a policy which
Washington ha
s never been in favor of.... But it appears that for the United
States, the ti
me for complacency is over, even if Netanyahu will be difficult
to influence.
The best one can hope for in the beginning is for an end to
the escalating ha
tred which has overtaken the region."
X` hp x (#
X` hp x (# ITALY: "Imagination And Transparency, Albright's Weapons"

A commentary by Antonio Ferrari in centrist, topcirculation Corriere della
Se
ra said (9/10): "Secretary Albright cannot fail and has to achieve one of
two
possible objectives: the highest goal, i.e., saving the 'peace process,'
and t
he lowest goal, i.e., preventing the peace process from turning into a
'war pr
ocess'.... Albright has one advantage: her open and straightforward
personalit
y, which recalls that of James Baker...rather than that of Warren
Christopher,
the master of a sterile 'shuttle diplomacy'.... The main
novelty of this miss
ion will be Albright's style.... She (will) make each
side confront its own r
esponsibilities.... After all, it is clear at this
point that only imagination
can save a peace process which has no
alternatives other than more bloody clas
hes. What is certain is that
Madeleine Albright's visit has already created e
xpectations and concerns."

X` hp x (# RUSSIA: "No Miracles Expected"

Alexander Smirnov reported from Damascus for reformist writers' weekly
Literat
urnaya Gazeta (#37, 9/10): "Damascus is trying not to impede the
American miss
ion and would carefully consider concrete proposals on renewing
the direct talk

s with Israel, should Albright bring any from Jerusalem. But it seems highly improbable that she will. She may well secure Netanyahu's consent to suspend (for the five to six weeks of Jewish holidays) housing construction in Jerusalem in return for the Palestinian administration stepping up measures against Israel's enemies in the runup to important talks on the final status of the Palestinian Autonomy. Also, there may be fewer travel restrictions for Arabs, and, if Arafat 'behaves himself,' Palestinians may enjoy free passage between Gaza and the West Bank and even start building their first airport. The rest, including the establishment of a Palestinian state, will be put aside for later. Wherever Secretary Albright goes, she has to fight every step of the way, which makes miracles unlikely."

X' hp x (# JAPAN: "Hopes Are Pinned On Secretary of State Albright's Mediation"

Conservative Sankei editorialized (9/10), "'Just before her departure, Secretary Albright urged PLO Chairman Arafat to take strong measures against terrorism. When Albright meets with Egyptian President Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan, she should also ask their cooperation in fighting terrorism. The secretary should emphasize there will be no progress in peace talks as long as acts of terrorism continue against Israel."

X' hp x (#

SOUTH KOREA: "Albright's Visit: Pressure Both on Israel and Palestine"

Conservative Segye Ilbo (9/10) commented: "As the Middle East peace process is in danger of a total collapse, U.S. Secretary of State Albright is on her way there, sending a strong message to the region that the United States won't just sit back and watch. She will be tested on her ability as secretary.... Her success seems quite unlikely."

BOSNIA: BANJA LUKA CLASH, CROAT PULLOUT THREATEN ELECTIONS, DAYTON

X' hp x (#CROATIA: "A Difficult And Logical Decision"

The decision by the Presidency of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) in

Bosnia and Herzegovina not to participate in this weekend's municipal elections evoked comment only in state-controlled Vjesnik (9/10) and on Croatian TV last night. On Vjesnik's front page, editor-in-chief (and regular Croatian TV commentator) Nenad Ivankovic said, "The HDZ of Bosnia and Herzegovina has made a difficult and dramatic decision. But, of course, a necessary one. The election engineering of the OSCE assumed such proportions that Croats even beforehand had no chance.... (T)he international community, under the director's baton of the Americans and contrary to the Dayton and other related agreements, decided to change the election rules.... Naturally, since the leading global power, together with those who unreservedly (or semi-unreservedly) follow, have invested powerful political and other prestige in these local elections, we have to expect reactions congruent to this. In other words, new pressure, new stigmatization. And not only for the Bosnian-Herzegovinian HDZ and the local Croats, who made this decision completely autonomously, but also for Zagreb. But in spite of this no other path is possible, for it is a question of the fate of Croatia ("hrvatstva") in Bosnia-Herzegovina and...Croatian interests."

X' hp x (#

GERMANY: "Plavsic Strikes Back"

Boris Kalnoky concluded in an editorial in right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin (9/10), "Momcilo Krajisnik, leader of the hardliners of the Bosnian Serbs in Pale and Serbian representative in the Bosnian state presidium, had to accept his toughest and politically most humiliating defeat. He played for high stakes and lost. In Banja Luka, he wanted to prove that Serb President Biljana Plavsic does not enjoy much support among the Bosnian Serbs. But this attempt failed. Instead, he had to swallow two bitter pills. The president simply outmaneuvered him.... And he had to realize how much his own people want to get rid of him and Serb leader Karadzic...."

"Plavsic demonstrated to her opponents that she is able to strike back....
It is painful for the Serbs when someone who acts as a strongman can be outmaneuvered that simply by a woman. For the planned municipal elections in BosniaHerzegovina this weekend, this means trouble and maybe even their failure.... However, with SFOR's support, they could be carried out. If the people take part in them everywhere, the government in Pale could be told that it is superfluous."

"Arrest Karadzic"

Thomas Wittke stated in an editorial in centrist GeneralAnzeiger of Bonn (9/10), "SFOR's threatening gestures against the leadership in Pale may be very impressive, but SFOR's commanders are dodging a core demand of the Dayton Treaty. The international peacekeeping force has the ability to arrest Karadzic.... Fanatic Serbs will react with retaliation, but this risk is militarily calculable and in view of its profit acceptable."

"HDZ Cancelled Its Participation In Elections"

Sandro Schmidt pointed out in an editorial in rightofcenter Bonner Rundschau (9/10), "The leading Croatian party HDZ canceled its participation in the municipal elections this weekend. The HDZ is also not interested in the establishment of democratic structures. It must be feared that more blood will be shed in Bosnia."

BRITAIN: "Bosnia: Next Year's Headline Crisis In The Making"

An editorial in the liberal Guardian remarked (9/10): "Bosnia is next year's headline crisis in the making. Yesterday's clashes in Banja Luka may reinforce hopes that the split on the Bosnian Serb side is now beyond repair. The local elections to be held this weekend may be hailed as another formal step forward in the Dayton peace process. But the purported aim of Dayton to lay the basis for a unified multiethnic democracy in Bosnia is

more remote than ever....

"Yet why should NATO's continued presence depend on the Americans?...

Whatever

moral judgement may be passed, there is merit in the argument that

Europeans s

ould assume prime responsibility for what is after all a European

crisis. It

makes a mockery too of NATO expansion if it cannot tackle a

crisis already unde

rway.... (British Foreign Secretary) Cook has established

a close rapport with

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright over Bosnia; he

is well placed to broke

r a continuing European commitment in exchange for

assurances that American wit

hdrawal will be carried out gently while U.S.

logistical support and financial

aid is fully maintained. The alternative

prospect of a return to civil warperh

aps with the now better armed

government in Sarajevo taking the offensivewould

finally demolish any

chance of a multiethnic Bosnia."

FRANCE: "U.S. Soldiers Should Stay"

Joseph Limagne insisted in regional newspaper Ouest France (9/10):

"Everything

is pointing to it: war will return as soon as NATO soldiers have

left.... It

will mark the end of the Dayton accords, the U.S. president's

main success..

.. In order to avoid a new Bosnian conflict, U.S. soldiers

must stay longer th

an planned. Clinton has begun to prepare public opinion

for this."

"International Community Determined Accords Are Respected"

According to Didier Francois in leftofcenter Liberation (9/10): "The latest
ev

ents in Pale are proof that times are changing. The message sent to the

Serb

factions is eminently clear: For once the international community is

determine

d to see that the Dayton agreements are respected. To do so, it

has decided t

o play on divisions that oppose and weaken the two factions in

the Srpska Rep

ublic."

RUSSIA: "SFOR Must Stay"

Centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (9/10) published this comment by Alexander

Kurano

v: "Twenty months after the Dayton accords were signed, Bosnia, bled white, is

about as far from peace and wellbeing as it was at the very start of its rise f

rom the ashes. Without international, primarily American, control, which more

often than not takes the form of a primitive 'carrot and stick policy,' peace,

more declared than real, would not last a few days....

As time goes by, you hea

r more in Bosnia about the possibility of a war

breaking out again, especially

after the SFOR pulls out. Holding communal

elections, no matter who winsdashin

g army generals or corrupt government

officialswill be another point scored in

implementation of the Dayton

accord. But you can only solve the problem of pea

ceful coexistence of the

three nations if you solve it for good, and if the SFO

R stays on."

ITALY: "NATO: A Force Between Two Armies"

In the view of centrist, topcirculation Corriere della Sera from Sarajevo (9/1

0): "NATO's actions to save Plavsic's adversaries...confirms a dramatic involve

ment in the Serb factional fighting

that is turning out to be a deadend trap. The scorchedearth aim of isolating K

aradzic failed: There are thousands of armed militants who are ready to defend

the war criminal.... In practice, NATO today is a force interposed between two

armies, two police forces, two policies.... The political clash, which has bee

n going on since July, now risks breaking the delicate institutional balance in

Bosnia and putting at risk the administrative elections scheduled for Saturday and Sunday."

"Dayton Structure Is Shaking"

In a dispatch from Banja Luka, leading business Il Sole 24Ore commented (9/10)

: "Bosnia falls into chaos again. Yesterday morning, thanks to a compromise, a

direct clash between police faithful to Republica Spaska President Plavsic and

militia hardliners from Pale was avoided.... The situation is further aggravated by the sudden decision of the Croatian party to boycott elections.... Days before the elections, which are considered essential to consolidating the peace process, the entire Dayton structure is shaking, pushed by opposing nationalists."

BRIEFS

FAST TRACK: 'AN IMPORTANT TEST'

X' hp x (#

X' hp x (#BRITAIN: "Best Opportunity To Obtain Fast Track Authority"

The independent Financial Times editorialized (9/10): "President Clinton has rightly identified his push for fresh trade negotiating authority, which he will formally launch today, as his top legislative priority for the rest of this year. Internationally, the fate of his request will have wide implications for American economic relations. Domestically, it is an important test of Mr. Clinton's handling of relationships with the Republican-dominated Congress and his own party.... The exigencies of the American legislative calendar make this Mr. Clinton's best opportunity to obtain the necessary fast-track authority. He should seek a mandate whose sole objective is the promotion of trade liberalization. Congress should grant it for a reasonable period, without inhibiting the president's freedom of maneuver. A bad fast-track bill, with extraneous provisions or restrictions, would be worse than none at all."

PANAMA CANAL CONFERENCE: 'ASIAN ARMWRESTLING MATCH'

CANADA: "Panama Playing Host To A New Asian Intrigue"

Stephen Handelman commented in the liberal Toronto Star (9/9): "The Panama Canal actually has become the center of an Asian armwrestling match.... The government of Panama launched a three-day conference aimed at convincing the world of its ability to manage the canal.... Panama invited more than 20 heads of state.... But only three leaders turned up. One was Taiwan President Lee Tenghui

.... China, the thirdlargest user of the canal, made clear it would look on a ttendance at the conference as an unfriendly act.... Now, however, the U.S. a nd Panama are at loggerheads.... Panamanians want some measure of the securi ty provided by U.S. troops.... Americans consider the isthmus an important str ategic base for their war against narcotics traffickers. Neither is willing t o concede this dependence openly.... The intrusion of Asian power politics... doesn't help matters."

SINGAPORE: "Panama Lost An Opportunity"

The progovernment Straits Times editorialized (9/10/): "The international con ference on the Panama Canal this week should have been an occasion for focusing attention on the Central American country and its readiness to run the strateg ic waterway.... Instead, Panama's decision to invite President Lee Tenghui of Taiwan not only made China boycott the meeting, but also caused many other worl d leaders to stay away.... The low turnout gave a good indication of China's reach and influence. Its political clout has proved more formidable than Taiwan's dollar diplomacy yet again. This holds important les sons for Panamaand other countries which might find themselves in a comparable situation in future."

HONG KONG'S C.H. TUNG IN WASHINGTON

HONG KONG: "C.H.Tung's 'Good Mouthing' Journey To America"

Sing Pao Daily News editorialized (9/10): "A number of U.S. senators, on the first day of C. H. Tung's U.S. visit, tabled a Congressional resolution, critic izing [Hong Kong's] electoral method. On the same day, one of the U.S.' most pr ominent newspapers, the Washington Post, also published an editorial attacking next year's election package.... It is absolutely understandable that the U.S. government tends to take special care of Hong Kong's Democratic Party.... But what way to achieve such goals remains a problem. To follow the media's bashin g the electoral method is definitely the least

constructive.... The U.S. government should stick to its mild tone that it hopes for an early, open and fair election."

"High Level Personages On Capitol Hill Are Not Dumb"

Exlegislator Emily Lau editorialized in Sing Tao Daily News (9/10): "It was believed that C. H. Tung's longtime connection with the U.S. business community and his friendship with powerful U.S. politicians would help smooth his U.S. trip. With Hong Kong's situation of 'business as usual' two months after the handover, the White House may orally accept the story that Hong Kong is still a free international city ruled and protected by laws as before. But these high level personages on Capitol Hill are not dumb. While they warmly welcomed C. H. Tung, they all have big question marks in their hearts regarding Hong Kong's future.... Of course, those Americans who only care for commercial interests would not question C. H. Tung's stance on issues of human rights and democracy. Fortunately, there are numerous courageous Americans, such as the U.S. media...who dare to raise issues that embarrass C. H. Tung."

X hp x (# PHILIPPINES 'CHARTER CHANGE': 'COLLISION COURSE' BY YEAR'S END?

X hp x (#

PHILIPPINES: "Ramos Has No Choice But To Step Down"

On President Ramos's statement last Friday that he is keeping his "options open" in the next presidential elections, and his clarification yesterday that he was referring to his choice of candidates to endorse, the independent Manila Times (9/8) said: "President Ramos's stand 'chacha' [charter change] is as vague as it is pregnant with meaning.... President Ramos has no option but to step down on June 30, 1998. That is what the constitution says.... At a time of 'uncertainty,' speaking in riddles is the last thing a confused citizenry needs. Yet that is what Filipinos have been getting from Malacanang. Fortunately, the same cannot be said of the Catholic Church.... By all indications, there is no

o stopping the September 21 massive rally
[against amending the constitution and
extending elective officials' terms].
The rally promises to further divide the
country. It is a very disturbing
prospect indeed. But as they say, the only
thing necessary for evil to
triumph is for good people to do nothing."

"Martial Law?"

Columnist Amando Doronila queried in the independent Philippine Daily
Inquirer

(9/8): "Will Ramos seize the martial law scenario if the ostensibly
constitutional

options to extend his term fail?... Will the people accept
it? What's the

scenario is we are undergoing a rapid political mobilization and
political alignment

of powerful economic and social forces and we are moving
on a collision course

before the end of the year."

X' hp x (####Xx\ P6QyXP#

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

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: news-errors (news-errors@mx.lodo.infobeat.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:10-SEP-1997 10:12:00.00

SUBJECT: News - Morning Edition @ 9/10/97

TO: Brian A. Reich (Brian A. Reich@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

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U.S. Front Page Stories

*** Republicans question veracity of former Democratic chief

*** Florida bans fen-phen diet drug combination

*** Spacecraft zeroing in on Mars orbit

*** Union finds rampant 'social promotion' in schools

Crime and Catastrophe

- *** Fugitive pleads not guilty in N.Y. to 1970 killings
- *** Woman cadet ousted from VMI for hitting male cadet
- *** Man accused of cheating at cards kills best friend
- *** Navajo Indian girl killed by brother in accident

The U.S. Political Scene

- *** Clinton challenges Senate on Weld, campaign funds
- *** Widnall to resign as Air Force secretary
- *** House turns backs family planning notification plan
- *** House Transportation panel chairman target of probe

The Courts

- *** Judge declares California toddler has no parents
- *** Conn. sex offender law upheld by U.S. appeals court
- *** Pledge sues Louisiana university, bar and fraternity
- *** Man charged in New York with \$10 million art theft
- *** Ailing radio host ordered freed from New Jersey jail

U.S. Business and Financial News

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U.S. Front Page Stories

***** Republicans question veracity of former Democratic chief**

Republicans Tuesday accused former Democratic Party chairman Don Fowler of brushing aside national security concerns in his quest for campaign dollars and openly questioned the truthfulness of his testimony. Testifying to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Fowler defended President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore against charges of campaign fund-raising abuses. Fowler was questioned for over six hours about his lobbying efforts with administration officials on behalf of big Democratic donors. For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865434-9f4>

*** Florida bans fen-phen diet drug combination

The Florida Board of Medicine has issued an emergency order banning the diet drug combination fen-phen for 90 days, officials said Tuesday. The board declared the drug combination constitutes an immediate public health threat, which enables it to impose a 90-day moratorium while drafting permanent guidelines. The order prohibits new prescriptions for the two-drug combination and requires patients currently on the drug regimen be weaned off one or the other within 30 days. Recent medical reports have linked the drug combination to heart valve disease and pulmonary hypertension in some users. For the story, <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865003-c20>

*** Spacecraft zeroing in on Mars orbit

A tiny robotic spacecraft, which will orbit Mars for two years looking for landing sites for a future manned mission, was closing in on the red planet Tuesday, space officials said. Mars Global Surveyor was launched 10 months ago and is expected to go into orbit Thursday but will not start its primary mission of mapping the red planet for at least four months. The Surveyor will offer scientists a view of the planet's climate and weather patterns not available to the Mars Pathfinder rover, which has been on Mars since July 4, beaming back data to earth on the planet's terrain. For full story see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865928-6be>

*** Union finds rampant 'social promotion' in schools

The country's public schools widely encourage promoting students to the next grade before they are ready, even if the practice is not officially sanctioned, American Federation of Teachers President Sandra Feldman said Tuesday. Citing a survey of school districts by the 950,000-member group, she said the practice of "social promotion," advancing students to the next grade who have not mastered their previous one, is rampant. In its survey the AFT found some districts have policies that restrict the number of students who can be kept back to repeat a grade of school. For full story see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4866629-ed5>

Crime and Catastrophe

*** Fugitive pleads not guilty in N.Y. to 1970 killings

A New York man captured last month after nearly three decades as a fugitive pleaded not guilty Tuesday in Manhattan Supreme Court to charges of second-degree murder and gun possession in a 1970 double homicide. Frank Koehler, 68, is accused of killing Richard Glennon, a former prizefighter, and Peter McGinn, a restaurant owner, in a 1970 dispute in New York City. Koehler was nabbed last month when he got off a train. Police said after the murder Koehler fled to Boston and then to the West Coast, where he lived in Benicia, California, married

and had a daughter. For full story see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4867767-986>

***** Woman cadet ousted from VMI for hitting male cadet**

One of the first female cadets to enter Virginia Military Institute was suspended from the school for two semesters for hitting an upperclassman, officials said Tuesday. "I hate to lose any of our cadets, almost for any reason, but our system does not tolerate any cadet striking another," VMI Superintendant Major General Josiah Bunting said in announcing the suspension. Details of the incident, including the woman cadet's name, were not released. VMI said the incident had taken place after classes had begun. For full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865082-323>

***** Man accused of cheating at cards kills best friend**

A man shot and killed his best friend when his buddy accused him of cheating in a high-stakes game of cards, New Mexico police said Tuesday. Arturo Sandoval accused Rosario Nunez Baca of cheating during a Sunday night game in Santa Fe. The two men stepped outside to settle their dispute with a street fight. Police said Baca pulled out a pistol and Sandoval taunted him, "Go ahead, shoot me." Baca did and Sandoval died in the hospital. His brother Roberto was also wounded. All three men had recently moved from Mexico and were living together in Santa Fe. For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4867584-259>

*** Navajo Indian girl killed by brother in accident

A 5-year-old Navajo Indian girl was shot and killed by her 11-year-old brother when the rifle he was handling accidentally went off, FBI officials in New Mexico said Tuesday. Deliah Chackee was killed Monday when the .22 caliber rifle her brother was placing in a gun rack fell and went off, striking the girl in the head. Chackee was flown from the Navajo reservation to a nearby hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival. The children's mother and stepfather were away and they were with their grandmother when the incident occurred. For story see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4866775-07d>

The U.S. Political Scene

*** Clinton challenges Senate on Weld, campaign funds

President Clinton challenged the Senate Tuesday to take the initiative on reforming the way political campaigns are financed and to give a fair hearing to former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, his choice as ambassador to Mexico. Clinton laid down an activist agenda for the autumn in a wide-ranging speech. He touched on every major issue facing Washington over the next three months. The president also made a rare public plea that Weld, be given a fair confirmation hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. For full story see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4868268-c4d>

Helms digs in heels on Weld despite Clinton appeal, For full story see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4866942-1cc>

