

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: swalitsk (swalitsk@usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:27-FEB-1997 06:34:00.00

SUBJECT: Feb 27 Morning Press Summary

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

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===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

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id <01IFWE8GC9E800UPSY@PMDf.EOP.GOV> for susan_e._walitsky@oa.eop.gov; Thu,
27 Feb 1997 05:38:43 -0500 (EST)

Received: from XGATE.USIA.GOV by gatekeeper.eop.gov;

(5.65v3.2/1.1.8.2/17Oct95-0424PM) id AA02389; Thu, 27 Feb 1997 05:38:37 -0500

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Phone: 6194792 Fax: 6194510 #&R2P&P#

#K2P P# GENERAL
CSM World News Briefs
LAT Editorial: Put a Special Prosecutor on Campaign FundRaising
WP U.N. Chief Fires Top Officials of Rwanda War Crimes Tribunal
CSM Editorial: A Drug War Plus...
CSM Editorial: ... And a Minus
CSM Learning UNSpeak?

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NYT Journalists Prepare to Take on Serb President
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NYT Start of Space Station Likely to Be Delayed, NASA Says
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WP Biker Gangs' Wars Terrorize Scandinavians
NYT Swiss to Share Control of Holocaust Fund With Jewish Groups
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NYT Even on Big News Day, Chinese Newspapers Toe Party Line

LAT FlareUp in China's Far West Points to Potential Hot Spot for New Regime

LAT China Would Like To Stave Off A Formal United Nations Condemnation Of Its HumanRights Practices.

LAT At China's Helm, Jiang Is Suddenly Alone

CT Editorial: Telling It Like It Is In China

CSM Two Statutes Worry Hong Kongers On Future Liberties Under China

CSM East Barely Meets West in Hong Kong

BG Editorial: Deng's Terrible Legacy In Tibet

BG China Ends Mourning, Embraces Deng Legacy

NYT Koreans Divided on Leader's Apology

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NYT Student's Death Widens Protests in Kenya

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MH Bipartisan Chorus Urges Clinton To Threaten Sanctions Over Corruption

LAT Plan to Certify Mexico's Drug Efforts Assailed

CSM Certify or Not Certify? That Isn't the Question

WP U.S. Aides Dismiss Colombian Attempt At Drug Crackdown

WP For Colombia: Partnership Not Punishment

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P##K2PP# CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

World News Briefs

February 27, 1997

Extra troops were deployed in Jerusalem and the West Bank as Israel's government approved plans for new Jewish housing on disputed land, over international objections. Prime Minister Netanyahu warned he might postpone the withdrawal

of Israeli forces from the West Bank if there were riots over the construction of 6,500 apartments at Har Homa in East Jerusalem. Palestinian official Faisal alHusseini made a lastminute appeal to Israel's parliament, the Knesset, to defeat the plan.

Zairean government officials were reported en route to South Africa to join efforts aimed at ending their country's civil war. Facetoface talks with rebel leader Laurent Kabila were said to be unlikely, but discussions through South

African
and US intermediaries were expected. Kabila went to South Africa earlier in the week.

Only hours after memorial services for China's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, attackers blew up three buses in the farwestern city of Urumqi. Reports said at least four people died and 60 others were hurt. Urumqi is the regional capital of Xinjiang Province, where ethnic Uighurs were blamed for violent antiChinese riots three weeks ago.

So far, none of the food Iraq was to buy with revenue from the oil it now sells with UN permission has reached hungry people there, the Associated Press reported. It said UN officials maintain that delays were unavoidable as systems are put in place to ensure that all Iraqis fairly share in the food that oil revenues are meant to pay for. The oil flow began Dec. 11. Iraq has blamed the US for holding up the deliveries.

Mexico's former "drug czar" was ordered to jail until he stands trial on narcotics-related corruption charges. The government of President Zedillo promised "top to bottom" reform of its antidrug effort. But it warned of possible "rupture" in relations with the US if aid to Mexico is reduced because of the drug scandal. President Clinton has until Saturday to certify that Mexico is cooperating fully in combating the flow of illegal drugs. If he does not, aid could be cut back.

The front entrance to Warsaw's only functioning synagogue was heavily damaged and a maintenance worker was slightly hurt in a suspected arson attack. Polish authorities rebuilt the building in 1983 after Nazi troops had used it as a stable and then destroyed it.

South Korean President Kim Young Sam was expected to accept the resignations of the country's prime minister and his entire Cabinet. They all offered to step down one day after Kim apologized publicly for a scandal involving government loans to a bankrupt steel manufacturer.

Sumitomo chairman Tomiichi Akiyama resigned to "put closure" to the scandal that has resulted in \$2.6 billion in losses for the Japanese company. But a spokesman said Akiyama accepted no blame for the actions of an employee who confessed to fraud in risky copper trading.

Cambodia's monarchy will not last much longer, King Sihanouk said. The mon

archy has no political power. Sihanouk is pledged to remain on the throne until 2000 under a UN deal that set up national elections three years ago. Some Cambodians are concerned he might step down to run for legislative office next year.

Without saying why, Vietnam ordered the demolition of all housing near military installations in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon. Officials also ordered expanded "defense education" programs for the city's schoolchildren. Vietnam's communist regime in Hanoi has regarded the city, which was the capital of the former US-backed South Vietnam, with suspicion.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Editorial: Put a Special Prosecutor on Campaign FundRaising
Wednesday, February 26, 1997 XX
Such a stench is emanating from the free-for-all fundraising in last year's election campaign that it's time for an independent counsel to be appointed to investigate potential criminal wrongdoing.

But we should recognize at the outset that a special prosecutor's probe will not solve the larger and more pervasive problem of a rotten campaign finance system.

From the standpoint of public outrage, the overwhelming offense committed by Democratic fundraisers this past year may have been blatant and obscene excess: the sheer volume of money raised and the dubious methods used to solicit it, dubious, but mostly within the law.

This is not just a problem of Bill Clinton and the Democrats. The system drives both parties into fundraising frenzies, often dancing along a fine line of legality. So much is at stake in a national election, neither side believes it can afford to be outspent by the opposition.

Because of court decisions and exploitation of loopholes in the law since the 1970s, money can be collected by the national parties in any amount and spent for almost any purpose. It may be outrageous, but it's legal.

Finding the vehicle for a long-range solution is simple: the campaign finance reform bill sponsored by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Russell D. Feingold (D-Wis.) now before Congress. The problem is getting enough senators and representatives

atives with the courage and integrity to support the bill. So far, precious few have stepped forward. The public must demand passage of the McCain bill.

But that does not obviate the need for a criminal investigation. Barely a day passes without a new report of some questionable activity. Major issues include whether Democrats attempted to launder illegal foreign contributions and if White House employees illegally engaged in political activities.

Atty. Gen. Janet Reno is on the case now. Investigations are being organized by majority Republicans in the House and Senate.

We would not question the integrity or good intentions of either the Justice Department or the Congress in conducting fair and complete investigations.

The fact is, however, that neither side can escape the appearance of conflict: Janet Reno probing her own President and party, and congressional Republicans going after their political enemies.

This is a job for a fair and impartial counsel of unquestioned integrity, someone who will follow the money without fear or favor.

#K2PP#

WASHINGTON POST
U.N. Chief Fires Top Officials of Rwanda War Crimes Tribunal
By John M. Goshko
Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A28

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 26--Secretary General Kofi Annan has fired the chief administrator and deputy prosecutor of the U.N. war crimes tribunal for Rwanda after an internal investigation found widespread mismanagement and incompetence, the United Nations announced today.

U.N. spokesman Juan-Carlos Brandt said Annan had accepted the resignations of Andronico Adede of Kenya, the chief administrator, and Honore Rakotomanana of Madagascar, the deputy prosecutor, because "continuation in their posts would not be in the interests of the United Nations and of the work of the tribunal in a case involving human tragedy of incalculable proportion."