*** Widnall to resign as Air Force secretary

Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall announced Tuesday that she would resign effective Oct. 31 after four years in the post to return to teaching at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Defense officials said privately that President Clinton was expected to nominate Democratic Florida State Sen. Daryl Jones to succeed Widnall. The first woman to serve as a U.S. service secretary, Widnall was the associate provost at MIT and a member of the faculty for more than 28 years before becoming Air Force secretary in 1993. For full story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865186-1ae>

*** House turns backs family planning notification plan

The House defeated a plan Tuesday to require federally funded clinics to notify parents before giving birth control to minors, after opponents argued it could scare away teens and increase unwanted pregnancies. Turning back conservatives who charged federal aid had encouraged teen sex and eroded parental authority, lawmakers voted 220-201 for a less stringent measure telling clinics to encourage family involvement and advise minors on avoiding sex. The action came as the House continued debate on a \$269 billion annual bill for labor, health and education programs. For full story see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4868108-bd2>

***** House Transportation panel chairman target of probe**

Federal investigators are probing whether Boston businessmen Nicholas Contos and Richard Goldberg tried to buy the influence of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman Bud Shuster over a federal highway construction project, the Washington Post said Wednesday. Subpoenas for records were delivered last week to the transportation committee, the House ethics committee and the chief administrative officer of the House of Representatives. Contos and Goldberg had long legal disputes over land taken for the city's \$10 billion Central Artery project. For full story see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4869408-3e4>

The Courts

***** Judge declares California toddler has no parents**

Two-year-old Jaycee Louise Buzzanca was officially declared an orphan Tuesday after a judge ruled she has no legal parents. She was born as a result of artificial insemination when a donor egg fertilized by donor sperm was implanted in a surrogate mother. A month before her birth, the man who hired the surrogate mother filed for divorce from his wife. Orange County Superior Court Judge Robert Monarch ruled John

Buzzanca no longer has to pay ex-wife Luanne \$386 a month to support the child who bears his surname. The man contended he never legally became the girl's father. For story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4867538-bc4>

***** Conn. sex offender law upheld by U.S. appeals court**

A federal appeals court in New York Tuesday upheld Connecticut's sex offender notification law. The controversial law is modeled after similar measures in other states passed after the death of Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl killed by a convicted sex offender. The court ruling "enables the state to notify the community where sexual offenders may live and work, without any fear that we're violating anyone's constitutional right," said Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. Connecticut's law was passed in 1995. Full story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865694-9ab>

***** Pledge sues Louisiana university, bar and fraternity**

A former Louisiana fraternity pledge, hospitalized after binge drinking at a party that left his friend dead, sued the university, the fraternity and the bar that let him drink Tuesday. Donald Hunt Jr., 19, of Mandeville, La., was hospitalized for five days after the party for alcohol poisoning, his attorney said. His friend, Benjamin Wynne, 20, of Covington, La., died from alcohol poisoning after the party. Two other members were treated and released from a local hospital after the party, while emergency medical technicians treated

others at the fraternity house. For full story see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4866422-b0d>

***** Man charged in New York with \$10 million art theft**

A Japanese man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly trying to sell \$10 million worth of drawings, including ones by Rembrandt and Durer, which were stolen from museums in Germany and Azerbaijan. Masatsugu Koga, 60, was charged in a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court with concealing and trying to sell 12 drawings stolen from Bremen Museum and the National Museum of Baku in Azerbaijan. The 12 drawings, which have been recovered, were by artists including the 15th- to 17th-century masters Rembrandt van Rijn, Albrecht Durer, Jacob van Ruisdael and Annibale Carracci. For full story see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4867458-e6a>

***** Ailing radio host ordered freed from New Jersey jail**

U.S. District Judge Nicholas Politan ordered that Sonny Bloch, former radio talk show host who admitted defrauding listeners by recommending worthless investments, be released from a federal prison Tuesday due to failing health. Bloch, who is awaiting sentencing, has lung cancer and a life expectancy of no more than 12 months, said the judge after reviewing medical documentation. Bloch will be confined to his Tampa, Fla., home under electronic monitoring and must post a \$500,000 bond. At its peak his radio show, "The Sonny Block Show," claimed an

audience of more than 1 million listeners. For full story see
<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4867322-03f>

U.S. Business and Financial News

*** Dow finishes higher, small-caps net more records

U.S. blue chips posted slim gains on Tuesday in a choppy session after a strong productivity report lent a positive tone to the market, spurring small- and mid-sized stocks to smash more records. The Dow ended up 17 points to 7852. Gains beat declines 15 to 12 on moderate volume of about 506 million shares on the Big Board. The Nasdaq shot to its third-consecutive record high, ending up 11 points to 1656. The S&P 500 rose two to 934. The 30-year Treasury fell 4/32 to yield 6.62 percent. The dollar was mixed at 118.94 yen and 1.8145 marks. Full story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865157-67e>

World Front Page Stories

*** Divers enter submerged tomb of Haitian ferry

Divers entered a watery tomb Tuesday to pull bodies from a Haitian ferry that sank a few yards from shore, trapping passengers below deck

and possibly killing more than 200 people. Haitian President Rene Preval visited the disaster scene where angry villagers demanded to know why the government had not done more to prevent the accident or rescue those trapped. An official said the ferry may have been overloaded. Divers pulled 28 bodies from the wreck Tuesday, bringing to nearly 80 the number of victims recovered. The number included 26 bodies recovered by U.N. troops Monday. For full story see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4866057-d80>

*** Bronfman gives up seat on Swiss Holocaust fund

World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman gave up his seat on the executive board Tuesday of a \$200 million fund set up by Swiss banks and businesses to aid Holocaust victims, a spokesman said. Bronfman turned his seat over to Benjamin Meed, a Holocaust survivor who heads the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors. Bronfman took the position on a temporary basis after Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel changed his mind about serving. The World Jewish Restitution Organization also voted to look into what happened to thousands of artworks looted by the Nazis. For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4868455-ffc>

The World Political Scene

*** Albright backs Israeli demand PLO fight 'terror'

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright began her first Middle East peace mission Wednesday, embracing Israel's demand the Palestinian Authority meet a commitment to crack down on terror. "We are with you in your insistence that the Palestinian Authority fulfil the responsibilities and obligations it has undertaken," she said. "And we are with you in the determination that those who commit terror will not succeed now or ever in preventing the possibilities of peace between Israel and the Palestinians and throughout the Middle East from becoming a reality," she said. For full story see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4870395-8d7>

*** U.S., N. Korea in talks to salvage peace deal

U.S. and North Korean negotiators began one-day talks in Beijing Wednesday on the future of four-nation talks aimed at securing a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula, U.S. diplomats said. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman met North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye-gwan in Beijing. It was the first meeting of senior U.S. and North Korean officials since the North Korean ambassador to Egypt, Jang Sung-gil, and his brother were given asylum in the U.S. last month. The meeting comes a day after a North Korean soldier was shot dead by South Korean troops. For full story see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4869550-80b>

*** Taiwan's Lee ends Panama visit as China fumes

Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui ended a four-day visit to Panama Tuesday leaving behind a bag of financial commitments, but also a possible diplomatic dispute between Panama and China. China reacted sharply to Lee's presence, alongside the presidents of Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua, at the opening of an international conference in Panama City on the future of the Panama Canal. China said Tuesday Panama had provided "a venue and opportunity for Taiwan separatists and ... damaged our nation's sovereignty." China regards Taiwan as a renegade province. For full story see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4868234-cf2>

*** ASEAN goal of non-interference fades

The first political victim of Asia's economic crisis will be the region's rallying cry that countries do not interfere in each other's affairs. Bob Broadfoot, managing director of the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy, said Wednesday, "I think this is far and away the most important regional political implication of the turmoil. ... Asia now recognizes there are cross border linkages they were tending to ignore before," he said. Thailand pushed the region into economic turmoil with its July 2 managed float of the baht after months of currency speculation. For full story see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4869784-155>

Sports

*** Flyers, Lindros unable agree on contract extension

Philadelphia Flyers general manager Bobby Clarke said Tuesday night that All-Star Center Eric Lindros turned down a contract offer that would have made him the highest-paid player in the NHL. Several published reports Tuesday said Lindros was on the verge of signing a seven-year, \$60 million extension. However, the team said in a statement that the reports are inaccurate. They later issued another statement revealing the extension would have been the biggest contract in hockey, although the amount was undisclosed. Lindros, who won the Hart Trophy as the regular season MVP in 1994-95, led the Flyers in points (115) and assists (68) and was second on the team with 47 goals in 73 games last season. He has been troubled by injuries in each of his five years in the NHL, missing at least nine games each season.

*** Niners' Steve Young cleared to play Sunday

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young, who has been limited to just eight passes this season because of a concussion, was cleared Tuesday to play in this Sunday's game against New Orleans. Young suffered his third concussion in less than a year when he was kneed in the helmet on San Francisco's first possession of a season-opening loss to Tampa Bay. He returned in the second half, but was ineffective, finishing 4-of-8 for 33 yards and an interception. A neurologist examined Young last week and did not give approval for him to play against St. Louis. Tuesday's announcement comes after further

evaluations by the neurologist and neurosurgeon.

*** Lemieux among five to be inducted into hockey Hall of Fame

The undeniable greatness of Mario Lemieux enabled him to have his mandatory waiting period waived as he was among five nominated inductees for the Hockey Hall of Fame Tuesday. Lemieux, who overcame Hodgkin's disease and debilitating back injuries to maintain his status as one of the finest players in NHL history, retired in May as the league's fifth all-time goal scorer. Lemieux will become the ninth player inducted in the Hall without having to wait the mandatory three years following retirement. Joining Lemieux at the induction ceremonies Nov. 17 in Toronto will be: Bryan Trottier, the leader of the New York Islanders' dynasty of the early 1980s; Edmonton Oilers executive Glen Sather; longtime Philadelphia Flyers broadcaster Gene Hart; and Hockey News founder Ken McKenzie.

Science and Medicine

*** Women ignorant of heart disease risk, study finds

American women still do not realize that heart disease and stroke are more likely to kill them than any other cause, the American Heart Association said Tuesday. They think heart attacks and stroke are men's diseases, and do not realize that their risk rises to equal that

of men after menopause. It said a survey showed only 8 percent knew heart disease and stroke were the biggest threats to their health. But heart disease killed more than 500,000 women in the United States in 1995 -- more than died of the next 16 causes of death combined. For story, <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4863936-669>

Technology

*** House panel votes to tighten encryption controls

The House National Security Committee Tuesday approved a proposal to tighten already strict U.S. export controls on computer encoding technology, dealing a surprise setback to legislation that would have relaxed the limits. In a 45 to 1 vote, the committee adopted an amendment that would condition all exports of coding technology on the potential for harm to national security. Software companies, civil libertarians and Internet user groups were stunned by the amendment, which they said gutted the bill under consideration. For the full text story, <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865249-42f>

Human Interest

*** Teen introduces body-piercing to Miss America Pageant

A fresh-faced Vermont teen-ager is about to introduce body-piercing to the Miss America contest and pageant officials, struggling to keep the 77-year-old extravaganza relevant, say it's all right with them. Jill Renee Cummings, 19, of Montgomery Center, Vt., said Tuesday that she will wear a silver belly-button ring along with her two-piece bathing suit during this week's competition. And she confidently predicted the unprecedented display will go over well with a panel of seven judges. She also is the first boxer to seek the Miss America crown. For the story, <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4865202-de2>

*** Private firm aims to go prospecting on asteroid

A private space probe will go prospecting for marketable information on an asteroid close to Earth, the mission's organizers said Tuesday. "We will sell our science to anyone willing to pay for it," former software entrepreneur Jim Benson, current chairman of SpaceDev corporation, said. SpaceDev, based in Steamboat Springs, Colo., plans to launch a probe to one of a handful of so-called near-Earth asteroids -- those with orbits that take them closer to Earth than Earth's average distance from the Sun -- by 2000, Benson said. For the story, <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4864684-afc>

*** People who abuse animals also hurt people - survey

People who abuse animals are often likely to assault or abuse other people as well, according to a survey conducted in the United States

and published Tuesday. The survey, commissioned by the Humane Society of the United States, found that nearly 30 percent of all incidents involving cruelty to animals also involved violent crimes against people. Dogs were the most frequent victims, being abused in 45 percent of cases. They were shot, burned, poisoned and hanged. Women who abused animals were most likely to be child abusers, it found.

Story, <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=4862502-d66>

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September 15, 1997

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SUBJECT: Politics This Week (September 26th - October 2nd 1997)

TO: Jonathan Orszag (Jonathan Orszag@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Welcome to Politics This Week (September 26th - October 2nd 1997)

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

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

The millenium-bug muddle

is the cover story in this week's issue of The Economist. You can read the full article, and 20 others, in the free area of The Economist Web Edition, at <http://www.economist.com>. The free selection is changed every Friday, Monday and Wednesday. In the coming week it will include articles about WorldCom's bid for MCI, Rupert Murdoch's bid to dominate digital TV, the Israeli-Palestinian talks, the British Labour Party's lack of affection for Tony Blair, the challenges facing universities, the future of the Panama canal, the dithering of Sandra Day O'Connor, how billions of Chinese are rediscovering the joys of sex and more.

Contents

1. Politics This Week
2. Information about this newsletter

TALKING PEACE

+ After a six-month break, ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS agreed, under American urging, to resume talks on October 6th on certain outstanding issues in the interim peace accords. Bigger issues, including Madeleine Albright's call for "time out" on provocative action, are to be discussed in Washington the week after.

+ Israel released SHEIKH AHMED YASSIN, the disabled founder of Hamas, from a life sentence imposed in 1989, sending him for medical treatment to Jordan.

+ A French oil company, Total, together with Russia's Gazprom and Petronas of Malaysia, signed a \$2 billion contract to develop an Iranian gas field. America's State Department is "investigating" whether the companies have fallen foul of an American law that hands out MANDATORY SANCTIONS against firms that invest more than \$20m in Iranian or Libyan energy.

+ Amid rumours of ill-health, GENERAL SANI ABACHA, Nigeria's ruler, failed to appear at the traditional independence day parade.

+ The UN team investigating alleged MASSACRES in Congo was withdrawn. Laurent Kabila's government has prevented the team from travelling outside the capital.

+ Despite fresh peace initiatives, heavy fighting resumed in CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE between supporters of President Pascal Lissouba and ex-President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

+ Adriaan Vlok, formerly in charge of the police, became the only minister from the apartheid era to have applied to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission for AMNESTY before the deadline ran out.

VERY TAXING

+ Germany gave up on its "TAX REFORM OF THE CENTURY". Disagreement between the ruling Christian Democrats and the opposition Social Democrats killed the plan to cut taxes by DM30 billion (\$17 billion).

+ Italy's draft 1998 BUDGET WAS OPPOSED by the Refounded Communist party, supposedly a supporter of the centre-left government. The budget is designed to help Italy join Europe's single currency, by cutting the deficit.

+ SILVIO BERLUSCONI -- media mogul, opposition leader and former Italian prime minister -- was indicted on charges of tax evasion and falsifying financial statements.

+ The Czech cabinet approved a BALANCED BUDGET for 1998, but that did not stop members of the minority centre-right coalition from threatening to bring down the prime minister, Vaclav Klaus.

+ France's Catholic church asked forgiveness for its silence during the DEPORTATION OF 76,000 JEWS to Germany in the second world war.

+ Swiss voters REJECTED BY REFERENDUM a government plan to cut unemployment benefits and a right-wing proposal to curb the distribution of heroin to drug addicts.

- + Serbian police attacked thousands of people protesting against the removal as MAYOR OF BELGRADE of Zoran Djindjic and the sacking of journalists at a previously independent radio station.
- + Four television transmitters in Bosnia's Serb Republic run by hardliners opposed to the Dayton peace agreement were SEIZED BY NATO.
- + An EARTHQUAKE in central Italy killed 11 people, left 100,000 homeless and damaged frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue in the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi.

UPWARD HO

- + The Census Bureau reported that all Americans, including blacks and Latinos, had got BETTER OFF over the past three years, but that the richest fifth continued to outpace the rest. The income gap between men and women in full-time jobs was the narrowest ever.
- + The Senate Finance Committee approved Bill Clinton's FAST-TRACK trade-negotiation bill, but Republican leaders in Congress nonetheless said they believed the legislation was in serious trouble.

+ SOUTHERN COMMAND, the United States' military nerve centre for Latin America, moved from Panama to Miami.

+ Four friendly countries called for both sides in COLOMBIA'S GUERRILLA WARS to halt violence to let peace talks begin. The government had said a big army offensive would go on. It did.

+ The pope left Rome for a four-day visit to BRAZIL. On the public agenda:

family values. Off it, but deeply worrying to the Vatican: the rise of non-Catholic churches.

BACK TO BUSINESS

+ The South Korean president granted AMNESTY to 23 businessmen convicted of bribery, tax evasion and embezzlement. The government said the pardon would enable them to work to improve the stricken economy.

+ The SMOG covering parts of South-East Asia will affect the health of individuals and the well-being of Asian economies for years to come,

according to a team of environmental experts sent by the UN to
Indonesia. Firefighters from Malaysia, Australia and France are helping
Indonesia to extinguish the blazes in Sumatra and Borneo.

+ In Indonesia's worst AIR DISASTER, 234 people died when an airliner
crashed after a misunderstanding between the pilot and the control
tower.

+ SHELLING from Pakistan killed 18 people in Indian Kashmir, said Indian
officials. This was the third serious border incident in a month.

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03 Oct 1997 02:55:46 -0400 (EDT)

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by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879) id <01IOCS2PZ6NK00LQJY@PMDf.EOP.GOV> for
orszag_j@a1.eop.gov; Fri, 03 Oct 1997 02:55:44 -0400 (EDT)
Received: from postbox.co.uk ([194.205.1.110])

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-7 #6879)
with SMTP id <01IOCS21S0PI006G1K@STORM.EOP.GOV> for orszag_j@al.eop.gov; Fri,

03 Oct 1997 02:55:13 -0400 (EDT)

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id ta202559; Fri, 03 Oct 1997 00:35:48 +0100

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id 0xGudQ-0003LQ-00; Fri, 03 Oct 1997 00:26:20 +0100

Errors-to: list-support@economist.com

Precedence: bulk

X-ListMember: orszag_j@al.eop.gov [economist-politics@postbox.co.uk]

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

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-OCT-1997 21:01:00.00

SUBJECT: Returned mail: Host unknown

TO: Julie E. Mason (Julie E. Mason@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Transcript of session follows -----

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554 <hotmail@hotmail.apn.com>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative answer
from name server)

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(5.65v3.2/1.1.8.2/17Oct95-0424PM)

id AA08905; Tue, 7 Oct 1997 21:01:45 -0400

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id <01IOJF5C8LLS00KDHC@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Tue, 07 Oct 1997 21:01:40 -0400
(EDT)

Received: with PMDF-MR; Tue, 07 Oct 1997 21:01:28 -0400 (EDT)

Mr-Received: by mta EOPMRX; Relayed; Tue, 07 Oct 1997 21:01:28 -0400

Alternate-Recipient: prohibited

Disclose-Recipients: prohibited

Date: Tue, 07 Oct 1997 20:58:00 -0400 (EDT)

From: Julie_E._Mason@oa.eop.gov

Subject: Mrs. Clinton's Schedule

To: SUNTUM_M@a1.eop.gov, COGDELL_C@a1.eop.gov, BARBUSCHAK_K@a1.eop.gov,
BARTHOLOW_T@a1.eop.gov, BLINKEN_A@a1.eop.gov, CAPLAN_P@a1.eop.gov,

GRIBBEN_J@a1.eop.gov, HAAS_L@a1.eop.gov, INFOMGT@a1.eop.gov,
doorgunner@compuserve.com, Doorgunner@compuserve.com,
hotmail@hotmail.apn.com, dceditor@c-span.org,
Lori_L._Anderson@oa.eop.gov, Brenda_M._Anders@oa.eop.gov,
David_S._Beaubaire@oa.eop.gov, Marsha_E._Berry@oa.eop.gov,
Laura_K._Capps@oa.eop.gov, Steven_A._Cohen@oa.eop.gov,
Michelle_Crisci@oa.eop.gov, Suzanne_Dale@oa.eop.gov,
Lanny_J._Davis@oa.eop.gov, James_A._Dorskind@oa.eop.gov,
James_T._Edmonds@oa.eop.gov, Anne_M._Edwards@oa.eop.gov,
Rahm_I._Emanuel@oa.eop.gov, Paul_K._Engskov@oa.eop.gov,
Karen_E._Finney@oa.eop.gov, Ben_A._Freeland@oa.eop.gov,
Jeremy_M._Gaines@oa.eop.gov, Michael_A._Gill@ovp.eop.gov,
Adam_W._Goldberg@oa.eop.gov, Jason_S._Goldberg@oa.eop.gov,
Donald_Goldberg@oa.eop.gov, Julia_R._Green@oa.eop.gov,
Richard_L._Hayes@oa.eop.gov, Susan_L._Hazard@oa.eop.gov,
Russell_W._Horwitz@oa.eop.gov, Julie_O._Huffman@oa.eop.gov,
Thomas_D._Janenda@oa.eop.gov, David_E._Kalbaugh@oa.eop.gov,
Joshua_A._King@oa.eop.gov, Catherine_T._Kitchen@oa.eop.gov,
Jim_Kohlenberger@ovp.eop.gov, Heidi_Kukis@ovp.eop.gov,
Karin_Kullman@oa.eop.gov, G_N._Lattimore@oa.eop.gov,
Joseph_P._Lockhart@oa.eop.gov, Michael_D._Malone@oa.eop.gov,
Laura_S._Marcus@oa.eop.gov, Julie_E._Mason@oa.eop.gov,
Sylvia_M._Mathews@oa.eop.gov, Doris_O._Matsui@oa.eop.gov,
Andrew_J._Mayock@oa.eop.gov, Michael_D._McCurry@oa.eop.gov,
Anne_E._McGuire@oa.eop.gov, Estela_Mendoza@oa.eop.gov,
Cheryl_D._Mills@oa.eop.gov, Elisa_Millsap@oa.eop.gov,
Megan_C._Moloney@oa.eop.gov, Kevin_S._Moran@oa.eop.gov,