The tribunal was established by the Security Council two years ago to try persons implicated in the massacre of more than half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus during the tribal strife that engulfed Rwanda in 1994. Several months ago,

the United Nations was rocked by complaints from Western staff members and media reports that the tribunal's functioning had descended into chaos because the administrators had given jobs to unqualified friends, relatives and loved ones, discriminated against non-Africans and misused tribunal funds and equipment.

The situation posed the first serious test for Annan, who took office Jan. 1 promising to subject the United Nations to top-to-bottom reform. Western diplomats and private organizations in the human-rights field warned that failure to take stern action would be viewed in the world community as a sign of weakness and indecisiveness. But Annan, a native of Ghana who was elected as the candidate of Africa, also was aware that some African governments deeply resented the idea that a housecleaning in the U.N. bureaucracy should begin with the largely African Rwanda tribunal staff.

Two weeks ago, a report by Karl Paschke, the U.N.'s equivalent of an inspector general, said that while there was no evidence to substantiate charges of corruption and racism, his investigators had found massive mismanagement and waste at every level of the tribunal. Noting that "not a single administrative area . . . functioned effectively," Paschke left Annan little room for leniency.

Paschke recommended discharging Rakotomanana. But he left to Annan a decision about Adede, noting the tribunal had been hampered by inadequate administrative and personnel support from U.N. headquarters in New York. The tribunal's headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, is headed by Adede, and Rakotomanana directed a prosecution branch office in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

After Paschke's report was made public, many non-African judges and others associated with the tribunal privately contacted the secretary general's office and the media to repeat earlier charges that administrators hobbled their work through bureaucratic interference. Despite Paschke's findings, some asserted anew that the tribunal was rife with racism and nepotism.

Brandt said that following talks with Annan, Rakotomanana and Adede had submitted their resignations "accepting that the best interests of the United Nations and the tribunal are overriding concerns."

Named as Adede's replacement was Agwu Ukiwe Okali of Nigeria, a graduate of the London School of Economics and Harvard law school, who has been serving in t

he U.N. habitat office in Kenya. A new deputy prosecutor will be named later.

The tribunal so far has indicted 21 people, and now is conducting its first trial against Jean-Paul Akayesu, a former Rwandan mayor charged with inciting the public to murder.#K2PP#

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Editorial: A Drug War Plus...
Thursday February 27, 1997

Every year the federal government comes out with a national drug control strategy, and every year it's greeted with criticism about skewed priorities. This year, according to the head of the National Office of Drug Control Policy, Barry McCaffrey, those priorities are taking a definite turn toward prevention and education. If it's borne out with funding and action, that shift should quiet some critics who have long called for more emphasis on quelling the demand for drugs.

One indication of this policy turn came in Tuesday's formal announcement of the president's \$16 billion plan to combat drugs, almost lost among the same day's new disclosures about his political fundraising tactics. His drug plan calls for \$175 million a year to be matched by private donors for national antidrug advertising. Target: America's youth, sixthgraders through high school seniors. The only way to win the battle against drugs, Mr. McCaffrey recently told a group of Monitor writers and editors, is to keep the young from ever starting the slide toward addiction.

The ads' message that drug use is selfdestructive and foolish has to be reinforced by parents, teachers, coaches, and other adults that young people are close to. But getting an effective antidrug message before youngsters during their prime TVwatching hours is a bedrock element of any credible preventive effort.

McCaffrey's office notes that the amount of such advertising has fallen off in recent years, and that the decline has coincided with an increase in drug use by youth. This despite the efforts of private groups such as the Partnership for a DrugFree America, which have continued to develop antidrug messages but have found it harder to get them placed in an ever more competitive broadcasting environment.

The federally sponsored advertising campaign is designed to augment, not displace, ongoing private efforts. Most important, the federal money would make it possible to break into prime time. A targeted ads could be aired when young viewers are most likely to be watching. Much, of course, will depend on the quality of the ads. The government should draw heavily on the experience of groups that have been doing this for years and who have thoroughly researched young audiences.

McCaffrey also has started a dialogue with the producers of TV shows, hoping to influence the way drug use is portrayed on the screen. He'd like to see more "realism" in this portrayal showing that the use of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or other substances is neither cool nor funny. Nor is it the norm among American kids, he adds. Eighty percent of high school seniors never touch illegal drugs.

As we've said before, the crucial communication to discourage drug use happens in the home, and to a lesser extent in the school. But the message sent by the nation to its youth via the national media should not be discounted. It's an

important part of the overall antidrug campaign, and the Congress should promptly back the administration's proposal to strengthen it.
#K2PP#

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Editorial: ... And a Minus
Thursday February 27, 1997 Edition

The other side of the fight against drugs - squeezing off supply - has long been a tale of a few spectacular successes amid relentless failure. Weighing heavily on the failure side of this ledger is drug-related corruption in the countries where cocaine and heroin are produced or through which they're transported.

That facet of the drug problem grew darker with the recent news that Mexico's recently appointed chief of drug enforcement, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, has been detained on charges of taking bribes from cocaine traffickers.

General Gutierrez had been praised by US officials, including drug-control chief Barry McCaffrey. And the Mexican drug chief did, in fact, wear some laurels, having captured important figures in the cocaine trade. That, presumably, is why Mexico's president, Ernesto Zedillo, appointed him. Now it appears Gutierrez

rez simply may have incarcerated those dealers who were competitors of his own handlers.

Gutiérrez's precipitous fall from esteem leaves many in Washington, and doubtless in Mexico City too, wondering who can be trusted to stay out of the corrupting clutches of the drug lords. It has immediate implications for the imminent, contentious question of which countries should be certified by President Clinton as cooperative in the war against drugs.

US standards have been unevenly applied. But decertifying Mexico would accomplish little. Better to keep working closely with the Mexicans, and be glad they were able to net Gutiérrez before he was able to further undermine enforcement efforts. #K2PP#

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Learning UNSpeak?
By Jeffrey Laurenti
Thursday February 27, 1997 Edition

By including in his State of the Union address an appeal for payment of America's delinquent dues to the United Nations, President Clinton has signaled his determination to rescue the organization from congressional adversaries who would enfeeble or abandon it. He faces a tough but winnable fight.

The warm atmospherics surrounding Kofi Annan's first visit to Washington as United Nations secretary-general have already begun to dissipate. Hard line House Republicans have denounced Speaker Newt Gingrich's call for payment of UN dues. Sen. Jesse Helms (R) of North Carolina is vowing to condition the president's proposed payment toward our \$1.3 billion UN debt on "reform" that he promises to spell out in legislation.

WHO ARE ALL THESE OTHERS? Annan had to remind his Washington hosts that the United Nations has 184 stakeholders besides the United States. A critical mass of countries must agree on the direction of reform, and they will not simply accept an American diktat.

Unfortunately, the language of "UNSpeak" seems to have two dialects—one in New York and the other in Washington—that are mutually incomprehensible. To nearly all other member states in New York, "reform" means redeploying resources to strengthen UN performance and

enhancing the UN's capacity to act. In Washington, "reform" even for an assertedly Democratic administration now translates as reduction in staff resources and budgets.

Reform specifically of the Security Council is assumed in Washington to mean adding financial heavyweights like Japan and Germany as permanent members. For most other member states, it means limitations on the permanent members' use of the veto, not expansion of their number.

In New York, reform of the formula for apportioning UN dues means a fairer measure of ability to pay. In Washington, it means a substantial reduction in the US share which for regular expenses is already below America's share of world income by shifting costs to Europeans and others who already pay at a higher rate of their income.

The UN's crisis will be resolved when America's politicians are prepared to do with our international partners what they do with each other all the time: Find common ground on principles and divide the difference on interests. In short, compromise.