Jonathan_Murchinson@oa.eop.gov, Nathan_B._Naylor@ovp.eop.gov,

Mark_D._Neschis@oa.eop.gov, Elizabeth_R._Newman@oa.eop.gov,

Peter_R._Orszag@oa.eop.gov, Peter_O'Keefe@oa.eop.gov,

Sally_P._Paxton@oa.eop.gov, Evan_Ryan@oa.eop.gov,

Roger_V._Salazar@ovp.eop.gov, Laura_D._Schwartz@oa.eop.gov,

Douglas_S._Sheorn@oa.eop.gov, David_Shipley@oa.eop.gov,

Jake_Siewert@oa.eop.gov, Joshua_Silverman@oa.eop.gov,

Douglas_B._Sosnik@oa.eop.gov, Todd_Stern@oa.eop.gov,

Darby_E._Stott@oa.eop.gov, Jordan_Tamagni@oa.eop.gov,

Virginia_M._Terzano@ovp.eop.gov, Terri_J._Tingen@oa.eop.gov,

Barry_J._Toiv@oa.eop.gov, June_G._Turner@oa.eop.gov,

Dag_Vega@oa.eop.gov, Lorraine_A._Voles@ovp.eop.gov,

Michael_Waldman@oa.eop.gov, Kim_B._Widdess@oa.eop.gov,

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/R=EOPMRX/R=LNGTWY/R=FAX/R=8871050/U=Jon_Peterson/FFN=Jon_Peterson/@mr.eop.

gov,

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Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; CHARSET=US-ASCII

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X400-Mts-Identifier: [;82101270017991/547352@EOPMRX]

Hop-Count: 1

Message Creation Date was at 7-OCT-1997 20:58:00

~~NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR RELEASE~~ CONTACT: MARSHA BERRY

OCTOBER 7, 1997 STEVEN COHEN

JULIE MASON

202/456-2960

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON !,S SCHEDULE
DURING HER TRIP TO PANAMA

OCTOBER 8 - 10, 1997

WASHINGTON, DC - - First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will travel to Panama
on

October 8, 1997. During her three-day visit, Mrs. Clinton will attend the
Seventh Annual Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the
Americas, swear in Peace Corps volunteers, and take a helicopter tour of
the Pan

ama Canal and watershed region. Mrs. Clinton will also visit an
agro-forestry
group located in a rainforest village.

Any questions regarding credentialing for Mrs. Clinton !,s events that
involve

the Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas

should

be directed to Indalicio Rodriguez, 507-270-2828 or 507-270-2900.

Any questions regarding credentialing for the remainder of Mrs. Clinton's events in Panama should be directed to Patrick Duddy, Director of USIS, 507-227-2681.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

EVENT: Airport Arrival

TIME: 4:50 pm

LOCATION: Tocumen Airport

PRESS NOTES:

The event is open to all press accredited through the Conference of Wives of

Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Final access to the site will

be at 4:00 pm. Local press should assemble at Airport Security on the First

Floor of the Main Terminal.

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION:

All press must be accredited through the Conference. Press will be asked to

show Conference credentials to gain access to the event. The on-site

contact

for the United States press is Sam Myers, Jr..

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

EVENT: Speech at the Seventh Annual Conference of Wives of Heads of
State

and Government

TIME: 9:45 am

LOCATION: Atlapa Conference Center

Contadora Room

PRESS NOTES:

Access to Mrs. Clinton's speech will be restricted to United States press
traveling with the official party. An on-site press filing center is
available for all press accredited through the conference.

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION:

All press must be accredited through the Conference. Credentialing must
be
completed in advance of the conference. The on-site contact for the
United
States is Sam Myers, Jr..

EVENT: Signing of the Human Rights Grant

TIME: 10:50 am

LOCATION: Atlapa Conference Center

Chaquira Room

PRESS NOTES:

This event is open to all press accredited through the Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Final access is at 10:15 am.

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION:

All press must be accredited through the Conference. Credentialing must be completed in advance of the Conference. The on-site contact for the United States press is Sam Myers, Jr..

EVENT: Peace-Corps Swearing-in Ceremony

TIME: 2:40 pm

LOCATION: United States Ambassador's Residence

PRESS NOTE:

The event will be open to all press who have pre-registered with USIS. Press can access this site from 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm. A multibox will be provided.

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION:

Reporters will need to pre-register with USIS. The on-site contact for the

United States press is Marissa Luzzato.

EVENT: Panama Declaration Signing

TIME: 6:20 pm

LOCATION: Miraflores Lock

PRESS NOTE:

The event is open to all press accredited through the Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Final access to the site will be at 5:30 pm.

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION:

Reporters will be asked to show Conference credentials to gain access to the event. The on-site contact for United States press is Sam Myers, Jr..

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

EVENT: Visit to Chica

TIME: 9:30 am

LOCATION: Chica, Panama

PRESS NOTE:

The event at Chica will be Panamanian and United States pool press only.

Mrs. Clinton will take a helicopter tour of the Panama Canal Watershed
Region

before landing in the village of Chica. The non-White House press pool
will

travel via bus to Chica, departing the Fort Clayton Public Affairs
Office,

Building 95 at 6:00 am.

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION:

Local press who want to travel to Chica can contact Patrick Duddy of USIS
(507- 227-2681) or Maritza Pearce of USARSO Public Affairs (507-288-3577)

for

further details. The on-site contact is Marissa Luzzato.

EVENT: Military Personnel and Families Event and

Departure of the First Lady

TIME: 11:40 am

LOCATION: Howard Air Force Base

PRESS NOTES:

This event is open to all press. Final access to this site will be at

10:15

am. A multibox will be provided. Local press should gather at the main entrance to Howard Air Force Base at 9:15 am. They will be bused to the Base theater for event credentialing.

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION:

Reporters will be asked to show standard press credentials to gain access to the event. The on-site contact will be Capt. Mike Murk.

EVENT: Departure

TIME: 12:30 pm

LOCATION: Howard Air Force Base

PRESS NOTES:

This event is open to all press pre-registered with USIS. A multibox will be provided.

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION:

Reporters will be asked to show USIS credentials to gain access to the event. The on-site contact will be Capt. Mike Murk.

EDITOR !,S NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. Please check with
USIS for
changes to schedule.

###

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

TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

Received: from conversion.pmdf.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879)
id <011OJF6IIEIO00KDHC@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for "Julie E. Mason"@oa.eop.gov; Tue,
07 Oct 1997 21:02:30 -0400 (EDT)

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id <011OJF6GPAS000L7QM@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for Julie_E._Mason@oa.eop.gov; Tue,
07 Oct 1997 21:02:28 -0400 (EDT)

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id AA31171; Tue, 07 Oct 1997 21:01:45 -0400

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

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: news-errors (news-errors@mx.lodo.infobeat.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-OCT-1997 04:28:00.00

SUBJECT: News - Morning Edition @ 10/08/97

TO: Brian A. Reich (Brian A. Reich@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Morning Edition for Wednesday, October 08, 1997

Own a piece of the big leagues! Invest in Jordan, Griffey,
Favre and Tiger. Wall Street Sports operates a simulated sports
stock market that combines the excitement of sports with the
challenge of Wall Street. Manage a portfolio and compete for
MONEY and PRIZES! It's FREE! INVEST TODAY.
Visit Wall Street Sports at <http://www.wallstreetsports.com>

U.S. Front Page Stories

*** Ickes says Clinton won election fairly

*** Rights groups ask U.N. to aid Whitewater figure McDougal

Crime and Catastrophe

*** Six charged in Mississippi high school shooting

- *** At least two dead in light plane collision
- *** Dallas' anti-graft school chief fired as embezzler
- *** Israel awaits U.S. input on teen murder suspect

The U.S. Political Scene

- *** Campaign finance reform stalled in Senate
- *** White House, Ways and Means head agree on trade bill
- *** House urges ban on abortion-linked foreign aid
- *** White House lawyer subpoenaed in video flap
- *** Hillary Clinton to focus on rights in Panama visit

The Courts

- *** Tobacco witness blocked at Florida smoking trial
- *** Court strikes down Calif. term limits law
- *** Ex-POW says he killed terrorized family
- *** New Jersey teen suspect to face charges as adult
- *** Green admits he lied at first about Tyson brawl
- *** Alleged partner indicted in U.S. for Baku art theft

U.S. Business and Financial News

- *** U.S. stocks surge as rates fall and bulls emerge

World Front Page Stories

*** Summit ends, Netanyahu, Arafat will meet regularly

*** Canada's Bre-X says dead geologist ordered fraud

The World Political Scene

*** U.S., Mexico clash on buildup of border controls

*** Canada wants Israeli assurance before envoy's return

World Business and Financial News

*** China to send mission to buy American goods

*** Australian economists forecast Asian recession

*** Vietnam says trade pact with U.S. possible in 1998

Sports

*** Marlins top Braves in Game One of NLCS

*** Ogea named as Indians' starter in Game One of ALCS

*** Pippen undergoes foot surgery, out 2-3 months

*** Packers send Simmons to Chiefs before trading deadline

*** WNBA expands regular season, playoffs; adds All-Star Game

Science and Medicine

*** Brightest star in universe may have been found

*** U.S. panel urges blood recalls of CJD victims

*** Ten mummies found near Mexican border mission

Human Interest

*** Ring Dodi gave to Diana will never be reproduced

*** Fendi puts leather and fur on the beach

*** British car on verge of trying supersonic run

U.S. Front Page Stories

*** Ickes says Clinton won election fairly

Harold Ickes, the man at the center of President Clinton's political fund-raising machine, told a Senate committee Tuesday his boss had played by the rules and won last year's election fair and square.

Ickes, former White House deputy chief of staff, told the Republican

majority on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee if they did not like the way Clinton fought and won his re-election campaign, they should change the rules. He spoke minutes after campaign finance reform legislation was blocked on the floor of the Senate. For the story, <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5318057-ac2>

***** Rights groups ask U.N. to aid Whitewater figure McDougal**

Human rights groups vowed Tuesday to ask the U.N. to declare Susan McDougal a political prisoner, saying her 13 months in jail amounted to torture. Standing before the Los Angeles Federal Detention Center where McDougal is being held for refusing to testify before the Whitewater grand jury, representatives of the Humanitarian Law Project and Americans for Democratic Action called her imprisonment a political persecution. "Any justification for keeping Susan McDougal in this jail or any jail has long passed. She has been locked up for 13 months for refusing to make a deal with special prosecutor Kenneth Starr," said the president of the Southern California chapter of Americans for Democratic Action. For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5321585-afb>

Crime and Catastrophe

***** Six charged in Mississippi high school shooting**

Six teenagers were charged Tuesday with conspiracy to murder in connection with a student's shooting spree at a Pearl, Miss., school last Wednesday. Two girls were killed and seven people wounded. The six suspects, all males, pleaded not guilty before Judge Dewey Miller after their arrest. Miller set bond at \$1 million each. Pearl police chief Bill Slade would not comment on rumors the six were involved in a Satanic cult with the accused murderer, Luke Woodham. A school board attorney said the kids referred to themselves as "The Group." The 16-year-old Woodham is accused of shooting his former girlfriend with a rifle in school. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5319573-9f9>

***** At least two dead in light plane collision**

Two small aircraft collided Tuesday 60 miles south of Greensboro, N.C. killing two people and possibly a third, officials said. The bodies of a man and a woman were found and rescuers were searching for a third. An eyewitness, Dora Vest, said she saw only one plane. "I heard a loud explosion and it disintegrated right in front of my eyes. Debris was falling from the sky." Investigators first believed it was a single plane accident until they found two tail sections.

The FAA identified the planes as a Beech Bonanza and a single-engine Piper. A helicopter from the Highway Patrol was called in to search for a third body. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5319457-d61>

***** Dallas' anti-graft school chief fired as embezzler**

The head of Dallas' public schools admitted embezzling public funds Tuesday, just months after she launched a racially charged campaign against corruption in the troubled school system. U.S. Attorney Paul Coggins said superintendent of schools Yvonne Gonzalez agreed to plead guilty to a federal felony charge that she used \$9,440 of school funds to buy a six-piece bedroom suite for her home. Gonzalez also allegedly pressured her administrative assistant to hide the fraud from FBI agents once she realized they were on her trail. Coggins said Gonzalez faced a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5320747-9ed>

*** Israel awaits U.S. input on teen murder suspect

Israel's Justice Ministry said Tuesday it was awaiting "material" from the United States before issuing a decision in the case of an American teen-ager charged in the United States in a dismemberment killing. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright sent a message to Israel urging "maximum cooperation" in extraditing Samuel Sheinbein, 17, of Maryland, to face charges. Sheinbein has been charged in the grizzly death of Alfredo Tello, 19, whose body was found without arms and legs and burned almost beyond recognition. Sheinbein fled to Israel after the murder and is claiming dual citizenship. For the full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5317506-90b>

The U.S. Political Scene

*** Campaign finance reform stalled in Senate

A drive to overhaul the U.S. political campaign financing system stalled in the Senate Tuesday but proponents vowed to carry on their crusade for sweeping reform legislation. Using complex procedural maneuvers, foes of reform led by Senate Republican leader Trent Lott blocked action on a plan to clean up campaign fund raising. The proposal would ban unrestricted "soft money" contributions to political parties. It was pigeonholed when backers twice fell short of the 60 votes needed to escape Senate roadblocks. For the full text story, <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5318537-6e4>

*** White House, Ways and Means head agree on trade bill

The White House and the head of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee Tuesday reached agreement on compromise legislation giving President Clinton special powers to negotiate trade deals. U.S. Trade Representative spokesman Jay Ziegler said the compromise on so-called fast track trade negotiation authority addresses key Democratic concerns and retains flexibility for the president to address issues involving workers rights, environmental protection and health issues. The compromise is similar to a fast track bill approved last week. For story,

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5318099-49a>

***** House urges ban on abortion-linked foreign aid**

The House Tuesday affirmed its opposition to giving any aid to international family planning groups that perform or lobby for abortions. The vote put the House at loggerheads with the Senate on this controversial issue, and raised the odds of a White House veto of the annual foreign operations appropriations bill. As part of the foreign operations bill, the House voted last month, 234-191, to bar aid to any family planning groups that use their own money to subsidize abortions overseas. The Senate did not include that ban.

See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5318679-ea4>

***** White House lawyer subpoenaed in video flap**

A White House attorney connected with the release of videotapes of White House coffees has been subpoenaed to appear Wednesday before a grand jury investigating campaign financing abuses, an official said.

Lanny Breuer, a senior White House counsel, is the contact person with the Justice Department regarding release of controversial videotapes showing coffees with President Clinton for campaign contributors. The White House said it learned of the tapes' existence last Wednesday, but was unable to notify the Justice Department until Saturday, a day after Attorney General Janet Reno cleared Clinton of misconduct in the coffees. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5320144-ef4>

Clinton to hit fund-raising road despite furor, For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5320306-6d9>

Campaign finance reform stalled in US Senate, For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5320838-0b6>

*** Hillary Clinton to focus on rights in Panama visit

U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton flies to Panama Wednesday for a three-day visit that will include speaking on human rights, touring a re-forestation project and flying over the Panama Canal. The trip is the latest in a series Mrs. Clinton has made around the world to draw attention to her core issues of advancing the civil rights and economic interests of women. Aides to Mrs. Clinton said she will focus on women's rights when she speaks to a conference of first ladies from north, south and central America on Thursday morning. For the full story,

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5318265-2e0>

The Courts

*** Tobacco witness blocked at Florida smoking trial

Cigarette makers suffered a setback Tuesday when a judge kept jurors from hearing medical testimony that blamed flight attendants' ailments on cosmic radiation rather than cigarette smoke from

passengers. The flight attendants are suing tobacco companies for \$5 billion. Judge Robert Kaye of Dade County Court sided with attorneys representing 60,000 ailing flight attendants. He said testimony by a radiotherapy physicist would be heard in a possible second-round of trials to determine what monies cigarette makers would pay if a jury found they produced dangerous products and conspired to hide the dangers. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5321163-0a6>

*** Court strikes down Calif. term limits law

A federal appeals court Tuesday struck down a measure approved by California voters in 1990 that imposed term limits for state legislators. A three-judge panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 to uphold a U.S. District Court judge's ruling earlier this year that struck down the term limits law. That law limited state senators to eight years in office and Assembly members to six years. For the second part, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5317953-6c5>

*** Ex-POW says he killed terrorized family

A World War II veteran accused of murdering his son-in-law testified Tuesday the victim so terrorized his family he began feeling he was back in a Japanese prison camp watching his buddies being tortured. Richard Keech, 77, who spent 40 months as a prisoner of the Japanese, is accused of murder in the May 21, 1996, death of Nicholas Candy, a

British citizen who met Keech's daughter while both were developing the Euro-Disney theme park in France. Defense lawyers concede Keech killed Candy, but argue the defendant was suffering flashbacks to his wartime abuse when he opened fire. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5321279-5d3>

***** New Jersey teen suspect to face charges as adult**

Prosecutors said Tuesday a 15-year-old boy accused of strangling an 11-year-old neighbor will be tried on criminal charges as an adult. Sam Manzie, 15, had been charged as a juvenile in the sexual assault and strangulation of Edward Werner, whose body was found a week ago in a wooded area in suburban New Jersey. Warner had been missing for two days and was last seen selling candy door-to-door to raise money for his school. If convicted as a juvenile, Manzie could have faced a maximum 20-year prison sentence. Convicted as an adult, he could be sentenced to life in prison without parole. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5319743-9ab>

***** Green admits he lied at first about Tyson brawl**

Boxer Mitch Green, who is suing former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson for \$25 million over a street brawl, conceded Tuesday he had lied about their 1988 dispute by not admitting Tyson knocked him out. Green, whose case also featured testimony Tuesday by boxing promoter Don King, said he lied when he told reporters Tyson "ran away like a sissy" after their late-night confrontation outside an all-night

clothing store in Harlem. Green claims Tyson beat him up in the street brawl nine years ago and is seeking \$25 million in civil damages in a lawsuit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court. For story <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5320146-ea5>

*** Alleged partner indicted in U.S. for Baku art theft

A woman from Azerbaijan was indicted Tuesday for allegedly trying to sell \$10 million worth of stolen drawings that were part of a German collection that disappeared at the end of World War II. The art resurfaced in 1993 in a museum in Azerbaijan, was stolen and then recovered last month in a New York City hotel, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan. Natavan Aleskerova was arrested Monday and charged in an indictment unsealed Tuesday, prosecutors said. Aydyn Ali Ibragimov, believed to be her husband, also was indicted but is still being sought. For story <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5319250-85d>

U.S. Business and Financial News

*** U.S. stocks surge as rates fall and bulls emerge

U.S. stocks surged anew on Tuesday as a drop in long-term interest rates and optimism about 3Q profits took center stage. The bullish mood has grown almost palpably as fears about inflation, credit

tightenings and Southeast Asia currency tensions have faded into the background, analysts said. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 78 points to 8178. The 30-stock average ended just 81 points shy of its Aug. 6 closing record of 8259. On the NYSE, advancing issue outnumbered decliners four to three on moderate volume of 551 million shares. The S&P 500 Index added 10 to 983, its fourth straight record. Meanwhile, the Nasdaq gained 15 to close at the 1737 level. The yield on the U.S. 30-year Treasury bond slipped to 6.24 percent as the bond rose 7/32. The dollar closed at 1.7570 marks and 122.55 yen.

World Front Page Stories

*** Summit ends, Netanyahu, Arafat will meet regularly

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat agreed at a summit Wednesday to hold regular meetings to advance their peacemaking, a U.S. mediator said. But there was no word of progress on the two issues that have deadlocked peace talks since March -- the building of new Jewish settlements and Islamic suicide bombings. The summit was the clearest sign yet of an easing in the crisis in peace efforts. It was expected to draw attention away from an embarrassing Israeli assassination bid against a Hamas leader in Jordan that has sparked scathing criticism of Netanyahu at home and abroad. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5323501-84d>

Seven Palestinians escape from Israeli prison, For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5322044-f5b>

*** Canada's Bre-X says dead geologist ordered fraud

Investigators hired by Canada's Bre-X Minerals Ltd. said Tuesday its dead chief geologist, Michael de Guzman, orchestrated the world's biggest gold swindle in the Indonesian jungle. The investigators report released Tuesday said de Guzman, who killed himself shortly before the fraud was exposed, led a small group of Bre-X employees who salted samples from the Busang site over a four-year period. Last spring a C\$6 billion stock market darling was reduced to worthless paper after Busang was found to be a scam. The report absolved CEO David Walsh and several other key players of any wrongdoing. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5320956-5a0>

The World Political Scene

*** U.S., Mexico clash on buildup of border controls

Standing at the Mexican border Tuesday, America's immigration chief, Doris Meissner, said President Clinton's aggressive tactics, known as

"Operation Gatekeeper," had greatly cut illegal immigration on the western end of the frontier. She said arrests in the San Diego area, which once saw 45 percent of all Border Patrol arrests nationwide, were the lowest in 17 years and had declined 40 percent over last year. The overall crime rate had dropped 30 percent. But the Mexican government attacked the tougher measures, saying it worried about their impact on Mexican citizens. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5322646-50d>

*** Canada wants Israeli assurance before envoy's return

Canadian Ambassador David Berger will not go back to Israel until Canada gets an assurance that Israel will not use Canadian passports in operations by their Mossad secret agents, Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said Tuesday. Axworthy met in Ottawa with Israeli Ambassador David Sultan Tuesday and agreed that he would send a Canadian official to Israel to pursue the matter. Canada voiced outrage at the use of its passports in the Sept. 25 attack on a leader of the Islamic militant Hamas movement and recalled Berger from Israel. Full story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5319205-0fc>

World Business and Financial News

*** China to send mission to buy American goods

Weeks before a Sino-U.S. summit, China's foreign trade minister Wu Yi promised to send a mission to the U.S. to buy American goods to reduce the bulging trade surplus in Beijing's favor, the China Daily said Wednesday. She gave no indication of when the mission would visit, how much or what kind of goods it would buy. Wu and Commerce Secretary William Daley began three days of talks in Beijing Tuesday to thrash out thorny trade issues, which are likely to figure prominently in this month's meeting in Washington between President Clinton and China's President Jiang Zemin. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5322848-cd7>

U.S. says trade deficit with China unacceptable, For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5324261-a1f>

*** Australian economists forecast Asian recession

An Asian economic crisis is looming with some nations experiencing recession in the next three years and China hitting "serious economic trouble" by 2001, an Australian economic think tank said Wednesday. The National Institute of Economic and Industry Research warned that corruption, heavy foreign borrowing and rising interest rates would cause Asian economies to falter. Peter Brain, director of the institute, said, "We aren't saying that the region isn't growing fast on a long-term basis because it will be, over the long haul, one of the fastest growing economic regions in the world." For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5322132-0ef>

*** Vietnam says trade pact with U.S. possible in 1998

Hanoi and Washington could sign a comprehensive trade pact next year if both sides make positive efforts, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Manh Cam reportedly said Wednesday. Cam's comments followed a fourth round of negotiations held in Washington last week on a draft treaty which would lead to Most Favored Nation trade status. Progress on the accord has been slow since the two former foes normalized relations in mid-1995. Washington has urged Hanoi to quicken reform, liberalizing both its trade and investment regimes. Vietnam has said the U.S. should soften its demands on a country still stricken by poverty. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5323226-4fa>

Sports

*** Marlins top Braves in Game One of NLCS

Kevin Brown beat Greg Maddux, who got no help from his defense, and the Florida Marlins remained unbeaten in the playoffs with a 5-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves in Game One of the National League Championship Series. Brown, who dueled Maddux to a pair of no-decisions in a 10-day span in August, was not particularly sharp, allowing solo homers to Chipper Jones and Ryan Klesko. Staked to a three-run lead before throwing a pitch, Brown notched his first

career playoff win, surrendering three runs and five hits in six innings, walking four and striking out three. Moises Alou drove in four runs for Florida, which defeated Atlanta for the ninth time in 13 games this season. Maddux allowed three runs in the first and two more in the third -- all unearned as the Braves committed two errors and made two other poor defensive plays. Maddux allowed five hits and three walks in six innings, striking out seven.

*** Ogea named as Indians' starter in Game One of ALCS

The Cleveland Indians will turn to right-hander Chad Ogea to start Game One of the American League Championship Series against the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night. Indians manager Mike Hargrove announced Tuesday in Baltimore that Ogea and Charles Nagy would start the first two games of the series, respectively. Baltimore manager Davey Johnson previously named Scott Erickson and Jimmy Key as his starters for the first two contests. Ogea was 8-9 with a 4.99 ERA during the regular season and was used in relief in Game Three of the Division Series against the New York Yankees. He allowed one run and two hits in 5 1/3 innings, but allowed a grand slam to Paul O'Neill, the first batter he faced. The 26-year-old Ogea was 2-0 with a 0.50 ERA in his final three September starts and was 2-1 in three starts against Baltimore this season.

*** Pippen undergoes foot surgery, out 2-3 months

All-Star forward Scottie Pippen underwent surgery on his ailing left

foot on Monday and will be sidelined two to three months, leaving the Chicago Bulls seriously shorthanded as they begin defense of their NBA title. Bulls general manager Jerry Krause said Tuesday that Pippen flew to New York on Monday for surgery on the second toe on his left foot. Krause said the surgery was an outpatient procedure and Pippen had returned to Chicago. Pippen, a member of the 1992 and 1996 Olympic teams, is considered to be one of the best all-around small forwards in the league. He was named to the NBA All-Defensive First Team each of the last six years. Pippen, 32, initially suffered the injury in the Eastern Conference semifinals against the Miami Heat. He played through the pain as the Bulls defeated the Utah Jazz in six games to win their fifth championship in seven years.

*** Packers send Simmons to Chiefs before trading deadline

The Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs have engineered the first major deal on the NFL's trading deadline in 10 years, as linebacker Wayne Simmons was sent to the Chiefs for an undisclosed draft pick. The Packers dealt the fifth-year outside linebacker to give Seth Joyner more of an opportunity to play, according to ESPN. For Kansas City, Simmons will provide some insurance after star linebacker Derrick Thomas missed his fourth straight game on Sunday due to a left triceps injury. Simmons, 27, was the 15th overall pick of the 1993 draft, but did not become a full-time player until 1995, when he started all 16 games and finished with career highs of 103 tackles and four sacks. He again started all 16 games in 1996, registering 76 tackles and 2 1/2 sacks. To make room for Simmons, the

Chiefs waived wide receiver Brett Perriman. The deadline passed Tuesday at 4 p.m. ET.

*** WNBA expands regular season, playoffs; adds All-Star Game

A week after the WNBA added two more teams, the league Tuesday expanded the regular season and playoffs for next season and added an All-Star Game for the 1999 campaign. The regular season will now feature a 30-game schedule -- up from 28 in 1997 -- and the semifinals and finals will each be best-of-three series, rather than a four-team single elimination format that was used this year. The inaugural WNBA All-Star Game is scheduled to take place in the middle of the 1999 season as part of a three-day All-Star break. The league plans on completing its schedule by Sept. 1, approximately the same as last season. Expansion franchises were granted to Detroit and Washington, D.C., for 1998 last Wednesday. The league hopes to expand to 12 teams in 1999.

Science and Medicine

*** Brightest star in universe may have been found

Scientists Tuesday announced that they had identified what might be the biggest and brightest star in the universe -- one that is 10 million times more powerful than the sun. The celestial mammoth,

named the "Pistol Star," was identified by astronomers at the University of California, Los Angeles, using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Despite its brightness, the Pistol Star cannot be seen from Earth with the naked eye because of interstellar dust between the Earth and the center of the Milky Way, where the star is located.

Full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5317432-1cd>

*** U.S. panel urges blood recalls of CJD victims

Blood from donors who later get the brain-wasting Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease should be recalled even though there is no evidence of danger, an FDA panel said Tuesday. It said most blood plasma derivatives used as stabilizers or as additives to drugs and vaccines do not pose a risk of transmitting CJD. But members voted to continue such recalls when a donor was found to have CJD or considered at risk for CJD because of family history, receipt of a human brain tissue graft or human-derived growth hormone. The idea that people could get the incurable brain illness from blood worries health authorities around the world. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5319411-f63>

FDA to gelatin industry: choose healthy herds, For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5319272-cc8>

*** Ten mummies found near Mexican border mission

Engineers renovating an old cathedral in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, have

unearthed 10 mummies dating back to the colonial period, officials said Tuesday. The mummified bodies were discovered Monday and Tuesday while engineers were digging holes to make water and sewer lines about 32 feet from a historic religious mission. Mexico's colonial period stretched from around 1500 to 1800. Ancient pieces of cookware and tiles were also uncovered as engineers renovated Guadalupe Cathedral next to the Guadalupe Mission, one of the city's oldest buildings. All renovations have been canceled and archaeologists were notified of the find. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5320414-49d>

Human Interest

*** Ring Dodi gave to Diana will never be reproduced

The diamond ring which Dodi Al Fayed gave to Princess Diana just hours before they were killed will never be reproduced, its designer said Tuesday. Jeweller Alberto Repossi said the ring was handmade for Diana and took three weeks to produce. Dodi Al Fayed collected the ring from his Paris shop and gave it to Diana before the car crash that took their lives Aug. 31. The jeweller said he had decided to withdraw the design after being approached by U.S. and Japanese firms who wanted to reproduce the ring. For the full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5315757-47f>

*** Fendi puts leather and fur on the beach

Designer Karl Lagerfeld produced leather and fur bikinis for next summer's beaches when he unveiled his collection for the Italian Fendi fashion house Tuesday. Lagerfeld showed that fur and leather could be used for cool summer clothes just as well for winter warmers. Fur was trimmed on brief bikinis but also in swirls of mink embroidery on long black evening dresses, or edging tiny black slip dresses. The Versace house is given the finale Thursday in honor of late designer Gianni Versace, who was murdered in July. For the full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5316022-2e1>

*** British car on verge of trying supersonic run

The British SuperSonic Car is on the verge of attempting to smash the sound barrier for the first time on land after reaching its highest speed so far Tuesday, driver Andy Green said. Green scorched across Nevada's Black Rock desert in a late afternoon test run at just below supersonic speeds. He said he hit a peak speed of about 750 miles an hour or around 98 percent of the speed of sound, which at current temperatures in the Black Rock desert is about 760 mph. "It seemed perfect," Green said, when asked if there were any problems with the car, powered by two jet engines from a Phantom fighter. For story

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5323291-b87>

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East Coast Edition for Thursday, October 09, 1997

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*** Reno angry at White House over Clinton coffee tapes

*** Gun makers to provide child safety locks

*** Lawmakers promise crackdown on Medicare fraud

*** U.S. team winds up trip to S. Korea on E.coli

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- *** Train hits stalled truck, 12 injured
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The Courts

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- *** Opening arguments underway in latest tobacco trial
- *** British nanny trial evidence upsets doctor
- *** Landfill company at center of giant campaign fraud

U.S. Business and Financial News

- *** Retailers post disappointing Sept. sales
- *** Stocks stagger near close

- *** New U.S. jobless claims fell last week
- *** Third-quarter earnings rise 13 percent at GE
- *** Apple confirms layoffs
- *** Ford to spin off Associates interest

World Front Page Stories

- *** Italy gov't quits, EMU hopes still alive
- *** At least 54 dead in Mexico hurricane disaster
- *** Russian house rejects budget but will talk
- *** Nobel Prize-winner Fo famed for biting satire
- *** Anti-mine group leads race for Nobel Peace Prize

The World Political Scene

- *** U.N. says Congo-Brazzaville rebel leader signs cease-fire
- *** More woes for Netanyahu on bungled killing
- *** U.S. softer on Croatia after war suspects surrender
- *** Hillary Clinton asks women to play political role
- *** U.N. hears about bananas, El Nino, end to wars
- *** India, Sri Lanka welcome U.S. terrorist list

World Business and Financial News

- *** Stocks in Asia mainly decline following Greenspan's speech
- *** German Repo rate increase roils markets across Europe
- *** Japan PM woes edge into financial markets
- *** Bundesbank raises key rate
- *** Chain to invest \$1B in Latin America

Sports

- *** Legendary Dean Smith era over at North Carolina
- *** Indians look to even ALCS at Baltimore Thursday
- *** Marlins' Fernandez out for playoffs with torn rotator cuff
- *** Marlins' Alou uncertain for NLCS with wrist injury
- *** Dolphins' Perriman inactive for Sunday
- *** ABL players can now own stock in the league

Science and Medicine

- *** Pfiesteria caused unnecessary panic, experts say
- *** Women don't do enough to stop osteoporosis - survey
- *** Beer, liquor as good as wine to cut heart disease
- *** Mir crew unloads cargo after smooth docking

Technology

- *** Dell, Intel work on industry-standard systems architecture
- *** Dart Communications announces PowerTCP Web Add-on
- *** Information Industry Association announces 'Hotshots'
- *** Microsoft donates software to Swiss schools

Human Interest

- *** Finds at U.S. wreck site indicate Blackbeard's ship
- *** Egyptian sculptor accused of using body parts
- *** Dr. Ruth explores Papua New Guinea's islands of love
- *** Did Poe show at Chicago seance?
- *** Latest board games highlight drugs, greed, sleaze

U.S. Front Page Stories

- *** U.S. refuses to rule out strikes on Iraq

The United States Thursday refused to rule out possible use of Tomahawk cruise missiles or other military retaliation against Iraq if its warplanes continue to violate "no-fly" zones. "We have a powerful military force in the Gulf ready to protect our interests there," Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon told reporters in response to questions. "We have in the past used a variety of

military assets, including Tomahawk missiles and aircraft, to protect our interests. And we will be able to do that in the future." Second part, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5349819-833>

U.S. wants strongest possible U.N. action on Iraq, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348873-e0d> AND

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348998-415>

*** Reno angry at White House over Clinton coffee tapes

Attorney General Janet Reno expressed anger Thursday over the White House's belated turning over to the Justice Department of videotapes of coffee meetings with President Clinton. "When you have a situation where the White House has recognized the responsibility to produce the (tapes), it is very, very frustrating to have them produced in such a delayed fashion," Reno said. At issue were controversial videotapes depicting 44 coffee meetings with Clinton at the White House with campaign contributors. For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347577-0fa>

*** Gun makers to provide child safety locks

President Bill Clinton announced Thursday that eight gun manufacturers had agreed to provide child safety locks on their firearms by the end of next year. Clinton, in a Rose Garden ceremony, said the voluntary initiative would affect eight of 10 handguns made in America "and it will save many young lives." The manufacturers

included Smith and Wesson, Glock, Beretta, Taurus, H&R, Heckler & Koch, Mossberg & Sons and SigArms. An estimated 1,500 children are accidentally shot each year, according to government figures. For the full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5349947-b25>

*** Lawmakers promise crackdown on Medicare fraud

Lawmakers Thursday heard stark tales of fraud that is bleeding billions from Medicare and promised tough action in return.

California Democratic Rep. Pete Stark said the government should adopt a policy of "zero tolerance" for repeat offenders. The General Accounting Office has estimated that waste, fraud and abuse account for as much as 10 percent of Medicare costs. In response Congress has increased oversight and tightened penalties. The number of officials assigned to investigate Medicare fraud has increased to more than 1,500. Full story at

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5350315-63e>

*** U.S. team winds up trip to S. Korea on E.coli

A team of U.S. experts left South Korea on Thursday saying they were satisfied with testing procedures used to identify potentially deadly bacteria in a U.S. beef shipment, the embassy said. The inspection follows an announcement by the Agriculture Ministry on Sept. 26 that it had detected the bacteria in 18.18 tons of beef shipped from a plant in Nebraska. The bacterium is an especially virulent form of

E.coli that can cause kidney failure and death. The statement did not say whether the team had found proof of contamination in the shipment. Story at

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5344295-e6a>

Crime and Catastrophe

*** 'Road rage' bicyclist shoots driver dead

A bicyclist enraged at being knocked off his bike by a car outside Washington, D.C., got up, pulled out a handgun and shot the driver to death, police said Thursday. The bicyclist killed 19-year-old Joy Mariano Enriquez, a college student, with a single shot in the head. Police said a suspect, named as Alejandro Jose Grant, 26, had been charged with first degree murder. The shooting took place Wednesday in Langley Park, about seven miles northeast of central Washington, D.C. Story at

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347897-f9f>

*** Cargo company faces charge in pesticide shipping

A Miami freight forwarder faced federal charges Thursday for allegedly placing a container of illegal pesticide that leaked on a passenger jet, forcing an evacuation just before takeoff for Ecuador. Improperly marked, plastic-wrapped bundles of the pesticide Dowicide

were loaded onto an American Airlines flight at Miami International Airport Oct. 1, investigators said. Investigators said Executive Freight Consolidators wrapped the packages and hired a courier to transport them as passenger luggage. Full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5346834-31c>

***** Train hits stalled truck, 12 injured**

An Amtrak passenger train smashed into a stalled tractor-trailer truck at a railroad crossing in coastal Georgia Thursday, injuring 12 people, none of them seriously, police said. Garden City police chief Jeff Wood said the New York-to-Miami train had 104 passengers on board when it hit the truck, which had become stuck on the tracks at a state highway crossing. Wood said the Amtrak train was moving at about 65 mph when it struck the truck and derailed. For the full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5349472-a52>

***** 11-year-old boy leads police in 110 mph chase**

An 11-year old boy was arrested Wednesday after taking his parents' car and leading police on a two-state, high-speed car chase at speeds up to 110 mph, police in Kennett, Mo., said. The boy was driving while wearing in-line roller skates, a helmet, and knee and elbow pads purchased with his father's automated-teller machine card. Arkansas police became suspicious after noticing how young the driver looked. They chased the car to Missouri, where it was stopped when

its four tires were punctured by spikes placed on the highway by police. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348334-749>

The U.S. Political Scene

*** Senate panel hears of Teamsters cash swap with Democrats

The former finance director of the Democratic National Committee Thursday defended his role in a scheme to steer a \$100,000 contribution from a Philippines businesswoman to the legally troubled re-election campaign for Teamsters Union president Ron Carey. Richard Sullivan complained he had been hounded and badgered by Republican staffers trying to pin him to an alleged illegal cash swap scheme between the Democrats and the Teamsters. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has been investigating many aspects of the Clinton re-election campaign. For the full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5350284-665>

*** White House sees momentum on fast-track trade

The White House Thursday said momentum was building for granting so-called fast-track trade negotiating authority for President Clinton, even though Democrats continued to have concerns with the measure. The House Ways and Means Committee Wednesday approved the

new trade negotiation authority, but only four Democrats backed Clinton on the compromise legislation. Fast-track gives the president authority to negotiate trade deals that cannot be changed by Congress. Lawmakers can vote for them or against them, but not amend them. Full story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5346762-d8d>

*** Senate rebuffs efforts on campaign finance reform

Senate opponents to proposed reforms of financing U.S. political campaigns Thursday again blocked the legislation while supporters said they were hopeful of compromise later this year. The Senate failed to muster the 60 votes necessary to hold votes on the proposal, submitted by Sens. John McCain and Russell Feingold, to ban unrestricted "soft money" contributions to political parties. This was the third attempt in as many days to clear the legislation for a vote. Second part, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5349439-b27>

*** China's Jiang has active schedule on trip to U.S.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin plans an active schedule while in the United States later this month for the first Sino-American state visit since Beijing's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy forces, U.S. officials said Thursday. A wreath-laying at Hawaii's Pearl Harbor memorial, a speech at Harvard University, a tour of Colonial Williamsburg and a visit to Independence Hall in Philadelphia are all

part of the itinerary, as well as meetings with President Clinton and a state dinner at the White House. The trip is scheduled for Oct. 26 to Nov. 2. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5350033-ae3>

The Courts

*** Army's McKinney will plead innocent - lawyer

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Gene McKinney, who faces a court-martial on sexual harassment charges brought by six women, will plead innocent to the accusations, his lawyer said Thursday. McKinney faces 20 counts, including adultery, indecent assault, soliciting sex and threatening a female soldier during a three-year period ending last March. No date has been set for the trial. McKinney, a 29-year Army veteran and the service's top enlisted man, denies all the charges.

Full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5344650-126>

*** Opening arguments underway in latest tobacco trial

A Florida grandmother's lung cancer was almost certainly caused by her cigarette smoking, a doctor said Thursday as testimony began in the latest product liability lawsuit against R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. Dr. Victor Roggli said he couldn't recall a single case of

single-cell lung cancer that did not occur in either a smoker or an ex-smoker. Attorneys for R.J. Reynolds have suggested that plaintiff Joann Karbiwynk, 58, may have been "genetically wired" to suffer from the deadly disease because she also had had uterine cancer. Full story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348349-697>

*** British nanny trial evidence upsets doctor

A doctor testifying in the trial of a young British au pair accused of killing a baby said Thursday that eight months after the child's death it was still painful to look at the medical evidence. Dr.