On the UN's special assessment scale for peacekeeping, for instance, the Congress has declared that the United States will not pay the 31 percent share assigned to it by the United Nations General Assembly, decreeing unilaterally that it won't pay a dime more than 25 percent. (Its actual payments fall far short of even that.) By pressing a case based on shared principles of equity, not on just cutting its own bill, America can win agreement on assessment scale reform that puts its share at 26.6 percent. Will Washington take a fair compromise, or insist on a confrontation over one or two percentage points?

Fair compromise does not mean paying the overdue bills to the United Nations in New York by cutting payments to the UN's specialized agencies dealing with disease, food production, or nuclear weapons control. Nor does it make sense for the United States to withdraw from such agencies, as some suggest may be Capitol Hill's price for payment of part of what we owe to the United Nations in New York. The various agencies of the system should be seen as parts of an integral whole. Disbanding them piecemeal is not reform.

THEIR EYES GLAZE OVER Many in Washington repeat the mantra of UN reform without

much thought to what it means.

The Clinton administration presented a number of useful suggestions for streamlining some offices, but administrative housekeeping leaves most congressmen's eyes glazed over.

Mr. Helms's prescription is far more dramatic: a halving of United Nations staff and an 80 percent reduction in assessed expenses. This is a classic "killer amendment" that may just serve as a pretext for US withdrawal: The rest of the UN's members resolutely reject the notion that its "reform" means cessation of many of its functions.

JUST ASK THE PUBLIC So does the American public. Opinion research shows that majorities of Americans favor increased funding, not less, for UN activities such as disease and drug control, and even favor maintaining or increasing current funding levels for development aid. By a substantial margin, they see the United Nations as becoming more important, not less, for dealing with international problems. By more than a 2-to-1 majority, they favor payment of United Nations dues in full without conditions.

America's private-sector voluntary organizations turn out to share the same basic views on these matters as do those of the rest of the world. In a survey of "civil society" organizations worldwide, the United Nations Association of the United States found that American and foreign groups rank the new secretary-general's priorities virtually identically.

First, he should be an advocate for the global interest; next, a diplomat and mediator; third, a strong administrator and manager. For Americans as well as non-Americans, reducing overall budget and spending Washington's fixation comes in dead last.

Public embarrassment is growing over cavalier congressional hostility to the United Nations, and editorial calls are mounting for Washington to meet America's obligations. President Clinton needs to mobilize this public sentiment in his campaign to restore UN funding. While Washington's ingrown foreign policy elite may not see such success as exciting, saving the institutions of global community from dissolution will secure a place for Mr. Clinton in world history.

* Jeffrey Laurenti is executive director of policy studies at the United Nations Association of the United States.

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WASHINGTON POST

Croat Police Blamed in Attack on Muslims

By Jonathan C. Randal

Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A24

MOSTAR, Bosnia, Feb. 26--A procession of several hundred mostly middle-aged and elderly Muslims set out peacefully for the Liska Street cemetery here on a bright, clear day to mark the end of annual fasting in the Islamic month of Ramadan.

The year before, a similar procession in this ethnically divided city in southern Bosnia had made the same pilgrimage without incident--moving from Muslim neighborhoods to the area run by Croats. In the graveyard lay the bodies of Muslims and Croats who died together defending the city against attacking Serbs in the early days of the Bosnian war in 1992.

But this year's Muslim procession, celebrating the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr on Feb. 10, got no closer than the edge of the graveyard. There one Muslim died and at least 20 others were injured by Croat policemen. International investigators reported that the Croat police, in and out of uniform, first beat the marchers, then fired repeatedly at their backs as they tried to flee to safety.

The investigators found that bad luck as well as apparent premeditation played roles in setting the stage for yet another bout of violence in Mostar, where animosity between Muslims and Croats periodically bedevils efforts to reunify the city. With the latest explosion of violence, the hatred now also threatens Bosnia's U.S.-brokered Muslim-Croat federation and the 1995 Dayton accords that ended 43 months of fighting among the country's three main ethnic groups.

Although the Muslims and Croats were allies against the Serbs as the Bosnian war began, they started fighting each other in 1993. Croats who control the western half of Mostar besieged Muslims in East Mostar and a sliver of territory on the west side of the Neretva River. About 1,500 Bosnians, mostly Muslims, died in the 11-month siege.

On the day of the march to the cemetery, Martin Garrod, a retired commandant of Britain's Royal Marines who is the top

international emissary here, had just returned to England on his first leave in 15 months. In his absence, the various international agencies here failed to recognize the storm signals. Maj. Gen. Yves Le Chatelier, the French commander of NATO peacekeeping forces here, has said he was not informed about the procession and assigned no specific unit to keep an eye on it.

But the International Police Task Force, stationed here as observers to help maintain civil order, had been informed. Two international monitors were present during the shooting.

As a result, senior international police investigators published a detailed report Tuesday condemning local Croat police officials. The report included 13 still photographs and video excerpts that showed the deputy police chief of Croatia West Mostar, Ivan Hrkac, and a uniformed policeman firing into the retreating crowd, and it charged that a plainclothes officer did the same. Three other police officers were photographed with their weapons drawn.

The investigators charged that the West Mostar police used "excessive force in beating marchers" and "unnecessary and disproportionate lethal force" in opening fire on them. Commissioner Robert Wasserman, in charge of the international police, told local reporters that such "unjustified and excessive use of force" constitutes "criminal acts in any democratic society."

The office of High Representative Carl Bildt, the top international official for civilian affairs in Bosnia, accompanied the investigators' report with a letter to the top Croat and Muslim leaders demanding that:

The three Croats identified as firing weapons at the marchers be dismissed and arrested, "and then prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

The three other policemen photographed with drawn weapons be suspended immediately, pending criminal investigation and prosecution.

The Croat police chief of West Mostar, Marko Radic, be dismissed for a "concerted effort" to cover up the facts and for lying to investigators. In the only direct acknowledgement of Muslim wrongdoing--principally, failure to crack down on Muslims who took the law into their own hands following the shooting--Bildt's office also demanded the resignation of East Mostar's police

chief.

The demands were rebuffed in a tense meeting in Sarajevo Tuesday night by Mostar's top Croat officials, including Bozo Rajic, the local head of the Croatian Democratic Union, the nationalist organization that effectively dominates Bosnian Croats' political life. Rajic argued unsuccessfully that other Mostar incidents should also be investigated.

The European Union invested \$180 million in rebuilding the badly damaged city from 1994 to 1996 but the Croats and Muslims still maintain separate police forces. Despite the international report's blunt language, there has been no sign that the 30,000-man NATO-led international military contingent in Bosnia intends to enforce its findings.

As things stand so far, the only international sanction imposed will bar the three Croat policemen photographed firing their weapons from traveling to the countries of the European Union. Behind the scenes, however, the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia, constituting the international "contact group" on Bosnia, are likely to apply pressure on the government of neighboring Croatia to comply with the investigation's demands.

The Zagreb government helps finance the Bosnian Croats' civilian and military budget and has often encouraged, but sometimes moderated, their uncompromising ways. #K2PP#

NEW YORK TIMES

Journalists Prepare to Take on Serb President

By Jane Perlez

February 27, 1997

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia--Olja Beckovic, one of Serbia's brightest journalists, was back at work Wednesday after a forced interlude, drawing up a list of guests for the comeback of her popular television program and thinking again about the sharp questions she would put to fractious politicians.

"I was told my program must be on this Sunday, but I don't know how it's possible because I haven't worked for four years," said an ebullient Ms. Beckovic, as she carried her 3-year-old son, Luk, into the offices of Studio B, Belgrade's city-owned television station, to plan the return of "Opinions of the Week."

With the installation of opposition forces in Belgrade's municipal government last week, the city's once-independent television station, neutered four years ago by President Slobodan Milosevic, has returned to the control of reporters and editors.

They were wasting little time. The former editor in chief, Lila Ragdonovic, who walked out to protest Milosevic's merging of the station into his propaganda machine, was back at her desk on Monday. Zoran Ostojic, another top editor, was flying back from Chicago, where he drove cabs.

But the euphoria at reclaiming the capital's television station was tempered by the knowledge that Milosevic, whose network refused to cover the weeks of street demonstrations against him, remained master of the only nationwide television and radio network.

"It is as though they have guns and we have water pistols," said Milorad Ragdonovic, a former editor at Studio B. However poorly armed they might be, the journalists at the reborn station say they will try to wage a guerrilla war against the state-run news media.

Opposition forces have warned Milosevic that unless his network, Radio Televizija Srbije, gives the opposition a voice, the street demonstrations suspended 11 days ago will resume on March 9. The protests compelled Milosevic to recognize the municipal election results he annulled last November.

In a stiff letter delivered to Milosevic last week, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright said that Washington wanted to see objective reporting on the government-run television in Serbia.

Washington and the Serbian opposition singled out the issue of television coverage because, along with the secret police, broadcast news programs, spouting incessant support of Serbian war aims, and disinformation about political opponents, it is considered to be a central pillar of Milosevic's power.

"The story of the tightly controlled state propaganda outlet is in many ways the story of Milosevic," said Dragan Cicic, a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, who is writing a book tracing Milosevic's ascent through the use of television. Unlike almost everything else in the broken Serbian economy, state television remains flush with money, largely because the government sees that television fees

are incorporated into every household's electricity bill. The director of the state radio and television is traditionally a member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party, and is more powerful than a Serbian prime minister, Cic said.

In an apparent effort to appease the West, Milosevic recently appointed as the new minister of information Radmila Milentijevic, an English-speaking Serb who is a professor of history at the City University of New York. A vocal supporter of Milosevic during the war in Bosnia--and of the Bosnian Serbs--Mrs. Milentijevic said in interviews in the United States this week that she is preparing a new media law.

But Mrs. Milentijevic's statements, including her declaration that significant freedom of the press already existed in Serbia, were treated warily here.

She has made a point of saying that those involved in the preparation of the new law will be "registered" radio and television stations and newspapers. Many of the provincial television stations in cities where the opposition has won political control were not granted licenses for news when they were under the control of the Socialist Party authorities and Milosevic.

The founder of the biggest private television station in Serbia, Bogoljub Karic, until recently one of Milosevic's most intimate confidants, said he was anticipating problems with his broadcast license. After years of keeping the television news loyal to Milosevic, Karic, who also heads the largest private bank, insurance and mobile telephone company in Serbia, directed his news program to show the street protests against the president.

Further, Karic has indicated that he is considering running for the Serbian presidency against Milosevic, saying of Milosevic that "two terms are enough for anyone." For expressing such ambitions, Milosevic may decide to threaten Karic's television station, which is vulnerable, according to a Karic associate, because it has a license to cover economic issues and entertainment but not news.

In Kragujevac, an industrialized and increasingly restive city of 200,000 where the opposition has taken control, the new manager of the city-owned radio and television stations, Vidosav Stevanovic, was both buoyant and worried on Monday.

as he scurried around for money and fought off attacks from the Socialist Party.

The station is a skimpy affair: its total equipment consists of two cameras and one editing deck. "We are the first radio and television station to pull itself out of the iron hug of the regime," said a smiling Stevanovic after 19 days on the job. "But the regime in Belgrade will come up with many problems for us. I expect they will give us trouble on our license." Already, he said, the local government-controlled radio had broadcast a false report saying that Stevanovic had dismissed scores of employees.

Stevanovic, 55, a distinguished novelist who has lived in France since 1993, said that to try and insulate itself against Milosevic--and to be a model of fairness--the station would invite Mrs. Milentijevic to appear on the new nightly call-in television program.

So far, Socialists have refused invitations to appear on camera, he said.

But among the reporters, editors and technicians, all of whom were inherited from the previous management and retained, there appeared to be considerable enthusiasm. Never before, they said, had their viewers had the chance to see foreign news broadcast from the BBC or the Voice of America.

But most importantly, reporters said, they could now cover what was going on in town. The lead item on Monday was a teachers' strike.

A reporter, Goran Milenkovic, said that he and a television crew would go to the mass demonstrations, but only twice were the demonstrations shown on the news. "In those cases I threw the report I had prepared in the wastebasket when I came back to the office," he said. "The editor-in-chief would prepare a 'commentary.' Now we just report."

The most popular new program appears to be a nightly call-in show. So far, guests in the studio have included union leaders from the local auto plant, professors from the university and members of various political parties. And, as part of telling what has really gone on in Serbia in the past, the station broadcast a tape of the head of the National Bank, Dragoslav Avramovic, addressing Parliament last year. He was forced out of his job at the bank after telling Parliament that he would not obey orders from Milosevic to print money.

Viewers were so hungry for information and so stunned by Avramovic's emotional address, that there were calls for a replay. #K2PP#

WASHINGTON POST
Editorial: Aid to Russia
Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A20

THE ADMINISTRATION is asking Congress for \$900 million next year for aid to Russia and other former republics of the Soviet Union, a 44 percent increase above this year's appropriation. The proposal seems to reverse earlier plans to phase out such aid, and it seems to collide with gloomy news from Moscow. But it deserves a fair hearing, because the principle of remaining engaged with Russia and its neighbors continues to make sense.

Tensions in U.S.-Russian relations are real and bound to continue. So, too, are Russia's problems--crime and corruption, industrial stagnation and political uncertainty caused by President Boris Yeltsin's long illness. But five years after the Soviet Union's demise, Russians have kept their democratic experiment more or less on track. They rejected, last year, a Communist presidential candidate who would have tried to lead the country backward. That electoral decision, taken despite great hardship and in defiance of many expert forecasts, creates an opportunity that the West should not ignore.

Certainly, it's in the West's interest that Russia and its neighbors develop as open, democratic societies. It's trite but true that anything the West spends on aid is less than the military spending that would be required if things go badly wrong in Moscow. The West's ability to influence events in Russia is limited. But the administration now has tried to refocus its aid program on areas where it can make some difference. That means, in particular, promoting U.S. investment and the local conditions that make investment possible, and encouraging the emergence of a civil society through exchange programs and assistance to independent media and the like.

Aspects of the administration program raise questions. U.S. proposals to help Russia fight crime may end up strengthening institutions that are part of the problem. Helping Ukraine is reasonable, but congressional mandates to spend \$25 million per year there no matter what (compared with a proposed \$241.5 million in Russia) eliminate the

administration's ability to respond to problems, such as Ukraine's growing level of corruption. Reducing environment-related aid makes no sense, since the most active and independent civic groups have grown up around such issues. In fact, channeling aid to such grass-roots groups will bear fruit no matter what the political climate in the Kremlin. Other questions, too, may arise. But the general thesis--that promoting democracy in Russia helps both us and them--is as right now as ever. #K2PP#

WASHINGTON POST
Russian Leaders Shift, Seek Best Compromise on NATO Expansion
By David Hoffman
Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A23

MOSCOW, Feb. 26--After months of loud opposition, the Russian leadership has quietly taken a more pragmatic approach to the planned expansion of the Atlantic alliance, focusing on hammering out a compromise suitable to Moscow, Russian and Western officials said today.

President Boris Yeltsin has not dropped his public opposition to NATO enlargement plans. But Russian and Western diplomats said the recent visit of Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright to Moscow and the weekend trip by Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov to Brussels suggest a basic agreement may be ready before the July NATO summit in Madrid.

In recent months, Russia has taken a two-tiered approach to NATO's planned enlargement to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic by 1999. One level was a vigorous public campaign against expansion, voiced not only by nationalists and Communists, but also by Yeltsin and his allies. The second track was to be ready to negotiate a compromise.

Now Russia seems to be putting fresh emphasis on the second approach. "This is a negotiating game, and the Russians will try and get as much as they can," said a well-informed Western diplomat here. "Their tactic has been to protest loudly, and then crawl back."