Patrick Barnes, a pediatric radiologist and an expert in child abuse at Boston's Childrens Hospital, explained a series of brain scans to jurors. Louise Woodward, 19, of Chester, England, is charged with first-degree murder in the February 1997 death of Matthew Eappen who died as a result of extensive head injuries. For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5350250-22a>

*** Landfill company at center of giant campaign fraud

Four former officers of a Pennsylvania landfill company faced arraignment on federal criminal charges Thursday for their alleged roles in one of the biggest campaign finance fraud cases ever, U.S. officials said. A 140-count indictment charged the four former executives of Empire Sanitary Landfill Inc., a state lawmaker and an Empire business associate with making \$129,000 in illegal

contributions to 10 election campaigns, including those of President Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole. Empire pleaded guilty Wednesday to 40 criminal counts and agreed to an \$8 million fine. See <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348983-aeb>

U.S. Business and Financial News

*** Retailers post disappointing Sept. sales

September was a disappointment for the USA's retailers. Unseasonably warm weather stifled demand for new fall merchandise, and shoppers stayed home to watch the funeral of Princess Diana. With warm weather still blanketing much of the nation, industry analysts warn retailers could face lower third-quarter earnings and a disastrous Christmas season. (USA Today)

*** Stocks stagger near close

Blue chips and broader markets struggled to regain momentum in late-session trading Thursday, but technology shares rose to new highs. The Dow closed down 34 points to 8061 on volume of 552 million shares. Decliners led advancers 17 to 11. The S&P 500 was off three points to 970. The Nasdaq rose four points to 1745. The 30-year bond was up 3/32 to yield 6.36 percent.

*** New U.S. jobless claims fell last week

The number of unemployed Americans claiming jobless benefits for the first time dropped last week, providing further evidence of the country's tightly stretched labor markets, analysts said Thursday.

The Labor Department said initial claims for state jobless benefits fell to 304,000 in the week ended Saturday from an upwardly revised 309,000 in the prior week. The claims number fell below the expectations of Wall Street economists, who had forecast initial claims at 311,000. Story at

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347921-5c6>

*** Third-quarter earnings rise 13 percent at GE

General Electric said its profits rose 13 percent in the third quarter as higher sales of spare parts and services by its equipment businesses helped lift revenues. Profits for the quarter were \$2.014 billion, or 62 cents a share, compared with \$1.788 billion, or 54 cents a share, in the same period a year ago. Profits were slightly higher than analysts expected. (USA Today)

*** Apple confirms layoffs

Apple confirmed it is continuing to lay off employees as part of an ongoing, across-the-board reorganization. The move has already claimed Apple's Advanced Technology Group and Quality Assurance operation, and will now effect sales, marketing and engineering. But

Apple said the top-to-bottom review does not represent a major restructuring of the company. (USA Today)

*** Ford to spin off Associates interest

Ford Motor Co. said it will spin off its 80 percent interest in Associates First Capital Corp. by distributing its 279 million shares of stock in the company to Ford shareholders. The move is part of Ford's effort to focus on its automotive business. The Associates is one of the biggest players in the market for home mortgages and home-equity loans, and is among the largest publicly held finance companies in the nation. (USA Today)

World Front Page Stories

*** Italy gov't quits, EMU hopes still alive

Italy's government led by Prime Minister Romano Prodi, abandoned by its Marxist allies over a belt-tightening budget for 1998, resigned Thursday after 17 months in office but was to stay on as caretakers. Prodi's government depended on the hard-line Communist Refoundation Party in the lower house to pass legislation. But the Communists refused to back the deficit-cutting 1998 budget because of cuts of \$2.9 billion in pensions and welfare spending. An opposition leader later said Italy needed a cross-party coalition to ensure swift

membership of European economic and monetary union (EMU). See full story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5350062-654>

*** At least 54 dead in Mexico hurricane disaster

At least 54 people have been killed by flooding and collapsing buildings as Hurricane Pauline blasted its way through Acapulco, Mexico, officials said Thursday. The fresh death toll came from reports by mortuary staff, Red Cross and city Civil Defense workers. They said the dead included nine people whose bodies were found floating in floodwaters covering the city's main beachfront avenue, the Avenida Costera. For the second part of the story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5350312-31f>

*** Russian house rejects budget but will talk

Russia's Communist-led lower house of parliament, battling President Yeltsin over economic reforms, rejected the government's draft budget at its first reading Thursday but offered compromise. In a concession the State Duma voted to send the draft to a joint government-parliament commission which will rework it and then return it to the chamber for a second reading. The Duma ruled out rejecting the budget outright and throwing it back to the government, a move which would have increased tensions between the chamber and Yeltsin, who has hinted he might dissolve it if it continues to resist reforms. See story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348795-27d> Yeltsin says won't seek third term, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348828-5e9>

*** Nobel Prize-winner Fo famed for biting satire

Dario Fo, an Italian playwright who has battled conformism and championed the poor with the wit and humor of a court jester, won the 1997 Nobel Literature Prize Thursday. Fo was the sixth Italian to win the accolade, worth \$1 million this year, since it was first given in 1901. The Swedish Academy said Fo's work, which has been criticized by the Vatican, was recognized for "emulating the jesters of the Middle Ages in scourging authority and upholding the dignity of the downtrodden." He is one of the best-known literary figures to win the prize in recent years and also one of the most radical. Full story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348125-38d> Chronology of Nobel Literature Prize winners, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347387-f6d>

*** Anti-mine group leads race for Nobel Peace Prize

An organization campaigning to rid the world of landmines, a cause championed by Britain's Princess Diana, is among those tipped for the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize to be announced Friday. Chinese dissidents, U.S. diplomats, religious and opposition leaders and a medical charity are also believed to be on the shortlist of a dozen or so names, seasoned Nobel watchers say. Another likely nominee linked to the anti-landmine movement is Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, who spearheaded the international campaign, they add. Full

text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347793-4cd>

The World Political Scene

*** U.N. says Congo-Brazzaville rebel leader signs cease-fire

The United Nations said Thursday both sides in the power struggle in the Congo Republic had now signed a cease-fire pact that might stop the country's civil war, which has spilled across the river to Kinshasa. U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said Gen. Sassou Nguesso, the country's former ruler, signed early Thursday the document which his opponents, President Pascal Lissouba and Prime Minister Bernard Kolelas had signed last month. He said U.N. officials were keeping "our fingers crossed that a cessation of hostilities will follow."

See story at

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5349021-6a7>

*** More woes for Netanyahu on bungled killing

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Thursday he was considering resigning out of frustration with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as aftershocks from a botched assassination attempt further shook the government. Levy assailed Netanyahu's decision to sneak Mossad secret agents into Amman last month to try to kill a leader of the Hamas

militant movement and criticized his approach to Middle East peacemaking. He said he was not consulted about what he called a damaging and unnecessary operation by the Mossad. Also, one of three members of a panel investigating the assassination attempt resigned Thursday to avoid charges he was biased in favor of the operation.

See story at

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348716-949>

*** U.S. softer on Croatia after war suspects surrender

The United States said Thursday it no longer demanded the suspension of Croatia from the Council of Europe following the surrender of 10 Bosnian Croat war crimes suspects. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck said the surrender showed Croatia's willingness to cooperate with the international tribunal on war crimes in former Yugoslavia. The United States, which has observer status at the 40-nation Council of Europe, sought last month to have Croatia suspended from the organization which monitors human rights and democracy in Europe. The Council rejected the U.S. plea. Full story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5349428-988>

*** Hillary Clinton asks women to play political role

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton called for women around the world to play full parts in the political lives of their countries Thursday. "Democracy can only achieve its fullest potential when women are not barred by law, by ignorance, by tradition or custom, or

by intimidation from making their voices heard at the ballot box," she told a Panama conference gathering 20 first ladies of the Western Hemisphere. Clinton suggested that the challenge of advancing the political, legal and economic rights of women would be more arduous than building the Panama Canal. Story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348102-e06>

***** U.N. hears about bananas, El Nino, end to wars**

The time has come, the U.N. said, to talk of many things -- of bananas, greed and calendars, and what El Nino brings. These topics and others, from greedy currency traders to a brand new calendar and a brand new century free of wars, popped up during the U.N. General Assembly's general debate this year. The debate -- really a series of monologues -- serves as a sort of annual town meeting where participants can vent to their frustrations, voice their hopes for the future and say what should be done about both. This year, 176 of the United Nations' 185 members took part in the debate. Full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347139-efd>

***** India, Sri Lanka welcome U.S. terrorist list**

India welcomed Thursday a U.S. decision to designate a Kashmiri separatist group as one of 30 "foreign terrorist organizations." "We hope the U.S. decision would be followed by a recognition of the true nature of other similar terrorist groups," a Foreign Ministry

official said. See

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348019-172> Sri

Lanka welcomed Thursday a U.S. decision to include Tamil Tiger separatists on a list of "foreign terrorist organizations" and said it expected other countries to follow suit. "It's a victory for Sri Lanka's foreign policy and a testimony of a strong and healthy bilateral relationship with the United States," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ravinatha Aryasinha said. For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347980-27f>

World Business and Financial News

*** Stocks in Asia mainly decline following Greenspan's speech

Stocks mainly fell Thursday in the key Asian-Pacific markets following Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warnings on Wednesday about the tight labor market and the sustainability of growth in the U.S. In Hong Kong, share prices tumbled after Mr. Greenspan's comments dragged U.S. equities lower Wednesday. The Tokyo market extended its early losses amid jitters about the health of the Japanese economy. Australia shares declined following Wall Street's drop and the release of domestic jobs data, which weakened the case for a cut in local interest rates. In Seoul, share prices tumbled to a 55-month low as investors worried about further financial troubles at companies. Shares in Kuala Lumpur tumbled as investors cashed in

on Wednesday's market gains. Singapore stocks fell in reaction to August industrial production data. (WSJ)

*** German Repo rate increase roils markets across Europe

Stocks slumped across Europe Thursday as investors reacted to the German Bundesbank's decision to raise its securities repurchase rate. The German central bank said after the close of floor trading in Frankfurt that it would raise its key repo rate, one of its main levers for controlling rates, to 3.30 percent from 3 percent. The move was matched by the French central bank. Stocks declined in Germany, Britain, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Sweden and Spain on word of the rate increases. The losses in the European financial markets Thursday added to Wednesday's slide, which came after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said the U.S. economy "has been on an unsustainable track," and hinted to financial markets that a Fed rate increase might come sooner than anticipated. (WSJ)

*** Japan PM woes edge into financial markets

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's political woes edged their way into Japan's financial markets on Thursday when unfounded rumours circulated that he might resign. Behind the rumours, which briefly pushed up the dollar against the yen, was growing evidence that the once highly popular Hashimoto had been unable to stem an erosion of support from the appointment of a convicted criminal to his cabinet. Senior government officials dismissed the vague resignation talk as

"absurd rumours" but the short-lived market turmoil was a clear sign of how potent the issue has become for the prime minister's future. Story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5344039-80f>

*** Bundesbank raises key rate

Germany's central bank has raised a key interest rate for the first time in over five years. The Bundesbank says it increased its securities repurchase rate to 3.3 percent from 3.0 percent to preempt higher inflation and help curb growth in the money supply. The repurchase rate is what the Bundesbank charges banks for buying back short-term securities when banks need cash for daily operations. The central bank left its official discount and Lombard lending rates unchanged at 2.5 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. (USA Today)

*** Chain to invest \$1B in Latin America

McDonald's Corp. plans to invest \$1 billion in Latin America during the next three years, including almost doubling the number of restaurants to 2,000. Sales for the more than 1,000 restaurants in 27 countries in the region are expected to reach \$1.5 billion by the end of this year. The company says it already employs almost 75,000 people in Latin America. McDonald's, the world's largest fast-food chain, opened its first Latin American restaurant in 1967 in Puerto Rico. (USA Today)

*** Legendary Dean Smith era over at North Carolina

Dean Smith, the winningest coach in history who turned North Carolina into the capital of college basketball, announced his resignation Thursday after 36 years at the school. Bill Guthridge, an assistant to Smith for 30 years, has been nominated as Smith's successor. There is no one who can replace Smith, who moved past Kentucky's legendary Adolph Rupp as college basketball's winningest coach during last year's NCAA Tournament. A second-round victory over Colorado gave Smith 877 career wins, one more than Rupp. Smith's career record is 879-254 in 36 years. He won national championships with superstars Michael Jordan and James Worthy in 1982 and with relative no-names Donald Williams and Brian Reese in 1993. His teams have made 27 NCAA Tournament appearances, reaching the "Sweet 16" 21 times. The Tar Heels finished 28-7 last season, Smith's 27th straight 20-win season.

*** Indians look to even ALCS at Baltimore Thursday

The Indians managed just four hits against the Baltimore Orioles and Scott Erickson in a 3-0 loss in the opener of the American League Championship Series Wednesday. The Orioles are hoping that left-hander Jimmy Key will duplicate Erickson in Game Two Thursday. Key has won only once at home since May 7, posting a 1-9 mark during that span. He was 1-1 against the Indians this season and owns a 17-7

all-time mark versus Cleveland. Indians starter Charles Nagy was 1-2 in his final four starts of the regular season, allowing 20 runs and 31 hits in 25 innings during that span. Nagy was 2-1 in three starts against the Orioles this season. He pitched well at Camden Yards, going 1-1 and allowing three earned runs over 13 2/3 innings (1.98 ERA).

***** Marlins' Fernandez out for playoffs with torn rotator cuff**

Florida Marlins right-hander Alex Fernandez, who lasted just 2 2/3 innings and allowed five runs in Wednesday's playoff loss to the Atlanta Braves, has a torn rotator cuff in his pitching shoulder and will miss the rest of the postseason. "Alex Fernandez has a full thickness tear in his right shoulder," said Marlins general manager Dave Dombrowski Thursday. "He will have surgery in the near future." Fernandez did not have the usual pop on his fastball and yielded a pair of two-run homers to Ryan Klesko and Chipper Jones in Wednesday's 7-1 loss to the Braves. An MRI taken Thursday revealed the injury. Fernandez was the biggest prize in an offseason signing spree by Florida. Signed to a five-year deal worth \$35 million, Fernandez won 17 games to help the Marlins reach the playoffs for the first time in franchise history.

***** Marlins' Alou uncertain for NLCS with wrist injury**

The status of Florida Marlins outfielder Moises Alou, who missed Game Two of the National League Championship Series Wednesday with a

jammed left wrist, is uncertain for the remainder of the series. Alou suffered the injury when he slammed his wrist on the top of the wall while leaping for a home run by Atlanta's Ryan Klesko in the sixth inning of the series opener Tuesday. X-rays and an MRI revealed no structural damage, but Alou was unable to grip a bat and was a late scratch for Wednesday's game. Jim Eisenreich started in left field and batted sixth in place of Alou but was hitless in three at-bats. Alou drove in four runs to help the Marlins beat the Braves in the series opener Tuesday night. He was 3-for-14 in the Division Series against the San Francisco Giants, but drove in the winning run in Game Two with a ninth-inning single.

*** Dolphins' Perriman inactive for Sunday

Wide receiver Brett Perriman, who signed a one-year contract with the Miami Dolphins Wednesday one day after being released by the Kansas City Chiefs, will be inactive for Sunday's key AFC East game against the New York Jets while he familiarizes himself with his new team. Perriman, a Miami native, was unhappy with his role in the Kansas City offense and asked to be traded two weeks ago. He stated his desire to play in South Florida after Sunday's game between the Chiefs and Dolphins at Miami. But Kansas City was unable to unload Perriman before the trading deadline due to his two-year contract, which is worth between \$3.5 and \$4 million, and released him. Perriman is reunited with Jimmy Johnson, his former college coach at Miami of Florida. Johnson has been searching for a complement to O.J. McDuffie at wide receiver after benching starter Fred Barnett.

*** ABL players can now own stock in the league

In a revolutionary move, the American Basketball League revealed a stock option program Thursday that will allow its players to own a piece of the league. "To the best of our knowledge, the ABL's stock option program is unprecedented in professional sports history," said league co-founder and CEO Gary Cavalli. Under the plan, all current players will be granted three-year options for a specific number of shares of stock. At the end of each season, approximately half the players will receive additional performance-based grants, while new players will receive options as they enter the league. The number of initial and annual stock options will be based on player performance on the court, as well as community involvement and long-term commitment to the league. The ABL opens its second season on Sunday.

Science and Medicine

*** Pfiesteria caused unnecessary panic, experts say

People panicked unnecessarily over news of the fish-killing pfiesteria organism, experts said Thursday, adding that seafood safety was never threatened by recent outbreaks. They told a congressional subcommittee that while the tiny creatures killed fish and might make people sick, they did not make seafood dangerous to

eat. But they said recent East Coast pfiesteria outbreaks were a symptom of a growing problem from harmful waterborne organisms and that pollution was almost certainly to blame. For the full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5349413-10b>

*** Women don't do enough to stop osteoporosis - survey

Women know they are in danger from osteoporosis but are not doing enough to prevent it, a survey published on Thursday has found. Women know that ingesting more calcium, taking supplements and exercise are important to prevent the disease, but do not realize that they have to do all these things, not just one of them, the National Osteoporosis Foundation said. The poll of 500 women found women think their risk declines as they get older, when in fact it grows.

Osteoporosis occurs when the body loses more bone mass than it makes.

Story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5346520-81f>

*** Beer, liquor as good as wine to cut heart disease

Drinking moderate amounts of white wine, beer and liquor is just as effective as quaffing red wine in reducing the risk of coronary heart disease in older people, medical experts said Thursday. The cardiovascular benefits of a glass or two of red wine a day have been well documented but medical experts now say equal amounts of other alcoholic drinks are just as good. The experts found that older, high risk people who drink one to three units a day of beer, wine or

liquor are 25 percent less likely to suffer coronary heart disease.

Story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5349282-e8e>

*** Mir crew unloads cargo after smooth docking

Cosmonauts aboard the Mir space station Thursday began unloading supplies delivered by a cargo ship and a Russian astrologer predicted a better run of luck for the accident-prone craft after a string of mishaps. The Progress M-36 cargo capsule successfully docked with Mir at 1:07 p.m. ET Wednesday. Its 6,600 pounds included a spare computer, fuel, water, food, laboratory equipment and materials for scientific experiments. The docking was delayed by a day after the U.S.-Russian crew failed to undock another space tug Monday. Story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347216-f5d>

Technology

*** Dell, Intel work on industry-standard systems architecture

Dell Computer Corporation Thursday announced it is working closely with Intel Corporation on 64-bit system architectures that are expected to offer revolutionary performance gains for enterprise and high-performance systems environments. Dell plans to be among the first companies to provide enterprise servers and workstations using Intel's first IA-64 processor, code-named Merced, when it becomes

commercially available. Dell and Intel are working closely with the goal of ensuring that Dell's Merced processor-based systems provide a new level of performance and features. (PR Newswire) For the full text story,

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347043-888>

***** Dart Communications announces PowerTCP Web Add-on**

Dart Communications introduced Thursday the PowerTCP Web Add-on for Visual Basic 5.0. PowerTCP Web Add-on supports the development of ActiveX controls for custom networking applications without writing protocol and socket library code; the documentation can be published on any Web server for use across the Enterprise. Protocols include FTP, TELNET, TCP, SMTP, POP3, UDP, TFTP, SNMP, VT320 emulation, REXEC, RLOGIN, RSHELL, WHOIS, TIME and FINGER. By using this kit with Visual Basic 5.0, developers can develop and debug browser-ready Web applications in a few steps. (PR Newswire) For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347322-7ee>

***** Information Industry Association announces 'Hotshots'**

The Information Industry Association presented the 1997 HotShots Awards winners earlier in October. The HotShots Awards honor the industry's best and most innovative online and Internet products and services. The Best New Information Service award went to ZDNet for ZDUniversity. The Best Enhanced Information Service award went to Disclosure Incorporated for Global Access. Imark Technologies Inc.

won the Best New Enabling Technology award for its NET-MAX product.

The Best Value Added Information Service Incorporating Government

Information award went to Internet Financial Network for IFN Instant

News. (PR Newswire) Full story at

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347463-485>

*** Microsoft donates software to Swiss schools

Microsoft Corp. will donate software to help Swiss schools link up to

the Internet on thousands of personal computers that state

administrators no longer need, officials said Thursday. Microsoft's

chairman, Bill Gates, and Swiss Finance Minister Kaspar Villiger

announced the deal, which they said underscored the global computer

network's importance for education. The scheme aims to put around

2,500 personal computers equipped with Microsoft operating software

and Internet browsers in schools within the next five years. Story at

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5346332-966>

Human Interest

*** Finds at U.S. wreck site indicate Blackbeard's ship

An array of cannons, anchors and other artifacts indicate a wreck

discovered last fall off the North Carolina coast is likely to be

that of Queen Anne's Revenge, flagship of the notorious pirate

Blackbeard, which sank in 1718, researchers say. The vessel was believed to have hit a sandbar as the English-born Blackbeard and his pirate fleet headed north after a weeklong siege at Charleston harbor, but some researchers speculate the ship was intentionally scuttled. Researchers suspect hurricanes last summer might have helped uncovered the wreck. Story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348933-4bf>

***** Egyptian sculptor accused of using body parts**

An Egyptian sculptor is facing charges for using human body parts in a statue submitted for an art competition in Cairo, newspapers reported Thursday. They said 27-year-old Ahmed Karaaly had confessed to buying human arm and leg bones from a gravedigger for \$9 and then combining them with bones from a cat and a sheep in a transparent polystyrene statue. "I wanted to make a statue representing the fossils of ancient civilization by combining the human and the animal body in a creative way," newspapers quoted Karaaly as saying. For the full text story, see <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348439-e73>

***** Dr. Ruth explores Papua New Guinea's islands of love**

It is a sensual tropical paradise where the women rule and the men trade kula rings. The Trobriand Islands, or Islands of Love, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, are home to a matrilineal society, which passes land and inheritance through the female side of the family.