"The Russians are very keen to negotiate a deal," said another Western official, who added that "this thing is moving at a much faster pace" than previously. NATO Secretary General Javier Solana is expected back in Moscow early next month.

for a third round of talks with Primakov, and the Helsinki summit next month between Yeltsin and President Clinton may also add to the momentum, officials said.

Last week, Albright brought to Yeltsin a Western proposal for lower levels of troops and armaments under the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which is being reviewed in Vienna. While the proposal may not prove fully satisfactory to Russia, the move was praised here as a step toward meeting Russia's concerns about a large Western superiority in non-nuclear forces.

"I think the problem is that Russia's negative attitude to NATO expansion is a mixture of two very different things: some real concerns about security, and our psychological complexes," said Andrei Piontkovsky, director of the Center for Strategic Studies here.

He said the latest negotiations are beginning to address Russia's security concerns, going beyond the "emotional rhetoric" of earlier debates. Russia was wrong to complain about Poland joining the alliance, Piontkovsky said. "This is not our issue. But the security of our western border is our issue. Let's talk in terms of security, missiles, tanks, artillery, soldiers."

Piontkovsky said Russia, rather than agonizing over whether it is part of Europe or outside it, needs to seize the chance to avoid isolation from the West. For example, he said Albright's suggestion of a joint Russian-NATO brigade was "a step in the right direction to create a positive atmosphere, but it's too small and symbolic," and should be expanded.

Primakov brought to NATO a proposal for a permanent consultative council between the alliance and Russia. This was described by diplomats here as close to NATO thinking and another sign of progress. There are potential roadblocks, however, including the still-unresolved question of whether the document will be a legally binding treaty, as Russia wants, or a political charter, as NATO prefers.

Sergei Rogov, director of the USA and Canada Institute here, published an essay today in the newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta outlining reasons why Russia should capitalize on the concessions offered by the West. The essay was seen by diplomats as another sign that Russia's foreign policy elite is becoming more pragmatic in its approach to NATO.

expansion.

Rogov declared that Russia cannot stand a "degrading defeat," nor can it afford to "return to confrontation" with the West. Thus, he argued, Russia has no choice but to bargain for its own security and avoid isolation from the rest of Europe. "It's time to soberly assess the real possibilities for compromise," he said.

Rogov said Russia must seek lower levels of conventional forces in Europe, guarantees that nuclear weapons will not be moved into central Europe, creation of a joint council for Russia-NATO consultations, and deepened military cooperation with the alliance. He said the package could also include agreement on the outlines of a new U.S.-Russian strategic arms reduction treaty.

Diplomats here said that progress toward such a treaty could come out of the scheduled March 20-21 summit between Yeltsin and Clinton. The previous strategic arms treaty has been stalled in the Russian parliament. But moving toward a new treaty could help accelerate the NATO negotiation, they said. "The Russians need progress with the United States" to show they have gained something from hard bargaining over NATO expansion, said the Western official.

Meanwhile, Yeltsin was facing a particularly open and vituperative feud at home today between two senior military advisers, Defense Minister Igor Rodionov and Yuri Baturin, head of the Kremlin military council. Rodionov, speaking to veteran military commanders on Sunday, accused Baturin of trying to "mislead" the public and political leadership into thinking that the army's situation is tolerable.

Rodionov has warned repeatedly that the military is close to collapse because of lack of money, charging that even strategic nuclear forces have deteriorated.

In his address on Sunday, Rodionov declared that because of lack of combat training, Russia does not have a single air defense regiment that can take off in an emergency and strike at practice targets. He also said that Yeltsin's long-promised military reform has not even started. "Almost nothing has been done," he said.

Today, Yeltsin, through his spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, dressed down Rodionov. "Whining will not help matters," he said in a statement. "Concrete actions are needed."#K2PP#

NEW YORK TIMES

Start of Space Station Likely to Be Delayed, NASA Says

By Warren E. Leary

February 27, 1997

WASHINGTON--The start of construction of the international space station will probably be delayed until next year because of trouble Russia is having in financing its share of the project, the head of NASA said Wednesday.

Daniel Goldin, the administrator of the space agency, told a congressional panel that he believed the schedule for launching the first components of the orbiting laboratory might be put off from November until mid-1998 because a vital

Russian segment was behind schedule.

But in testimony before a House Appropriation subcommittee that oversees his agency's budget, Goldin stressed that no final decision on the launching schedule would be made before April and that even with early delays, the station still could be finished on schedule, in 2002.

The current schedule calls for construction of the space station to begin in November, with a Russian rocket launching a \$200 million control module built in Russia with financing by the United States. This would be followed in December by an American shuttle launching of the first American component, a docking module.

If this timetable changes, NASA officials said, the first piece of the project might not fly until June of 1998. Yuri Koptev, head of the Russian Space Agency, said Monday that the decision to delay construction had already been made.

But Goldin said no schedule changes would be decided before April, and then only after the United States and other partners in the project agreed.

Goldin said that the United States was committed to spend \$17.4 billion to complete the station, and that the European Space Agency, Japan and Canada had already invested almost \$6 billion of their planned \$10 billion.

Rep. Jerry Lewis, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies, which oversees NASA, said he and other congressmen considering NASA's proposed \$13.5 billion b

udget for next year were particularly concerned about the status of the space station.

Lewis, R-Calif., who was part of a congressional delegation that visited Russia last year, said, "My message was succinct: A deal is a deal and the Russians are not living up to their part of the bargain."

The main problem is with the third component, the Service Module, a Russian-made component designed to control the interlocking sections of the space station and to serve as temporary crew quarters for astronauts during the construction phase. This module, originally scheduled to be launched in April 1998, is at least eight months behind schedule.

Goldin said some station advocates had suggested launching the first two modules on time this year because they were ready, but he does not agree. "To have it sitting in space for nine months doesn't make sense," he said. #K2PP#

WASHINGTON POST
Transatlantic Truce
By Jim Hoagland
Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A21

PARIS--President Jacques Chirac is determined to get French-American relations off the emotional roller coaster of recent months.

Gone from his descriptions of working with President Clinton is the passion that fueled first a honeymoon and then a brief but nasty war of words between Paris and Washington. Instead he seeks a sustainable if unexciting middle ground.

Chirac agrees this is a time for France and America to make neither love nor war. He speaks in sorrow, not in anger, about the fading opportunity for a joint French-American initiative to change NATO's command structure and end the 30-year estrangement between France and the alliance's military wing.

"There is no French-American dispute about NATO, neither about NATO enlargement nor about reform. There is no fundamental disagreement that would cause such a dispute," Chirac tells me in his customary emphatic style at the Elysee Palace. "There are technical problems to be worked out. That is all."

Chirac has passed the same message, with the same robust emphasis, to the senior figures in his two-year-old government. The "no dispute with Washington" message is sounded uniformly by government ministers and officials I saw

before
and after my conversation with Chirac this week.

In our discussion, Chirac in fact muffles concern he has expressed privately to other leaders about America's approach to Russia, an approach he fears could still force Boris Yeltsin into a dangerous corner if the United States is too

confrontational. The French leader stands by with a fall-back plan of high-level diplomacy should the Clinton-Yeltsin summit in Helsinki on March 20-21 go awry.

That plan, which he floated to Yeltsin in Moscow three weeks ago, would gather Britain, France, Germany, the United States and Russia at the summit to settle the political problems created by NATO's plan to admit ex-Soviet satellites in Central Europe as new members by 1999. Clinton has not endorsed the five-power idea, although Germany's Helmut Kohl strongly supports it.

Chirac conveys a sense that it may eventually be easier for Yeltsin to accept an agreement on NATO if Europe's largest powers join in elaborating it with him and Clinton. The French president adds quickly, however, that he expects and hopes Yeltsin and Clinton will reach an agreement in Helsinki and make the five-power gathering unnecessary.