Mungo Park online (<http://mungopark.com>) will report Dr. Ruth Westheimer's dispatches from the islands Oct. 10-21. Spiritual traditions and fertility rites focus on cultivation of the phallic yam, and Trobriand Islanders are said to condone sex between unmarried teen-agers, extramarital sex with multiple partners, and even the conquest of men by married women. (PR Newswire) Full text story, see

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5348390-be7>

*** Did Poe show at Chicago seance?

As the anniversary of Edgar Allan Poe's death approached, a play about the author of tales of the macabre, which had drawn only lukewarm reviews and mediocre crowds, was nearing the end of its run at a small Chicago theater. How to spark some interest? Perhaps an appearance by the author himself at the stroke of midnight on the 148th anniversary of his death? Enter a publicist, a psychic, an astrologer, a hypnotist and a crystal ball. A seance seemed in order. At the seance this week, those participating had every intention of contacting Poe. For the story,

<http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347055-fd1>

*** Latest board games highlight drugs, greed, sleaze

If you are a yuppie who misses the drug-induced '70s or the corporate greed of the '80s, or if you want to live vicariously in the sleazy world of contemporary politics, there may be a board game just for

you. "The American Culture Satire Series" lets people delve into lives of consuming and smuggling drugs in the New York City underworld, embezzling huge amounts of money, and lying and cheating to become a U.S. president. The game is played out using dice, cards and a plastic-coated board with a detailed map of New York's neighborhoods. Story at <http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=5347314-d68>

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with stdio id EOPA1AADKQ08893; Thu, 09 Oct 1997 14:57:29 -0600 (MDT)

Errors-to: news-errors@mx.lodo.infobeat.com

X-TestFile: merc-news1-text-reich_b@a1.eop.gov

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: acbuf (acbuf@buffnet.net@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-OCT-1997 01:06:00.00

SUBJECT: Clinton - 10/14

TO: Steven A. Cohen (Steven A. Cohen@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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

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id <01IOTFXS3MXC00Q8CJ@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for cohen_sa@a1.eop.gov; Wed,
15 Oct 1997 01:12:25 -0400 (EDT)

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by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879) id <01IOTFXPDJVK00KBPO@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for
cohen_sa@a1.eop.gov; Wed, 15 Oct 1997 01:12:21 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from buffnet4.buffnet.net ([205.246.19.13])

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-7 #6879)
with ESMTP id <01IOTFX6Y71I000MHM@STORM.EOP.GOV> for cohen_sa@a1.eop.gov; Wed,

15 Oct 1997 01:11:57 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from buffnet9.buffnet.net (buffnet9.buffnet.net [205.246.19.19])
by buffnet4.buffnet.net (8.7.5/8.7.3) with SMTP id BAA00734; Wed,
15 Oct 1997 01:10:09 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from eppp54.buffnet.net(205.246.19.161) by buffnet9.buffnet.net via
smap (V2.0) id xma012601; Wed, 15 Oct 1997 01:09:58 -0400

X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.71.1712.3

X-Priority: 3

X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3

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

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

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

TEXT:

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Last week, I went to Panama, and this week, I am accompanying Bill on his state visits to Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina. Since I firmly believe relationships between the United States and Latin America are critical to the entire hemisphere's future peace, I wish every American could be on these trips with us.

Then, Americans could see for themselves how what happens thousands of miles south of our border affects our lives at home. Venezuela, for example, is our bi

ggest supplier of oil -- and home to some of the best players in major league baseball. Brazil, with more than 160 million people, is a multiracial democracy struggling with some of the same problems we face. Argentina has joined with us in U.N. peacekeeping operations around the world -- from Haiti to Bosnia.

And Panamanians and Americans are working to define our partnership after the Panama Canal reverts to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999. The United States is the principal beneficiary of the goods that travel through the canal, which allows ships to cross between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans without sailing around the tip of South America. In fact, at the Miraflores Locks, canal officials permitted me to open a set of locks for a 33,000-ton South Korean container ship on its way from Savannah, Ga., to Long Beach, Calif.

Over a century ago, building the canal was essential to improving opportunities for people all over the Americas. As daunting as that task was, we face what may be an even harder challenge today. Instead of mountains, we seek to move hearts, to change old attitudes, to banish hunger and disease, to educate all our children and to empower the women of our hemisphere to participate fully in the life of our nations.

Empowering women to make the most of their God-given promise was one of the main themes of the Seventh Annual Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Governments of the Americas I attended in Panama City. Each year since the 1994 Summit of the Americas in Miami, we have tried to shine a spotlight on -- and take action to address -- some of the most important issues facing women and children in our hemisphere: primary education, eradicating measles, maternal mortality, family planning and women's political participation.

A few years ago, Faustina Nunez and her friends acted on their dream to make the most of their abilities. They started a business growing plants and seedlings to sell in the cities of Panama and to the government's reforestation programs. Their neighbors laughed at the idea. "They said that our nursery was going to fail, that this was something the men did, not women," she told me and Panama's First Lady, Dora Perez-Ballardares, when we visited the 5-acre nursery in Chiriqui, a small hilltop village at the edge of the tropical forest.

But Faustina and her partners, who called themselves the Association for Gender, Nature and Progress, were not discouraged. Within two years, the women had sold enough orchids, medicinal plants and seedlings to expand their business. They had provided seedlings to reclaim 48 acres of the deforested Altos de Campana National Park. And most importantly for them, where before they had worked for free on their husbands' vegetable farms, they were now able to contribute to the family finances, to bring in extra income to buy books and school clothes for their children.

"We grew and grew, and our community was able to see that we were playing an important role," Faustina said. "We were a society of strong-willed women, and we were not going to step back."

Part of the work Faustina and her partners are accomplishing is helping reforest the land around the grand Panama Canal. When I flew over the canal in a U.S. Army helicopter, I saw one of the world's engineering marvels and a tribute both to technological innovation and human fortitude. But I also saw some of the damage man has caused to Panama's rich tropical forest in the canal watershed.

Acres of thick, green forest tapered off into barren land dotted by tall yellow grasses, naked trees and fields abandoned by poor farmers who had moved on to clear more land. Over the past 40 years, slash-and-burn agriculture has reduced Panama's forests by half, causing soil erosion and depleting much of the fresh water supply the canal depends on to function smoothly.

Faustina, her partners and other women are part of a joint effort by Panama and

d the United States to turn this situation around. Our cooperation isn't limited to this. Americans and Panamanians are also working on a multinational counter-narcotics center that would monitor, track and stop drugs coming north. Just as men of imagination, talent and perseverance sought to connect the oceans in an earlier time, today, men and women of goodwill and vision are working together, within and across borders, to solve today's problems.

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October 14, 1997

TALKING IT OVER 10/14/97

Page

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

===== ATTACHMENT 3 =====

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

TEXT:

Subject: MULTIPART/ALTERNATIVE
TALKING IT OVER

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October 14, 1997

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

===== ATTACHMENT 4 =====

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

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<META content=""MSHTML 4.71.1712.3" name=GENERATOR>

</HEAD>

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<P>TALKING IT OVER </P>

<P>BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON</P>

<P>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</P>

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<P>October 14, 1997</P></DIV></BODY></HTML>

===== END ATTACHMENT 4 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: ejoella (ejoella@hobbes.regscan.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 18-OCT-1997 12:07:00.00

SUBJECT: Messge for Ned Ertel

TO: Peter O'Keefe (Peter O'Keefe@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Peter,

I would really appreciate it if you would be kind enough to print this out
and give it to Ned.

Many thanks,

Ed Joella

Ned,

If you have some creativity and brain power which is not being consumed by
move planning, I would appreciate it if you could put some thought into
this.

Following is a list of the 50 Titles of the CFR. Would you please
consider what types of businesses/individuals are likely to reading each
title area and then try to come up with industry areas which might want to
advertise to those readers. I started o
n a couple, but the more we can get the better.

[PARA]Regulatory Area Industries of [PARA]Potential Advertisers

Title 1 General Provisions

Title 2 Reserved

Title 3 The President

Title 4 Accounts

Title 5 Administrative Personnel

Title 6 Reserved

Title 7 Agriculture Fertilizer companies, banks, farm machinery
manufacturers, seed companies, trucking companies, railroads,

Title 8 Aliens and Nationality

Title 9 Animals and Animal Products

Title 10 Energy

Title 11 Federal Elections

Title 12 Banks and Banking

Title 13 Business Credit Assistance

Title 14 Aeronautics and Space

Title 15 Commerce and Foreign Trade

Title 16 Commercial Practices

Title 17 Commodity and Securities Exchanges

Title 18 Conservation of Power and Water Resources

Title 19 Customs Duties

Title 20 Employees' Benefits

Title 21 Food and Drugs

Title 22 Foreign Relations

Title 23 Highways

Title 24 Housing and Urban Development

Title 25	Indians
Title 26	Internal Revenue
Title 27	Alcohol, Tobacco Products and Firearms
Title 28	Judicial Administration
Title 29	Labor Safety equipment, training,
Title 30	Mineral Resources
Title 31	Money and Finance: Treasury
Title 32	National Defense
Title 33	Navigation and Navigable Waters
Title 34	Education
Title 35	Panama Canal
Title 36	Parks, Forests and Public Property
Title 37	Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights
Title 38	Pensions, Bonuses and Veterans' Relief
Title 39	Postal Service
Title 40	Protection of Environment Environmental engineering, software, testing equipment, testing laboratories, hazardous waste disposal, testing equipment, emissions control equipment
Title 41	Public Contracts and Property Management
Title 42	Public Health
Title 43	Public Lands: Interior
Title 44	Emergency Management and Assistance
Title 45	Public Welfare
Title 46	Shipping
Title 47	Telecommunications
Title 48	Federal Acquisition Regulations System
Title 49	Transportation Trucking, railroads, shipping, freight

forwarders, packaging, labeling

Title 50 Wildlife and Fisheries

Many thanks for your help.

Ed

Edmund F. Joella, President

RegScan, Inc.

Phone 717-323-1010

Fax 717-323-8082

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

TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

Received: from conversion.pmdf.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879)
id <01IOY9HZUQFK00MVDS@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for okeefe_p@a1.eop.gov; Sat,
18 Oct 1997 12:01:51 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)
by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879) id <01IOY9HZ3OA800KQNG@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for
okeefe_p@a1.eop.gov; Sat, 18 Oct 1997 12:01:50 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from regscan.com ([198.70.180.66])
by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-7 #6879)
with SMTP id <01IOY9H94X0C001222@STORM.EOP.GOV> for okeefe_p@a1.eop.gov; Sat,

18 Oct 1997 12:01:16 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from binkley.regscan.com by regscan.com (SMI-8.6/SMI-SVR4)
id MAA22288; Sat, 18 Oct 1997 12:07:56 -0400

Received: by binkley.regscan.com with Microsoft Mail id
<01BCDBBE.7F5E7FE0@binkley.regscan.com>; Sat, 18 Oct 1997 12:08:08 -0400

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

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan (CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-OCT-1997 18:45:00.00

SUBJECT: Department of Transportation Fast Track Events

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM TO STEVE SILVERMAN CABINET AFFAIRS

FROM: Michael Huerta

Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Fast Track Events

DATE: October 24, 1997

The following is information on Fast Track. Please contact Suzanne Sullivan at 366-2223 or Cynthia Coogan at 366-5742 if you have any questions.

SECRETARY

Speeches

On September 7-8, Secretary Slater and Counsel to the President and Special Envoy to the President to Latin America, Thomas McLarty, led a United States Government mission to the Universal Congress of the Panama Canal. During that visit, Secretary Slater focused on various

transportation issues, including free trade.

Secretary Slater has been proactive in the specialty press, particularly in the African American media. Specifically, on September 12-13, he delivered three speeches to the Congressional Black Caucus, one of which focused primarily on Fast Track.

On September 26, Secretary Slater addressed the "Second Summit of Mayors to Promote the International Trade Corridor Partnership" via video. The Secretary emphasized the need for fast track legislation.

When appropriate, the Secretary in his activities relating to the President's Africa Initiative, amplifies trade. During a mini summit on Africa on October 8, Secretary Slater highlighted the importance of transportation in supporting economic growth in Africa and increased trade with the United States.

On October 10, Secretary addressed the Port of Seattle Aviation Conference via video and emphasized Fast Track.

On October 16-17, Secretary Slater attended the North American Intermodal Transportation Summit in Denver, CO emphasizing free trade and Fast Track.

Congressional Outreach

Since July, Secretary Slater has made the following outreach calls concerning Fast Track to members of Congress:

Rep. Oberstar, Rep. Rangel, Rep. Millender-McDonald, Rep. Vic Synder, and Rep McIntyre.

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Speeches

On September 23, Deputy Downey addressed the American Association of Port Authorities in Jacksonville FL, and stressed the importance of the President's trade legislation.

On October 23, Deputy Secretary Downey addressed the American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow, Russia and specifically spoke about the Fast Track Initiative.

On October 22, Deputy Secretary Downey addressed the American Chamber of Commerce in Berlin, Germany and specifically spoke about the Fast Track Initiative.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: foster (foster@ogp.noaa.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:25-NOV-1997 11:31:14.00

SUBJECT: Email of SOA Fax

TO: Arthur.E.Paterson (Arthur.E.Paterson@noaa.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: lefros (lefros [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

TALKING POINTS AND BACKGROUND FOR DECEMBER 9, 1997 SOA DISCUSSIONS,

PREPARED ON 11/25/97

DOCUMENT 1 - SUMMARY

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS:

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NOAA'S OFFICE OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS

The Office of Global Programs of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA/OGP) has advanced regional research in areas of critical importance to the sustainable development of the Americas, including the issue of short-term climate variability, such as that associated with El Niño, and the application of forecast information for the purpose of adjusting to this variability. Since the Cartagena Declaration was issued, NOAA has advanced research to better understand and predict the climate of the Americas and adjacent ocean regions, with

an emphasis on the North and South American monsoons (Pan-American Climate Study: PACS). NOAA is also working with international partners to develop a multi national plan to address the variability of the American Monsoon system (VAMOS).

In addition to physical science research, NOAA's Pilot Program for the Application of Climate Forecast Information has implemented the following:

- 1) two applications workshops that brought together scientists and members of climate-sensitive sectors (e.g. agriculture, human health, water management, natural disaster mitigation) in the region to develop plans to apply forecast information on a pilot basis (Mesoamericas, 1996 and Pacific South America, 1997);

- 2) a training course on the application of global forecast information to regional decision making processes (Costa Rica, 1996);

- 3) several pilot applications projects focused on the incorporation of forecast information into decision making processes of climate-sensitive sectors (e.g. hydropower in Colombia, sugar cane production in Trinidad); and

- 4) a regional climate outlook forum that produced an assessment of climate conditions in Pacific South America during the remaining months of the 1997-98 El Niño event.

Partners in these activities include the Inter-American Institute for

Global Change Research (IAI), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI), and local institutions throughout the region. DOCUMENT 2 - CLINTON TALKING POINTS - BRAZIL - EXCERPTS

EXPANDED POINTS:

ú The US is currently working to improve regional forecasting capabilities with partners worldwide, including Brazil.

ú To advance the above stated goal, the US, through NOAA, is working with the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) to establish the International Research Institute (IRI) for climate prediction.

ú A series of IRI Core Group Meetings has been held during 1997. The second in April was hosted by Brazil at INPE. This meeting was chaired by Professor Lindolpho Carvalho Dias, Vice Minister of the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology.

ú Brazil is to be considered a "Founding Member" of the IRI Core Facility in New York, along with the US, Taiwan, Japan, and Australia.

ú Dr. John H. Gibbons (OSTP), and Dr. D. James Baker (NOAA) met with Brazilian officials from INPE, at the Third IRI Core Group Meeting, hosted by the US in Washington, D.C, July 1997.

ú Dr. Antonio Divino Moura, formerly of INPE, is currently IRI Director. He met recently with President Cardoso on IRI and related issues.

ú The recently operational IRI has produced a net assessment of precipitation forecasts for several regions worldwide, including regions within South America. [Please see the net assessment and its interpretation in the background information.]

ú NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) have produced regional maps that illustrate the departures from normal for current precipitation levels (percent of normal precipitation) from July 1-September 30, 1997. [Please see regional maps for Northern South America and Southern South America and their interpretations.]

ú NOAA is also cooperating with Brazil on planning a series of workshops, including a "Workshop and Conference on the 1997-98 El Niño: Impacts and Potential Applications for Diagnostic and Predictive Information in Northeast South America," January 1998.

BACKGROUND:

EL NIÑO:

Throughout South America, countries are preparing for the dramatic social and economic impacts associated with moderate to strong El Niño events

such as the one now anxiously monitored by much of the world. El Niño is a natural climatic phenomenon that occurs periodically in the tropical Pacific Ocean and influences weather patterns, and thus socio-economic sectors sensitive to rainfall and temperatures, throughout the world. With much of its area located in or in close vicinity of the tropics, South America is among the regions most immediately and directly impacted by El Niño. In addition to property damage and loss of human life, El Niño related climate variability can effect agricultural productivity; the availability of water; the output of fisheries; the integrity of transportation, telecommunications and civil infrastructure; and the spread of life-threatening and costly diseases such as malaria, dengue and cholera.

CURRENT IMPACTS OF THE 1997-98 EL NIÑO IN BRAZIL:

While the strongest impacts of the 1997-98 El Niño are likely to be experienced during the December January time period, some countries are already experiencing initial impacts that appear to be associated with the event.

Brazil:

ú Unseasonable rains have been reported in Southern Brazil and may impact coffee, one of Brazil's main commodities.

ú Rainfall in NE Brazil, a semi-arid region, may decrease as a result of the EL Niño event.

Background: In NE Brazil alone, a 16% decrease in agricultural production during a drought meant soaring food prices, a sharp increase in unemployment, and millions of dollars in government subsidies. Drought-induced crop losses have reached as high as \$924M/yr in Brazil. Preparing for drought using experimental forecasts has allowed Brazil to alter seed varieties and planting schedules which yielded near normal production when rainfall was 30% below normal. In 1994, heavy rainfall was predicted in Northeast Brazil, leading to planning efforts resulting in bumper crops, near double the mean production.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IRI) FOR CLIMATE PREDICTION:

At the conclusion of the November 1995 International Forum on Forecasting El Niño: Launching an International Research Institute," the participants, representing over 40 countries, and 20 regional and international organizations, endorsed a final Forum Statement which acknowledged:

"the value of collectively undertaking a focused research program to generate products based on experimental seasonal-to-interannual climate predictions and facilitate their application to practical problems in affected regions."

The shared vision embodied in this statement, began to emerge in the late 1980's when the scientific community and intergovernmental representatives

engaged in the international Tropical Oceans-Global Atmosphere (TOGA) program began to promote the development of an international center, "for the study of climate prediction and the development of quasi-operational prediction schemes."

During the 1992 United National Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the US announced the implementation of a Pilot Project to demonstrate the concept of such an International Research Institute (IRI) for seasonal-to-interannual climate prediction.

Shortly after the November 1995 Forum the Office of Global Programs of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) signed a cooperative agreement with Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, in collaboration with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), which provided for the initial implementation of an IRI while pursuing discussions with other interested countries and organizations which will lead to the establishment of a fully multinational Institute.

The IRI Core Facility will provide the necessary scientific and institutional focus for an end-to-end program of climate prediction on seasonal-to-interannual timescales. The IRI will be one in a number of centers in a purposeful IRI Network for seasonal-to-interannual climate forecasting, and worldwide network of regional climate applications activities.

The Third IRI Core Group Meeting, July 1997 in Washington, DC, effectively melded the emerging IRI Core Group into an interim coalition of

multilateral Founding sponsors seeking to support the IRI, including the US, Brazil, Taiwan, Japan, and Australia.

This emerging group of "Founding Members" has tentatively agreed to define and implement cooperative bilateral mechanisms to financially sustain, govern, and manage the near-term development of the IRI Core Facility over a three-year transitional period.

A draft model for a reliable yet flexible IRI Core governance and financial management structure has been outlined and discussed, along with a tentative hiring plan and revised operating budget. A minimum budget of \$17 million and a staff of 72 has been framed as a goal for the year 2000. The goal is for the US to contribute no more than 50% of the budget, with the balance coming from other Founding Members. It is anticipated that a majority of the IRI staff will be composed of visiting scientists from the international community.

At the same time interim sponsors have provisionally committed to pursue, and establish before the year 2000 if possible, more permanent multilateral arrangements for chartering IRI Core sponsorship.