He refuses to assess any blame for the end of the Washington-Paris honeymoon, which began shortly after Chirac and his parliamentary coalition of neo-Gaullists and centrist conservatives took power in 1995.

The new French leader helped forge a more active and unified Western position on Bosnia. He then announced that France was prepared to rejoin NATO's integrated military command if the alliance's European members were given a significant increase in authority in the organization.

But Washington and Paris have haggled for the past six months over American refusal of a French proposal to put NATO's Southern Command, headquartered in Naples and commanded by an American admiral, in European hands. The White House and the Pentagon have stonewalled a series of French compromise ideas of splitting up the command between American and European senior officers.

In a separate conversation, Foreign Minister Herve de Charette says that France still wants to negotiate on the command issue and has new ideas to put on the

e table. But other officials seem resigned to a permanent U.S.-French stalemate on NATO reform, which could result in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary joining the alliance's military command in two years while France remains out side.

There is an unspoken but unmistakable subtext in Chirac's remarks: Unlike past French leaders, he will not attempt to boost his domestic standing by picking or prolonging public quarrels with Washington. That would be pointless, given the French public's preoccupation with unemployment and social change at home.

But neither will Chirac go on reaching out to Washington on military matters. He feels he has paid a domestic political price by altering Gaullist strategic doctrine on NATO and being rebuffed in Washington. Chirac and his aides are explicit on this.

Chirac refuses to take diplomatic hostages. If, as is likely, the United States blocks another of his highest priority initiatives--getting Romania into NATO in the first wave of new members--he will not retaliate by blocking Hungary or any of the other U.S.-backed candidates. He scoffs at the idea of using a veto in that case.

Chirac's current softening of the French line suggests the ultimate reality of French-American relations: They are never as bad as they seem in the worst of times, nor as good as they seem in the best. They inevitably gravitate to a scratchy modus vivendi.

The news out of Paris is that this neo-Gaullist leader continues to think creatively about France's relations with America even after suffering setbacks. For now, Jacques Chirac bites his tongue before speaking about or to Washington. But Washington would be unwise to take the truce, or Chirac, for granted. This man-made calm can be broken just as quickly and thoroughly as it was ordered.

#K2PP#

WASHINGTON POST
Biker Gangs' Wars Terrorize Scandinavians
By Charles Trueheart
Thursday, February 27, 1997; Page A23

COPENHAGEN Armed biker gangs are locked in a loud and bloody war spreading across Scandinavia, disturbing the

peace and upsetting the tolerance that has allowed them to flourish in the first place.

Like the mythic cowboys of the old American West, two violence-prone Nordic motorcycle clubs have taken to saying, "This town ain't big enough for the both of us." They settle their scores in blood, and leave the rest of the townsfolk terrorized and angry.

No wonder. The bikers' weapons of choice are not six-shooters. They are automatic weapons and rocket-propelled antitank grenades.

On Feb. 18, one of the shoulder-fired grenades, designed to penetrate tanks and incinerate their occupants, was fired into a small-town Danish jail. The explosive charge did not detonate, and no one was hurt. The next day the same thing happened at a biker residence in another Danish town.

After nearly a year of such incidents which have killed eight people across Scandinavia, four of them in Denmark, and wounded scores more, Danes are persuaded that something intolerably rotten is going on.

The most ominous recent biker violence has happened in Copenhagen and other Danish towns and cities, but the warfare also has touched Sweden, Norway and Finland. Indigenous clubs of Hell's Angels and Bandidos, organized as overseas chapters of motorcycle gangs in the United States, fight for honor, revenge and territory in the drug trade.

"It's one of our least desirable American imports," one Danish official said.

In Stockholm this week, police have gone on alert because hundreds of Hell's Angels from all over Europe are expected for a weekend of partying at the clubhouse of the MC Sweden biker gang, the Associated Press reported. "We are concerned that we will have a new criminal organization," Stockholm police spokesman Claes Cassel said, referring to reports that the Swedish club will become a Hell's Angels chapter.

Ever since Angels and Bandidos carried out a daylight gun battle at Copenhagen International Airport a year ago, this libertarian, mind-your-own-business country of bicycle riders has been pondering the unthinkable: outlawing the outlaws outright.

When a band of Hell's Angels moved into a new clubhouse in a working-class district of South Copenhagen last year, neighbors at first acted naturally, living and letting the bikers live next door. The Angels came and went and kept to themselves.

But when rocket-launched grenades started crashing through walls, the families in the Amagen Island neighborhood decided they could not take the chance that one of the missiles might power its way into the day-care center next to the Angels' clubhouse. At their instigation, authorities forced the club out of its quarters, and around the same time biker clubs were forbidden to gather in populated areas.

The bikers are gone from that street, taking with them the local threat. But there is no sense of triumph among the neighbors. They are suspicious of the recent talk from Danish Justice Department officials that the bikers called rockers here, after the '60s British term "mods and rockers" might be specifically forbidden to congregate.

"I don't like this special kind of law," said dry cleaner Henry Piersen, who lives across the street from the now-raised clubhouse. "Who knows? It might work against other groups." Like? "Like Jehovah's Witnesses, religious groups," he said. "That's not freedom."

Kirsten Monberg, another neighbor, said she was frantic when one of the Angels asked her 7-year-old son to go get him a pack of cigarettes. (It is legal for a 7-year-old to buy cigarettes here.) "I was scared," she said. But she quickly added, "The rockers have to be somewhere. They are human beings in our country. They have rights."

The bikers concur. "If the government now completely prohibits the Bandidos, then they're declaring total bankruptcy and we're no longer living in a civilized society with rights," Bandidos leader Jim Tinndahn told the tabloid newspaper BT. "If they think they can stop it this way, then they are as dumb as snot."

In this country, the rockers have more than rights. Denmark, an independent-minded welfare state of 5.3 million, is aggressively pro-hobby. It encourages citizen bonding and adult education by subsidizing, through national and municipal government, hundreds of activities, such as cooking classes, stamp collecting and volleyball competitions.

And motorcycle riding. Until 1993, the major biker clubs benefited from rent subsidies and other small grants for what one official called "stamps or coffee." Another official would not rule out the possibility that some amounts are still reaching the clubs through youth affiliates or other side doors.

But even without direct government underwriting, by law the Hell's Angels and the Bandidos are what they say they are: associations of motorcycle enthusiasts.

Like bikers the world over, the Scandinavian variety favors Harley-Davidson motorcycles and sports leather jackets in winter, denim togs in summer, tattoos year-round. Contrary to popular image, however, these latter-day Viking warriors are not beer-bellied dissolutes.

Before they were driven out of sight and their clubhouses shut down last year, Angels and Bandidos could be seen quaffing brews at local bars, conversing with other patrons about their machines and leaving big tips.

As a rule, said Charles Ferro, a local freelance writer who covered them before the outbreak of hostilities, the bikers were in fighting trim, often because of concerted body-building. He said they are well-groomed, fancying neat Bruce Springsteen-style beards and fragrant after-shave lotion.

But Danish authorities and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, among others, say they see a sinister side of the Hell's Angels and Bandidos. All but two of the estimated 150 gang members now terrorizing Denmark have criminal records, said a senior Danish Justice Ministry official, Lars Bay Larsen. They and their confreres in Sweden, Norway and Finland and in the Netherlands, Germany and France are deeply involved in trafficking hashish, amphetamines and Ecstasy, according to the DEA's man in Copenhagen, Arthur Kersey.

If the biker violence has taken on the air of an emergency in Denmark, that is because this is normally such a law-abiding part of the world. The murder rate here is usually about 50, in virtually every case a crime of passion, authorities said. The biker violence, by contrast, is about honor, or market share, or both.

More typical are the attacks such as those this month, which leave damage but no blood. Ironically, the antitank grenades the rockers favor are designed to

explode on impact with heavy armor. When such a charge hits an ordinary brick wall, it tends to continue through the building and often does not release its fiercest payload, a 2,000- to 3,000-degree heat flash.