The IRI Core Group has consented to help oversee the process of IRI Network planning with respect to development of the IRI Core Facility

0 Gd "\$ & the Core Gr " =*?has agreed to the importance of entraining other potential sponsors as IRI Core Founding Members over the coming year.

US INVOLVEMENT:

NOAA continues to conduct research to increase our predictive understanding of ENSO and its implications for countries around the world. In addition, NOAA has activities in several regions in Latin America geared to advance the use of forecast information.

In addition to these ongoing activities, NOAA will convene a series of workshops and conferences in Latin America: 1) Pacific South America; 2) Southeast South America; and 3) Northeast South America.

The general objectives of these meetings are:

To assess and communicate the current and projected impacts of the 1997-1998 ENSO event in Pacific South America, and design plans/proposals for pilot applications activities that will utilize this information to mitigate socio economic disruption, and take advantage of opportunities, associated with the current and future events.

ú NOAA is cooperating specifically with Brazil on planning a series of workshops, including a "Workshop and Conference on the 1997-98 El Niño: Impacts and Potential Applications for Diagnostic and Predictive Information in Northeast South America," January 1998. DOCUMENT 3 -
CURRENT EL NINO IMPACTS

The Current El Nino in Latin America

(November 17, 1997)

Pacific South America

General

ú Peru's President, Alberto Fujimori, declared a state of emergency for nine of Peru's 24 regions and allocated \$19 million to prepare for the anticipated impacts of El Niño (Reuters 7/13/97). ú President of Ecuador, Fabian Alacron, has declared a national emergency for Ecuador and has allocated a minimum of \$7.5 million for work to repair highways, control drainage and sewage systems, strengthening of bridges, building walls to support roads, and cleaning irrigation ditches to prepare for the anticipated impacts of El Niño (Reuters 7/3/97 and 7/13/97). ú President Fujimori reported that the World Bank will provide Peru with \$150 million and the Inter-American Development Bank will provide Peru with \$100 million for precautionary work against the harmful effects of El Niño (Reuters; 10/5/97).

Fishmeal/Fisheries/Aquaculture:

ú German traders have reported that the availability of fishmeal in key animal feed markets in Europe will remain tight due to depression of fish catches off of Latin American coasts because of the changing weather patterns caused by El Niño. Peru is the world's largest fishmeal and fish oil maker (Reuters; 9/9/97). ú Peru's central bank reported that fishmeal and fish oil production may decline by 14% in 1997-98 (Reuters;

9/9/97). ú Chilean fishmeal exports decreased to \$34.8 million in June from 67.9 million in the same month last year due to a ban on mackerel fishing which began in January 1997. This ban was imposed in order to protect young fish drawn to coastal waters because of warm currents of El Niño (Reuters; 7/23/97). ú The Peruvian Fisheries Ministry lifted a 2 month ban on anchovy fishing for its southern seas but maintained the ban for the north and central zones. A one month ban on anchovy fishing in the northern waters off of Chile ended on September 15, 1997, but the replenishing of depressed levels of anchovy is not likely (Reuters; 9/9/97). ú The Oil World Newspaper based in Hamburg reported that Peru's 1997/98 fishmeal output (October/September) will be between 1.10 and 1.55 million tonnes compared to 2 million tonnes in 1996/97. For Chile, on the other hand, production will be between 50,000-100,000 tonnes above the 1.2 million level for 1996/97 (Reuters; 9/9/97). ú The Oil World Flash has reported that fishmeal exports could plunge by 300,000-400,000 tonnes in 1997/98 compared to the 4 million tonnes in 1996/97 (Reuters; 9/9/97). ú There is concern that warmer Pacific waters will foster the growth of harmful algae along the Chilean coast and in the Gulf of Ancud by the island of Chiloe, where 90% of Chile's Salmon is farmed. There was a 4.8% increase in fish exports between January and August 1997, but Chile's National Society of Fishing expects an overall drop of 5.5% from the \$1.8 billion in 1996 and \$1.7 billion in 1997. During the first 8 months of 1997, there were larger catches due to warm waters pushing anchovies south from Peru into the cooler waters off of Chile's coast (Reuters; 10/27/97).

ú The Government of Ecuador is expecting damage to such crops as maize, soya, and cocoa, and has already reported damage to rice, banana, and sugar crops caused by heavy rains (Reuters 7/3/97 and 7/13/97).

Mining

ú Rudolf Wolff and Co. of the London Metal Exchange has indicated that El Nino is contributing to disruption of about 60% of the world copper output due to heavy rains in South America or drought in Australia and Asia (Reuters; 9/1/97).

Extreme Weather Events

ú The cause of Chile's worst flooding in a decade has been attributed to El Niño. Results of the flooding are the following: 17 people were killed; 60,000 people fled their homes; and agriculture and infrastructure were damaged. Chile received more than 300 mm of rainfall in month and this is more than it usually receives in a year. The Chilean government allocated \$165 million to repair flood damage, and up to late June, \$70 million in damage to highways and bridges has been reported (Reuters 6/23/97 and 7/13/97). ú El Niño has been linked to unusually cold temperatures in the Andes (Ayacucho, Apurimac, and Arequipa departments), and this has resulted in snowstorms and freezing temperatures which have caused the deaths of nine people, the stranding of hundreds of motorists on remote roads, the killing of about 2,500 alpacas, and the ruining of crops (Reuters; 8/16/97 and 8/11/97). ú At least

two people died and more than 2,000 were left homeless due to the swelling of rivers in Bolivar province of Colombia (MSNBC 10/97).

Benefits

ú Chilean fisheries may benefit due to concentration of fish along Chile's northern coast. Anchovies and sardines concentrated along a 300 mile stretch along Chile's northern coast (Washington Post; 6/23/97).

ú El Nino may decrease the formation of hurricanes in the Caribbean (Reuters; 6/23/97). ú 200 people were rescued from blizzards which developed along the Chilean-Argentine border (Reuters; 6/23/97).

Central America

Agriculture

ú The Guatemalan National Seismology, Volcanology and Meteorology Institute has reported that there is a rain deficit in the southwest, southeast and central mesa of Guatemala. From April through July, southeast Guatemala received 45% less rain than normal (Reuters; 8/18/97).

ú El Niño has caused drought in Guatemala and has harmed corn and dry beans crops and may affect coffee in the southwest of Guatemala. The Agricultural Ministry plans to prepare for the El Niño impacts by identifying risk areas, providing advice to growers of vulnerable crops, suggesting alternative crops, using pest controls, and providing funding to rehabilitate wells and pumps. Guatemala is not limiting its grain

exports, but Honduras has implemented a temporary ban on corn and beans exports (Reuters 8/18/97).

Water Resources

ú El Nino is contributing to the water level of the Panama Canal dropping by 25% and draft restrictions may be implemented if levels fall to 81 feet. Panama is receiving 75% less rain than it normally receives at this time of year. From April 1 to October 20, rainfall normally is around 69 inches, but this year it has been 52.4 inches. The result is that the water level in the Panama Canal October 20 was 83.5 feet, and this is a drop of 1.5 feet since April 1. The canal region received rain during October, and this is improving the chances for not instituting draft restrictions. On December 1, authorities will be able to gage if draft restrictions will be needed (Reuters; 10/24/97).

Mexico

Extreme Events

ú The warm Pacific waters caused by El Niño contributed to the 100-mph winds and 40 feet waves of Hurricane Pauline. Hurricane Pauline, causing the deaths of 122 people, was the deadliest storm to strike Mexico since Hurricane Gilbert hit the Caribbean coast in 1988, killing 450 people (New York Post; 10/10/97). ú Weather forecasters are saying that El Niño could extend Mexico's Pacific hurricane season (Reuters; 10/10/97). ú Due in part to the effects of Hurricane Pauline,

cholera has broken out in Acapulco, and health officials are being sent to the region. Health officials are also indicated that there is serious risk for typhoid, dengue, and salmonella (ABCNEWS.com; 10/97). ú To date, El Niño has contributed to severe weather events that have caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage and claimed at least 400 lives. Mexico has been suffering from drought during the summer months and now tropical storms like, Hurricane Pauline, are also causing damage in resort areas like Acapulco and others along the Pacific coast (Los Angeles Times; 10/16/97). ú According to the Trust Fund for Agricultural Development, drought has caused about \$500 million in losses to corn, beans, and other crops. The Mexican Coffee Producers Federation estimates that half of the coffee crop will be lost in Oaxaca where 14% of the national total of coffee is produced (Los Angeles Times; 10/16/97).

Brazil

Agriculture

ú Unseasonable rains have been reported in Southern Brazil and may impact coffee, one of Brazil's main commodities.

Forest Fires in the Amazon

ú The fires in the northern Amazon have been exacerbated by El Niño which is causing increases in temperature and dryness. Manaus has been

dealing with thick smog for a month and airports in the region are open only to instrument-guided landings because of low visibility (Reuters; 10/24/97).
ú A cold layer of air in the atmosphere produced by El Niño is impeding air circulation below and keeping the smoke from fires in the Amazon region from dispersing. Manaus has been affected by the smoke from the fires since mid-September. The thick smoke in the rainforests has reduced visibility to one-third of a mile and is causing respiratory problems for residents of Manaus. Farmers in the state of Amazonia are encouraged by the state government to use slash and burn practices to gain pasture land. Since most of the fires are burning on private land, there is no large-scale effort to stamp out the fires (Washington Post; 11/3/97).

Extreme Events

ú The mayor of Rio has ordered the implementation of a special disaster relief and prevention program to handle the expected floods and mudslides due to increased rainfall caused by El Niño. The mayor has allocated US\$ 9.2 million to clean and dredge rivers in order to prevent flooding and US\$ 914,431 for emergency rescue efforts. In addition, Rio is using a new rain monitoring system to help warn people who live in susceptible areas that floods or mudslides could result (Reuters; 10/8/97).
ú El Niño is being blamed for floods in Southern Brazil. At least 20,000 people were left homeless after heavy flooding. In the Rio Grande do Sul state, the Uruguay river broke its banks and left 15,000 people homeless. In Santa Catarina state, at least 590 families have to be moved to higher ground, and in Parana state, 8,000 people have to be rescued by emergency crews (Reuters 10/23/97).

ú In Uniao da Vitoria in southern Parana, 3600 people were evacuated from their homes due to the Iguacu river bursting and flooding streets and homes. The Iguacu river has risen to more than 21 feet compared with the average level of 9 feet. The Brazilian southern states of Parana, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul have witnessed torrential rainfall and hailstorms over the past 15 days (Reuters 10/14/97).

Tourism

ú El Niño is contributing to shrinking the beaches of Rio de Janeiro by 100 to 165 feet in width during the past few months. El Niño is causing the wind to blow from the east and southeast, and Copacabana, which faces southeast, is suffering the full force of the waves. The city of Rio has launched a special disaster relief and prevention program in preparation of expected floods and mudslides caused by El Niño driven heavy rains (Reuters 10/21/97). ú El Niño is being blamed for causing hurricane-force winds and high waves that have hit Rio de Janeiro in a series of the worst storms to strike the region in decades. Copacabana beach is suffering from erosion, and hundreds of workers are using trucks and cranes to replace sand that has been blown away by hurricane-force winds and high waves (UPI; 10/22/97). DOCUMENT 4 - IRI AND IAI

Santiago Summit 1998 - Research and Education in the Americas (NOAA)

Scientific collaboration is a medium for the U.S. to provide technical assistance for capacity building in Latin America, along with educational training of the hemisphere's scientists in new techniques and information

technologies. NOAA is involved in two multinational initiatives that will foster increased collaboration with Latin America in the area of climate research, forecasting, and forecast applications: the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the International Research Institute (IRI) for climate prediction. Both of these initiatives were included in the S&T Action Plan from the Miami Summit (December 1994), and were further endorsed in the S&T Action Plan from the Cartagena S&T Summit (March 1996).

The IAI is a regional research network dedicated to the study of global change in the Americas (including the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific, currently attracting intense scrutiny). The IAI has established a central Directorate at INPE (Brazilian Space Agency), and is currently advancing the development of a distributed research network. The structure of the IAI's network is intended to increase the scientific capacity of the Americas through multinational collaboration and the exchange of scientific data and information.

NOAA took the U.S. lead in launching the IRI at the International Forum on Forecasting El Niño (November 1995). The IRI will bring together the world's leading scientists to advance research in seasonal-to-interannual climate forecasting and the application of experimental forecasts in regions affected by El Niño. Latin America is significantly impacted by climate variability, and thus, a number of countries are likely participants in the activities of the IRI. Most recently, Brazil, hosted the Second Meeting of the IRI Core Group (April 1997). Brazil has also

indicated interest in helping to financially support and manage the activities of an IRI Core Facility likely to be founded at the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO), Palisades, New York. Brazil's support may take the form of a visiting scientists fellowship program for the Americas at the IRI Core Facility. DOCUMENT 5 - IAI

The Inter-American Institute For Global Change Research (IAI):
A Regional Partnership To Advance Scientific Research Relevant To The Sustainable Development Of The Americas

MISSION

Seventeen countries of the Americas have signed the Agreement to Establish the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI; May 1992, Montevideo, Uruguay). The IAI Agreement provides a conceptual and legal framework for the establishment of a regional partnership to conduct integrated multi-disciplinary global change research and enhance the scientific capacity of the Americas. The IAI will utilize the global "information highway" and multinational training and education programs to promote and facilitate the exchange of technical skills and scientific data and information across traditional disciplinary, institutional, national and regional boundaries.

AGENDA

The initial IAI Science Agenda was defined by representatives of the region's scientific communities and reflects the scientific, social and

economic concerns of the Americas. Scientific data and information generated by the IAI will be made available to decision makers to advance the sustainable development of the Americas. The Science Agenda will be advanced by multinational, multidisciplinary consortia of institutions and individuals with a common interest in an area of the Science Agenda. The following research topics have been identified as initial priorities of the IAI:

- ú Ocean/Land/Atmosphere Interactions in the Inter-tropical Americas;
- ú Oceanic, Coastal and Estuarine Processes in Temperate Zones;
- ú Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity;
- ú El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Interannual Climate Variability;
- ú High Latitude Processes;
- ú Comparative Studies of Temperate Terrestrial Ecosystems; and
- ú Tropical Ecosystems and Biogeochemical Cycles

Countries Participating: US, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay.

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001. email	From Bburrill@ssimicro.com to David Des Roches Re: No subject (01IQELJIL8O200UXT8) (4 pages)	11/25/1997	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Tape Restoration Project [Email]
Default ([Panama Canal])
OA/Box Number: 1100000

FOLDER TITLE:

[09/10/1997 - 01/22/1998]

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personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
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purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of
financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
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concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: ShippersNewsWire (ShippersNewsWire@AmericanShipper.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JAN-1998 18:29:00.00

SUBJECT: American Shipper+ Jan. 20, 1998

TO: Kim C. Nakahara (Kim C. Nakahara@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
American Shipper+

Shippers' News Wire

Jan. 20, 1998 (Transmitted 22:30 GMT, Jan 19) Vol. 3, No. 13

---Compiled from American Shipper staff and wire reports

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((Note To Readers: We are grateful to the many readers who took time to respond

to our request for comments and suggestions for American Shipper+

Shippers , News

Wire. We ,ve already incorporated one suggested idea in the new format you

see

below.))

OCEAN TRANSPORTATION

* Carriers say they ,re squeezed by Japan port costs

- * NSCSA orders three 4,400-TEU ships
- * Hamburg Sud takes over Argentine agent's work

AIR CARGO

- * Air couriers blame paperwork requirements
- * Cathay Pacific says cargo remains strong

ROAD/RAIL/INTERMODAL

- * NIT League plans another meeting on UP problems
- * Hong Kong forwarders criticize airport costs

PORTS/TERMINALS

- * Cities, counties support Long Beach appeal

CARRIER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * ICF to cooperate with Polish, German companies
- * Zim, Pan-American drop Baltimore call

*****OCEAN TRANSPORTATION*****

CARRIERS SAY THEY'RE SQUEEZED BY JAPAN PORT COSTS

Transpacific carriers say they're studying a range of operational and pricing strategies to cope with losses they incur in moving containers through Japanese port terminals.

The issue was among topics discussed at last week's meetings of owners' representatives of transpacific carriers.

The Transpacific Westbound Rate Agreement says combined charges at Japanese ports now range from 46,000 yen (US\$354) to 50,000 yen (US\$385) for handling and processing a 40-foot container from ship through the terminal gate.

The TWRA has levied a terminal handling charge for Japanese ports since 1995, but has not adjusted it since. TWRA members estimate that the terminal charge allows recovery of less than 25 percent of carriers' actual costs associated with the charges.

NSCSA ORDERS THREE 4,400-TEU SHIPS

National Shipping Co. of Saudi Arabia has ordered three 4,400-TEU containerships from Samsung shipyard in South Korea.

The carrier said the ships, to be delivered in 1999 and 2000, will be deployed in the Europe/Mideast/Far East trade in a future joint service with

French carrier Compagnie Maritime d'Affretement.

The ships will have a speed of 24 knots and a Panamax beam, allowing them to transit the Panama canal.

HAMBURG-SUD TAKES OVER ARGENTINE AGENT'S WORK

Hamburg-Sud Argentina, an arm of the German shipping group Hamburg-Sud, has

taken over the freight documentation, vessel husbandry and other tasks previously done by its Argentine agent, Delfino S.A.

Hamburg-Sud Argentina took over sales, marketing and logistics activities

from Delfino in 1995 but had continued to use the independent agent for remaining "back room" duties such as documentation.

*****AIR CARGO*****

AIR COURIERS BLAME PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

The Air Courier Conference of America says many of the violations for which air couriers were cited by the U.S. Department of Transportation involved new, complex paperwork requirements for cargo shipments.

The DOT has increased its monitoring of commercial air-courier shipments. The agency said couriers have "unacceptably low compliance" with standards designed to keep hazardous materials off commercial airlines.

But the courier conference pointed out that 90 percent of couriers tested by the DOT in November were in compliance with procedures.

"Our members work diligently to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's complex and often changing cargo security regulations," said

Joe Morris, executive director of the conference. "When less than 100

percent

compliance is noted, these companies work quickly and thoroughly to rectify the problems, as FAA's own study found," he said.

CATHAY PACIFIC SAYS CARGO REMAINS STRONG

Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways said its cargo traffic has remained strong despite currency devaluations which have played havoc with Asian economies.

"While passenger traffic slumped due to a downturn in tourism, cargo has remained strong on most routes, even in Southeast Asia which was hit by currency problems and uncertainty in the stock market," said Philip Chen, deputy managing director of Cathay Pacific.

Writing in the latest issue of Shippers Today, the bi-monthly publication of the Hong Kong Shippers' Council, Chen said Cathay expects transpacific routes from Hong to remain strong for the next few months.

*****ROAD/RAIL/INTERMODAL*****

NIT LEAGUE TO HOLD MEETING ON UNION PACIFIC

The National Industrial Transportation League has scheduled a Feb. 13 meeting

in Houston to discuss continuing rail-service problems in Texas, where congestion on Union Pacific tracks has been most severe.

The NIT League cited Burlington Northern Santa Fe's recent statement that it has doubts about its ability to provide viable long-term competitive service in the region.

Unlike the NIT League's first Texas meeting to discuss the congestion on Union Pacific rail lines, the February meeting will be open to the public. Robert Krebs, chief executive of Burlington Northern Santa Fe, will be luncheon speaker.

*****CUSTOMS/FORWARDING/NVOS*****

HONG KONG FORWARDERS CRITICIZE AIRPORT CHARGES

The Hong Kong Association of Freight Forwarding Agents is complaining of increases in freight handling charges and hidden costs at the new Chek Lap Kok airport

The association said handling charges are set to increase by as much as 30 percent when the new airport opens in July. The fact that Chek Lap Kok is farther from Kowloon than the existing airport is certain to add further increases to transportation costs.

"While costs for large shipments may go up moderately, smaller shipments will

be greatly affected and it is the consumer who will have to bear the brunt of this cost," said Alice Lui, manager of the Hong Kong association.

*****PORTS/TERMINALS*****

CITIES, COUNTIES SUPPORT LONG BEACH APPEAL

More than 100 cities and counties are supporting the Port of Long Beach in its appeal of a court ruling that has prevented development of a container terminal for China Ocean Shipping Co.

The port is asking California's Court of Appeal to overturn a lower-court decision which held that the project didn't comply with environmental laws.

The lower court ruled that although the project's environmental analysis was adequate, the port was pre-committed to the terminal project before completing the review.

The cities and counties filed a friend-of-a-court brief in support of the port's position.

The proposed container terminal would be on the site of the former Long Beach naval base.

*****CARRIER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

ICF TO COOPERATE WITH POLISH, GERMAN COMPANIES

Intercontainer-Interfrigo, Europe's largest intermodal operator, will cooperate with three other European operators for the first time to run intermodal block trains on the Poland/Germany route.

ICF and Polkombi of Poland and Kombiverkehr and Transfracht International of Germany have agreed to adopt a "combined purchasing/separate marketing" approach for the train service, a spokesman said.