According to Danish police, some of the weapons AT4 antitank launchers have been traced to a theft from a Swedish army depot. Others, such as the RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenades, which an official said do not work very well, have origins in Russia and the former Soviet bloc.

Prosecuting the bikers is an exercise in frustration, officials said. Surviving victims in the rival gang won't press charges, and frightened witnesses won't testify. Police are stretched to the limit.

Public opinion may be coming around to tougher measures to ban the rockers, but the desire for alternatives is palpable.

Kirsten Jacobsen, citing the high cost of deploying police against the biker clubs and the democratic rights of bikers, urged her readers in the tabloid BT to take matters into their own hands. Jacobsen proposed collective acts of shunning. "If you walk into a disco and see a bunch of bikers at the bar, dance and drink on, but at another place," she suggested.

Author Jorgen Knudsen wrote an open letter to the rockers to propose a solution out of Viking tradition: holmgang, a definitive mano a mano on an island. Winning parties would agree on the time, place, weapons and rules of the duel. The war would be over and even the defeated would still have their honor. That was before antitank missiles. #K2PP#

NEW YORK TIMES
Swiss to Share Control of Holocaust Fund With Jewish Groups
By Alan Cowell
February 27, 1997

BONN, Germany--After 18 months of tortuous and sometimes secret negotiations that flared into public bitterness, the Swiss government agreed Wednesday to share control of a Holocaust memorial fund with leading Jewish groups. The fund was set up after criticism of Switzerland's financial dealings with Nazi Germany.

The decision was announced in Bern, the Swiss capital, by Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti. It represents a further shift away from events late last year when a high Swiss official rejected all talk of a Holocaust compensation fund as "extortion and

blackmail" by American Jewish groups.

The shift illuminated Switzerland's worries that adverse publicity concerning both its gold trading with Nazi Germany during World War II and its obstructive postwar attitude toward claims on dormant Jewish-owned bank accounts would seriously damage its banking industry.

The decree by the Swiss government, which becomes effective on March 1, sheds no further light on the likely size of the fund. Switzerland's three largest private banks made an initial contribution of around \$70 million last month.

But both the government and the Swiss National Bank, which was responsible for trading in monetary gold with the Nazis, have both said they will await the findings of a historians' inquiry expected between April and June before contributing.

The agreement Wednesday said the fund would be used to "support persons in need who were persecuted for reasons of their race, religion or political views or for other reasons, or otherwise were victims of the Holocaust."

Others who suffered Nazi persecution included Gypsies, homosexuals and disabled people, but Swiss officials said the bulk of the fund would be distributed among Jews who survived the Holocaust, many of them in Eastern Europe, where they were cut off from previous compensation by the cold war.

Israel Singer, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress, who negotiated the deal with Swiss officials in Bern this week, said in a telephone interview from New York that the agreement represented an "unprecedented breakthrough."

Swiss officials, he said, had "come to an understanding that something needs to be done."

The agreement Wednesday--formally between Switzerland and an umbrella group called the World Jewish Restitution Organization, in association with Israel--said the fund would be managed by an executive body made up of seven people, four nominated by the Swiss and three by the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

One of the Swiss nominees will be Rolf Bloch, the head of the principal Swiss Jewish representative organization, Swiss officials said.

Singer said payments from the fund would not prejudice other Jewish claims being

ng pursued by a commission led by Paul Volcker, the former head of the U.S. Federal Reserve, which is investigating the whereabouts and extent of dormant accounts left by some of the six million Jews killed by the Nazis.

In previous negotiations, Swiss and American Jewish officials have spoken of a fund of more than \$250 million, and Wednesday the Swiss private bankers' association urged its 400 members to contribute. Other Swiss companies have already pledged unspecified amounts.

The agreement with Switzerland is the most lucrative in a string of compensation deals that the World Jewish Congress is seeking or has struck with several European countries, including Norway, Sweden, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania. #K2PP#

NEW YORK TIMES

Paris Attacks European Parliament for Criticizing Immigration Bill

By Craig R. Whitney

February 27, 1997

PARIS--France, which has spent heavily over the years to make sure the European Parliament stays in France, bitterly attacked it Wednesday for criticizing a French bill to crack down on illegal immigration.

Foreign Minister Herve de Charette denounced the Parliament, after it called for the withdrawal of the bill on the ground that it would require denunciations like those the French were asked to make against Jews during World War II.

"Once again," he said, "the European Parliament has shown that it is not yet a parliament worthy of the name."

Stung, the Parliament's visiting president, Jose Maria Gil-Robles, canceled a meeting with de Charette Wednesday afternoon.

Instead, the episode showed how raw French political debate about immigration is becoming.

With unemployment at 12.7 percent and the far-right National Front party making electoral gains by telling the French that there would be enough jobs for everybody if the 6.5 million foreigners were sent home, both the conservative government and the Socialist opposition parties have sent conflicting signals. They have urged tolerance of foreigners while cracking down over the years on illegal immigration.

Tough laws that went into effect in 1994 slowed the flow considerably, but did not stop it, prompting the conservative majority in the French Parliament to propose new regulations. That allowed the National Front to claim that it had the right position all along.

One of the National Front's favorite arguments is that France cannot keep unwanted immigrants from Africa and Asia from sneaking into the country, because France is dismantling border controls to build a united Europe that few of Europe's 370 million people understand.

Some of the National Front's top leaders are among the 626 elected members of the European Parliament, but apparently were not there last Thursday when it voted to call on the French government to withdraw the bill being debated in Paris.

In fact, the European Parliament has no power to legislate on immigration, which like most problems of strategic importance except trade remains in the hands of national parliaments.

The French bill originally had a clause that would have required people who invite foreigners to visit to get permission from local mayors and then to report to the police when the guests have left French territory.

The European Parliament's vote struck a sensitive nerve. First, the European Parliament said the French bill was an invitation to denunciation, precisely the point made by thousands of French intellectuals who have drawn a parallel between the bill and denunciations of Jews and foreign agents under the Vichy regime during the German occupation.

Second, the opposition Socialists allowed the measure to slip through its first reading in the French Parliament last month practically without debate. They woke to its supposed dangers only after the National Front jolted the political establishment by winning a municipal election in the Southern town of Vitrolles.

And third, the French government, as if ashamed of itself, withdrew the offending provision in advance of a second debate on the bill in the National Assembly this week. An amendment leaves enforcement of immigration laws in the hands of government-appointed prefects and makes foreigners report their own comings and goings.

Some 100,000 opponents, led by intellectuals, actors and leading theater and film directors who signed petitions against the bill, mobilized in the streets of Paris last weekend. And protesters and police clashed outside the National Assembly after it debated the bill on Tuesday night; Wednesday the assembly approved the amended bill by a huge majority.

"The extreme right may be the biggest beneficiary of all this legislative perpetual motion," warned Laurent Fabius, a Socialist former prime minister. #K2PP#

NEW YORK TIMES

Turkish Poet Is Lauded, but Stays Exiled in Death

By Stephen Kinzer

February 27, 1997

ISTANBUL, Turkey--As Turkey settles into what is likely to be an extended confrontation between secular and pro-Islamic forces, symbols take on exaggerated political importance for both sides.

Perhaps no individual crystallizes the conflict better than Nazim Hikmet, atheist and Communist and also one of the greatest literary figures ever to emerge from this country.

Since his death in Moscow in 1963, Hikmet's reputation here has steadily grown. For years his books were banned and the mere mention of his name was enough to justify arrest, but today new editions of his works are streaming off the presses, theaters are presenting his plays and pop singers are turning his poems into chart-busters.

Hikmet's rehabilitation is not complete, however. His body lies in a Russian cemetery, and a 1951 decree stripping him of Turkish citizenship remains in force. Admirers want to bring his remains back, posthumously restore his citizenship and put up a statue of him in Istanbul.