On Feb. 3, they will start a "cooperative venture" train between Duisburg and the Polish terminals of Gadki (Poznan), Pruszkow (Warsaw) and Gliwice. It will cover the 1,000-kilometer distance in two days.

The four operators involved in this venture hope to upgrade the service to five block trains a week in each direction by the end of the year.

ZIM, PAN-AMERICAN DROP BALTIMORE CALL

Zim Israel Navigation and Pan-American Independent Line have ended calls at the port of Baltimore on their U.S. East Coast/East Coast of South America container service.

The two carriers, which operate a joint service, will continue to call at the

U.S. ports of New York/New Jersey, Norfolk, Savannah and Miami.===== ATTACHMENT 1

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RFC-822-headers:

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19 Jan 1998 19:08:22 -0500 (EST)

Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)

by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879) id <01ISKLHRYZJ400Q6V8@PMDf.EOP.GOV> for
NAKAHARA_K@a1.eop.gov; Mon, 19 Jan 1998 19:08:15 -0500 (EST)

Received: from mailhub.southeast.net ([207.98.192.83])

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.1-7 #6879)

with ESMTP id <01ISKLGYQBK0026UH@STORM.EOP.GOV> for NAKAHARA_K@a1.eop.gov;
Mon, 19 Jan 1998 19:07:35 -0500 (EST)

Received: from AmericanShipper.com (ts2-012.southeast.net [207.98.193.207])

by mailhub.southeast.net (8.8.5/8.8.5) with ESMTP id RAA22563; Mon,
19 Jan 1998 17:29:37 -0500 (EST)

Organization: American Shipper

X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.02 [en]C-DIAL (Win95; U)

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

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: owner-abolition-caucus (owner-abolition-caucus@igc.org@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-JAN-1998 17:06:00.00

SUBJECT: UK Nuclear News 21 January 1998

TO: Robert L. Civiak (Robert L. Civiak@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

>Return-Path: <gadams@gmresearch.u-net.com>

>X-Sender: gadams-gmresearch@mail.u-net.com

>Date: Wed, 21 Jan 1998 12:04:58 +0000

>To: nfzns@gn.apc.org, fbarker@gn.apc.org, jkwoolley@gn.apc.org,

> Morten.Bremer.Maerli@nrpa.no, markjohnston@gn.apc.org

>From: Geoff Adams <gadams@gmresearch.u-net.com>

>Subject: NPU Bulletin 21 Jan

>

>DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - NUCLEAR POLICY

>

>Weds 21 Jan 1998

>

>98-8068 PA Consulting taken in by nuclear industry's 'voodoo economics'

> by asserting that a plutonium fuel plant at Sellafield will

> make a profit, say opponents. G 21 Jan

>98-8069 Freighter carrying some 30 tonnes of reprocessed n/waste back

> to Japan will leave Cherbourg today, says French n/firm Cogema:

> opponents claim shipment will pass through Panama Canal. Ind 21

> Jan

>98-8070 France may be about to reopen Phenix fast reactor (despite

> closure of Superphenix) for experiments in n/waste disposal. FT

> 21 Jan

>98-8071 Talks between UN officials and Iraq fail to break deadlock:

> Russia supports Iraq in claiming that inspection team contains

> too many Americans and Britons. G,T,DT 21

Jan

>

>

>GM Research, Metropolitan House, Hobson Street, Oldham, OL1 1QD.

>Tel: 0161-911 4179. Fax: 0161-627 1736.

>Internet: gadams@gmresearch.u-net.com

>

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: owner-abolition-caucus (owner-abolition-caucus@igc.org@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-JAN-1998 11:10:00.00

SUBJECT: Part II

TO: Robert L. Civiak (Robert L. Civiak@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

<http://search.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WAPO/19980121/V000426-012198-idx.ht>

ml

Nuclear Waste on Ship to Japan

Wednesday, January 21, 1998; 2:25 p.m. EST

PARIS (AP) -- Despite protests from Greenpeace, a ship loaded with highly radioactive nuclear waste left a French port for Japan on Wednesday, the first such voyage routed through the Caribbean and the Panama Canal.

The British-flagged Pacific Swan left the port of Cherbourg, said Yannick Rousselot, spokesman for Greenpeace. The environmental group argues the waste could spill into the sea or be seized by terrorists.

"The threat posed by this shipment of high-level waste to the environment and to people's health is unacceptable," Rousselot said. .

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<http://guide-p.infoseek.com/Content?arn=a2507LBY860reulb-19980121&qt=%22nuc>

lear+weapon%22+nuclear+nuke+&lk=noframes&col=NW&nh=25&kt=A&ak=allnewsFrench
cabinet urges ratification of test ban pact

05:41 p.m Jan 21, 1998 Eastern

PARIS, Jan 21 (Reuters) - The French cabinet on Wednesday asked parliament to quickly ratify an international treaty concluded in 1996 banning all nuclear tests. . . .

To take effect, the treaty must be ratified by 44 states engaged in nuclear research or weapons production including India, which has not signed it.

The nuclear test ban treaty would prohibit nuclear explosions including underground blasts for weapons or peaceful purposes.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the treaty in 1996, and 146 nations including the United States, Russia and China have signed it.

France, which is currently believed to have about 500 nuclear warheads, was among the first nations to sign the pact though French President Jacques Chirac caused a furore in the months leading up to the signing by staging six weapons tests in the South Pacific during 1995 and 1996.

Chirac defended the final series of tests as essential to update France's nuclear arsenal before halting tests. Copyright (c) 1994-98 Infoseek Corporation.

<http://www.webpage.com/hindu/today/05/05222523.htm>

The Hindu

Thursday, January 22, 1998

SECTION: Opinion

Nuclear dialogue with France

Date: 22-01-1998 :: Pg: 12 :: Col: c

By C. Raja Mohan

Can France find a way to circumvent the fullscope safeguards to engage in nuclear commerce with India? One view from Paris is that it should not be impossible to find a legal loophole that will allow the selling of reactors to India.

AS India prepares to receive the President of France, Mr. Jacques Chirac, indications are that Paris is keen on beginning a discussion on nuclear issues with India. Although both sides are cagey about the dialogue, its essential themes are not difficult to discern. These include the prospects for French cooperation with India's civilian nuclear power programme and the contours of a nuclear accommodation between India and the West.

Given the complexity of the issue, the chasm between India's nuclear policy and the global non-proliferation order, the international legal constraints against French sale of nuclear reactors to India and the on-going parliamentary elections in India, the discussions cannot but be preliminary in nature.

Nevertheless, the very initiation of a friendly nuclear conversation at

the highest political level is of some political significance. It marks a fundamental change in the attitude of Western powers towards India - from visible anger when India rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to a willingness now to find a political modus vivendi with New Delhi.

The Indo-French nuclear dialogue is also a clear vindication of a tough line India took on CTBT in 1996, when it blocked the treaty to ban nuclear explosions and was among the few who voted against it at the United Nations.

When the United Front Government rejected the treaty on considerations of national security and disarmament, many analysts in this country argued that the action would totally isolate India and put it on a path of confrontation with the great powers. What we are now seeing, instead, is a greater sense of realism on the part of the great powers which are acknowledging that India's national security interests will have to be accommodated in some form, if they want New Delhi's support in global multilateral negotiations on non-proliferation and disarmament. From collectively delivering demarches against India's nuclear and missile programmes in the early 1990s, the great powers are now at least considering various incentives to promote India's nuclear restraint. New Delhi's position on CTBT provided the much-needed shock to wake up the world to India's nuclear realities.

The Indo-French nuclear dialogue will take place in the wake of the agreement between the Prime Minister, Mr. I. K. Gujral and the U.S.

President, Mr. Bill Clinton, to renew the talks on non-proliferation and disarmament when they met last September at the U.N. The signals since then from the Clinton administration - during the visits to New Delhi by the U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Thomas Pickering and the Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright - have indicated that Washington is prepared for a pragmatic nuclear dialogue with India.

The view from outside the government in Washington among the think-tank community is even more positive. A TASK FORCE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS DECLARED THAT IT IS NO LONGER REALISTIC FOR THE U.S. TO SEEK A ROLL-BACK OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR AND MISSILE CAPABILITIES. [emphasis added] It has also called for a renewal of U.S. civilian nuclear cooperation with India. Other American analysts have openly called for a "nuclear deal" that would involve the acceptance of New Delhi's nuclear capability and renewal of technological cooperation with India in return for its conceding some formal arms control restraints.

It is in this context that a nuclear dialogue with France is shaping up. The French nuclear interest in India stems from the growing attraction of the Indian nuclear power market. With the West and Japan no longer in a position to absorb additional nuclear power generating capacity, the eyes of the international nuclear vendors are on the emerging economies of Asia.

Within Asia, the focus is on China and India. The Chinese nuclear market

is estimated to be worth \$60 billion and suppliers from various advanced nations have already tied up with Beijing. The latest to enter the fray has been the U.S., which recently cleared the way for the U.S. manufacturers - General Electric and Westinghouse - to bid for nuclear reactor construction in China.

This leaves India as the biggest untapped nuclear power market in the world, and is valued at around \$50 billion. Till recently, India largely focussed on building its own reactors. But the squeeze on domestic resources and the imperative of augmenting its nuclear power programme have compelled the Department of Atomic Energy to think of importing reactors. India has already clinched a deal with Russia to import two reactors under an agreement that dates back to the late 1980s.

If India is now keen on buying reactors, the French nuclear industry is eager to sell. But a big impediment is the existing regime of nuclear non-proliferation to which France is a party. Under the current rules of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), agreed to by all its members including Russia and France, there can be no civilian cooperation with a country that does not accept comprehensive international controls - called fullscope safeguards - over its nuclear programme. India has no intention of ever agreeing to such fullscope safeguards for it will mean the end of its nuclear weapon option.

The big question before France is can it find a way to circumvent these rules to engage in nuclear commerce with India? One view from Paris is that it should not be impossible to find a legal loophole that will

allow the selling of reactors to India. Facing large unemployment at home and no big orders, it is argued that there are compelling commercial reasons for Paris to reach out to the Indian market despite its non-proliferation commitments.

At the political level, Mr. Chirac has outlined his vision of a multipolar world and emphasised the importance of reducing the dominance of world affairs by one superpower. In France's quest for regaining an independent foreign policy and promoting a more pluralistic power structure in the world, India is now said to be of some significance. Both commercial and political reasons, it is argued, could encourage France to strike out an innovative nuclear approach to India. There are others in France, however, who caution against expecting too much from Paris. Over the last decade, the country has lost much of its unique orientation in nuclear affairs. Gaullism of the 1960s and 1970s had given place to Atlanticism in the French non-proliferation policy by the early 1990s. France is now more conformist than autonomous on nuclear issues.

Having signed most of the non-proliferation arrangements and having agreed to give up its own nuclear testing, France has often shown the zeal of a new convert to CTBT and other nuclear issues. While the commercial logic of selling nuclear reactors to India is compelling, France is now too tightly bound by various international non-proliferation regimes to be seen as departing from them.

Mr. Chirac has also the additional problem of cohabitation with a

socialist Prime Minister. French socialists have tended to be more supportive of a global non-proliferation order and much of the current French conformism with the U.S.-led non-proliferation regime has been institutionalised under the socialist Presidency of Mr. Francois Mitterrand.

Further, some in France have argued that Mr. Chirac's thundering on "multipolarity" has been mostly rhetorical and has not always been followed up with action. And that he will find it difficult to get ahead of the Americans on the nuclear issue with India.

But if he keeps to the tradition of his nation's diplomacy and goes by his political instincts in New Delhi, Mr. Chirac could well venture on an exploration of the uncharted terrain of a nuclear accommodation with India. France is not unaware of the changing nuclear debate on India in the U.S. Mr. Chirac could present his nuclear diplomacy in New Delhi not in terms of stealing a march over Washington but as a move in tandem with the U.S. to break the non-proliferation deadlock with India.

For New Delhi, the dialogue could be an important step towards resolving its own nuclear dilemmas. The conversation with the French leadership could well illuminate a path which could lead India to trade restraints on its nuclear weapon capability in return for technological cooperation and a rightful place as a de-facto nuclear weapon power at the top table of the global atomic order.

Thursday, January 22, 1998

I expect a better understanding: Chirac

Date: 22-01-1998 :: Pg: 01 :: Col: d

By K. K. Katyal and Vaiju Naravane

PARIS, Jan. 21.

"I expect to have a better understanding between our two countries, which have ignored each other for too long and a strengthening of links in different areas: political, economic and cultural. India, according to all experts, will be among the top five economic powers in the year 2020 and it is not normal that France is not well known in India and India is not well known in France. . . .," the French President, Mr. Jacques Chirac, told TheHindu in an interview at the Elysee Palace in Paris. . . .

Asked whether France would be interested in investing in the power sector, Mr. Chirac replied that India had a crying need for electricity and that France, with its expertise, would be happy to collaborate. "We are quite willing to discuss cooperation in the field of power, including nuclear power, with conditions that would respect international agreements. This is one of the issues that I intend to discuss with the Indian authorities," Mr. Chirac indicated. Asked whether placing any reactors sold by France to India under international safeguards would meet the stipulations of the agreements signed by France, Mr. Chirac said: "These agreements are very complex. I am not an expert. I can only say two things: first of all, we would like to cooperate with India on the production of nuclear power in India and,

secondly, we have signed a number of international treaties. Therefore we have a number of obligations and the point is how to respect these..."

About cooperation in the defence field, Mr. Chirac said he was very much in favour of Franco-Indian cooperation. He said he had some specific ideas about possible defence contacts between the two countries but would not like to divulge them before his discussions with the Indian authorities. . . .

The President repeatedly underlined that political and cultural links should not be made subservient to commercial concerns. "Where there are cultural relations, the rest follows because then you know each other better. We have been talking about economic exchanges. It means we place our concerns within the framework of an improvement of the balance of trade. Modest ambition. We have spoken of our cooperation in important areas like aeronautics, nuclear power _ business. . . .

<http://www.economictimes.com/today/22opin4.htm>

The Economic Times of India

[A view from India. A little long.]

Opinion

THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 1998

New nuclear fears

The US nuclear community's recent worry about proliferation from Russia goes to show that NPT and CTBT have no teeth, says K Subrahmanyam

Last week, the New York Times wrote an editorial pleading for steps to reduce the risks of nuclear weapons being put to use, not by the so-called "rogue" states or undeclared nuclear weapon states but by Russia.

All these years, the world was told that nuclear weapons were safe in the hands of nuclear weapon powers and the danger to the world was only from the proliferation of nuclear weapons to less responsible states. It was advertised how virtuous the nuclear weapon powers have been in reducing their nuclear warheads from over 30,000 in the case of US and over 40,000 in the case of USSR/Russia to below 15,000 in both cases and how safe they have made the world through unconditional and indefinite extension of the Nonproliferation Treaty and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Their tremendous sacrifices in the cause of peace and disarmament moved the hearts of many of our self-styled crusaders to such an extent that they found fault with the government of India for not joining these treaties. Now after all these efforts to bring peace and security to the world the Americans worry about Russia and risks of proliferation.

At present there are only four countries outside the Nonproliferation treaty out of which Israel, Pakistan and India are recognised undeclared nuclear weapon states. These three countries do not figure in the list of countries which pose a threat to the US - least of all, a nuclear threat. Therefore, it is a legitimate question to ask what is this risk of proliferation the US is worried about. Just now, President Clinton

has certified that China has stopped all proliferation activities.

Surely Britain and France are not suspect in American eyes. The worry therefore is about Russia.

Russia in its avatar as Soviet Union broke off its relations with China in 1959 and stopped halfway its proliferation to that country. Since then, for the last 39 years, the Russian record is impeccable. In the 1980s, the Soviet Union also espoused the "no first use" doctrine, announced in the UN Second Special session on disarmament. At that time, it was derided by the Western strategists. Mr Gorbachev joined Rajiv Gandhi in issuing the Delhi Declaration for outlawing the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons in November, 1986, and, pending that, to adopt a commitment of no first use. That was ignored by the western nuclear weapon cultists. In the Security Council summit meeting of January, 1992 Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao voiced his concern about the risks of nuclear proliferation arising out of the breakdown of the Soviet Union. The problems related to the possible loss of command and control over weapons and fissile materials and the possibility of Soviet scientists, thrown out of employment, offering their services to other states. That warning too did not evoke much attention among the nuclear weapon powers and crusaders for nonproliferation.

A few months back General Alexander Lebed disclosed that while he was the National Security Adviser to President Boris Yeltsin, he tried to get a full accounting of the "suitcase bombs" which weigh only 30 kg and have an explosive yield of 2 kilotons and he did not succeed. General Lebed has taken up this issue with US House Committee dealing

with global terrorism and has conveyed his concern that scientists with knowledge to put together such devices had been retrenched in Russia and they could be employed by organised crime groups some of whom have at their disposal more resources than the GDP of many nations. In the US House Committee hearings it was admitted that it was a matter of concern to US Law enforcement authorities that such nuclear devices and materials could fall into the hands of Russian organised crime.

While the US authorities claim to be satisfied at present that the Russian weapons are under safe and effective custody of Russian forces they admit to worries about the future if the morale of Russian Forces were to deteriorate consequent on continued budgetary crunch in respect of Russian defence budget. The FBI director Mr Louis Freeh has testified to the House Committee that kilogram quantities of weapon grade enriched uranium, less than the quantity required for a full weapon, has been seized coming out of Russia. These disclosures do not get as much international publicity as the threat of proliferation by new states used to receive in the nuclear theology.

In addition to these developments what seems to worry the Americans is Russia revising its nuclear strategy and giving up the doctrine of no first use. Russia has signed a joint declaration with China pledging mutual no first use commitment. But it has now adopted the classical NATO nuclear deterrence doctrine in respect of NATO. Just as the West used to argue that they could not afford to give a no-first-use pledge since they needed nuclear deterrence against larger Soviet conventional threats, now the Russians repeat the same argument and assert in view of

NATO now having superior conventional forces and having moved closer to Russian borders, they need nuclear deterrence vis-a-vis the NATO's conventional superiority. They have also borrowed the NATO justification that nuclear weapons constitute "weapons of last resort" for them. The combination of all these factors, possibility of control over nuclear weapons getting slackened in Russia, the risks of nuclear weapons (especially the compact suitcase type) and fissile materials falling into the hands of organised crime, the availability of knowledgeable scientists who could work for organised crime, the reluctance of the Russian Duma to ratify the START II agreement and revision of Russian nuclear doctrine tend to add to the anxieties and concerns of Americans.

In today's context, the probability of a state actor resorting to use of nuclear weapons is extremely low but that of stolen weapons or radioactive materials being used as terrorist devices continues to rise. The US spends billions of dollars on counter proliferation strategy and nuclear emergency search teams (NEST) to protect US citizens. This highlights that the Nonproliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty have not addressed the threats posed by nuclear proliferation by the nuclear weapon powers in the past and their continuing fallout in the present and future. While the US authorities proclaim that international terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and organised crime pose grave threats to international security what is not being spelt out is the nature of their true fears, namely those of nuclear weapons and radioactive materials falling into the hands of organised crime groups which have also increased with the end of the cold war and their ranks being swelled by members of the Soviet KGB thrown out of employment.

A growing number of people in the US strategic and scientific community are coming round to the view that the threats of nuclear weapons cannot be tackled unless its use and threat of use are prohibited - a stand advocated by India for the last two decades. Unfortunately, the cold warriors and nuclear extremist theologians are still very influential. For reasons which are obvious, the US is not in a position to spell out the present and real danger, to their own people without owning up the folly of their nuclear policy of the last five decades or telling the truth that the NPT and CTBT do not address these issues. For the present, the Nuclear Ayatollahs are still dominant.

While the Indian policy on the nuclear threat has been very pragmatic and far more realistic than the western policies, the Indian government has failed miserably to put out a coherent documentation on the logic of its stand and the policies it has consistently advocated. Consequently, even as the US Administration and strategic community make U-turns in their policies and repeat what India had advocated in the past, they put it forward as though they have invented it for the first time. The lack of a tradition of well documented articulation of policy has been India's greatest diplomatic weakness.

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<http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom/inforesource/pressreview/dpr98012.html>

IAEA Daily Press Review, Date 1998-01-20, Number 012

IAEA: As a founder Member State, Pakistan recalls 40 years of IAEA.

Pakistan elected for two year term on IAEA Board of Governors from 9/97.

...

Non-proliferation: KEDO to meet on 5/2 to discuss how costs of DPRK LWRs can be split as two major contributors, . . . US seeks to know if DPRK has secret underground nuclear arms site. UN gives Iraq last chance to back down; US and other countries insist UN must complete work in Iraq and warns of military attack; . . . Opening of UN Conference on Disarmament 1998 session. US/China relations.

Nuclear safety: . . . NRC considers regulation changes on inadvertent criticality requirements for NPPs; NRC looks into apparent harassment of security officer at Artificial Island. Ukraine's Kharkiv instrumentation facility to export control systems. Monitoring technology for Russian NPPs. . . .

Respectfully submitted,

Ike Jeanes===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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