But the governing Islamic-based Welfare Party, which controls both the Culture Ministry and Istanbul's City Hall, is infused with religious conservatism. It is not likely to tolerate any official steps to rehabilitate Hikmet.

"The political climate is not right," said Aydin Aybay, chairman of the Nazim Hikmet Culture and Art Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving the poet's memory.

"There's no point in pushing these ideas now. It would only increase tension, and that's something we need to avoid in Turkey today. We're devoting ourselves to building up an archive and giving as many people as possible a chance to discover Nazim. The rest will come in due time."

Several celebrations have been held to observe the 95th anniversary of Hikmet's birth. An exhibition of his letters and manuscripts, together with portraits of him by several leading Turkish artists, has been mounted in Istanbul, and the opening reception drew a glittering crowd.

"There is a great thirst for information about him," said Kiyet Coskun, who organized the exhibition. "Part of it is the desire to understand what kind of a figure would have attracted such repression, but I think most of it comes from a growing understanding of what a great creative artist he was."

Hikmet wrote his first poems at 11 and published his first collection five years later. He attended the Naval Academy in Istanbul, but his military career was cut short by illness.

On a trek across Anatolia in his late teens, he met several Turkish Communists. Impressed with their idealism and fascinated by the promise of Bolshevism, he joined the party, which was banned in Turkey in 1922. Over the next decade and a half he published nearly a dozen books, but was constantly in trouble with the authorities and spent several years in jail on political charges.

In 1938 he was sentenced to 28 years in prison on charges of inciting a military revolt; the main evidence against him was the fact that cadets had been discovered reading his books. As his health worsened, leftist groups organized a worldwide campaign for his release, supported by admirers including Jean-Paul Sartre, Pablo Neruda, Yevgeny Yevtushenko and Pablo Picasso.

He was finally released in 1950, and then, after the authorities sought to force him into military service at the age of 48, he fled across the Black Sea to the Soviet Union, where he lived for the rest of his life. He was embraced by Communist leaders and wrote poems in homage to Lenin, Stalin and the Chinese revolution.

"His writings during these years are clearly degenerate," one critic has written

en, "marred by that inane political tone that characterized the work of artists required to express themselves within the confines of socialist realism."

These embarrassments, however, have not eclipsed the brilliance of the poems, plays, films, novels and short stories of Hikmet's earlier days. He produced some of his greatest works in prison, among them "Human Landscapes," a 17,000-line masterpiece that seeks to blur the lines between poetry, novel and epic.

The poet Denise Levertov has described "Human Landscapes" as "a flashing-past of pictures, a cinematographic semi-autobiographical fiction that will capture the attention of the least scholarly, least specialist of readers."

"At the same time," she wrote, "it is a work to engage and hold the attention of poets and sophisticated habitual readers of modern poetry, for though it is long it is terse, condensed, charged: the work of a supremely confident, energetic, passionate and powerfully imaginative poet."

Among Hikmet's strongest defenders in Turkey today is Sukran Kurdakul, a prominent poet and literary historian, president of the Turkish PEN Club and, not coincidentally, a dedicated secularist.

"His works touch the sensibility of all kinds of people, regardless of politics," Kurdakul said. "It's a shame that our government has not been civilized enough to honor him."

Few if any Turks deny Hikmet's talent, but many Islamists and other rightists still consider him to have been a traitor. In the campaign to rehabilitate him, they see an effort by leftists to extend their influence.

"Hikmet was our evil genius," said Altemur Kilic, a conservative columnist and former diplomat. "He was no doubt a very good poet, a very good wordsmith and not a negligible man. I would even admit that he was a patriot in his own way. His poems about our War of Liberation are magnificent."

"But he wanted Turkey to be liberated so that it could become a satellite of Soviet Russia. He did great harm to Turkey. I cannot consider him a hero of democracy, as some people do today. He wanted to be a Soviet citizen and to be buried in Moscow, so I say let him stay there." #K2PP#

Lyn Shepard, Special to The Christian Science Monitor
Thursday February 27, 1997 Edition

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND Small European nations increasingly see the example of the legendary Dutch boy at the dike as their role model in facing the conflict laden politics of water scarcity and water control worldwide.

From the Mideast to Asia to Africa, countries like Switzerland have used behind the scenes efforts to identify environmental conflicts and resolve them before they escalate.

In the fable, the Dutch lad spots a trickle of water seeping through a dike, presses a finger into the hole to stop the flow, and refuses to budge until relief can be summoned to save the day.

Scholars in Switzerland find the analogy a useful one to explain how a "social early warning system" could use European expertise to defuse crossborder environmental disputes before the conflict breaks out into war.

Thirdworld nations often prefer mediators from lowprofile countries such as Switzerland, Norway, and Sweden to act as their "Dutch boys."

And the Swiss thanks to a centuryold reputation as dutiful suppliers of Alpine waterpowered electricity to their neighbors have special credentials as resolvers of peace and the ecology.

This reputation lingers, if somewhat tarnished due to harsh criticism of Swiss banks and hydropower system suppliers for their roles in funding and building dams worldwide at great cost to society and the environment. Swiss researchers have stepped up studies of environmental trouble spots abroad, focusing upon the causes of conflict and how the often complex problems might be resolved.

One such program the Environment and Conflicts Project (ENCOP) developed as a joint venture between the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and the Swiss Peace Foundation (SPF).

One researcher, Stephan Libiszewski, became a specialist in ArabIsraeli water conflicts through his study on the Jordan River Basin, carried out for the ETH's Center for Security Studies and Conflict Research.

A Swiss "Dutch boy" role developed as the ENCOP program started in 1992.

At the time, Mr. Libiszewski recalls, "Israel and the Palestine Liberation Org

anization weren't talking to each other, and it was still illegal for an Israeli official to have contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization." Aware of the Swiss research program, Israel's foreign ministry made discreet contacts with the Swiss, eager to open exploratory water talks with the PLO in a safe haven. "Zurich seemed like the perfect place to have them," Libiszewski

said. "So our Center for Security Studies and Conflict Research hosted the meeting, and I got to meet the key negotiators on both sides. It was a researcher's dream come true."

Within a year another "Dutch boy" scenario unfolded. Norwegian scientists Terje Larsen and Mona Juul, carrying out a study on living conditions in the Israeli-occupied territories, initiated contact between Palestinians and Israelis. This led to the so-called "Oslo connection" peace talks.

Meanwhile other ETH and Swiss Peace Foundation scholars have done related studies on the most critical international water disputes. Among them:

- * Stefan Klotzli's work on "the Aral Sea Syndrome" in Central Asia a report on the water scarcity options facing Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

- * Nigerian Peter Okoh's study on the clash between Nigeria's oil-exploited Ogoni land and the nation's neighbors affecting the ecology of the Lake Chad Basin.

Another group at the University of Zurich Institute of International Studies foresees its own "Dutch boy" role.

Thomas Bernauer says his group will focus on 15 crossborder rivers where conflict either threatens, has broken out, or has been resolved peacefully.

"Water is seldom responsible for conflict in itself," says Professor Bernauer. "It's usually one of many issues."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Environmentalists 'Davids' Oppose Goliath Dam Projects
Lyn Shepard, Special to The Christian Science Monitor
Thursday February 27, 1997 Edition

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND In a city of global bankers noted for "business as usual," environmental activist Peter Bosshard speaks for a new breed of Swiss committed to "green" values concerted public action to preserve Earth's natural resources

urces.

Mr. Bosshard shares leadership of a Zurich-based public-interest group, the Bern Declaration, which claims 16,000 members. The group shares information with similar nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide.

Since assuming his post in the Bern Declaration, Bosshard has rocked the Swiss boat on issues involving commercial ties with Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The Bern Declaration has been strikingly effective in briefing Swiss citizens on massive dam projects funded by Swiss banks and engineered by hydroelectric firms such as the Swedish-Swiss giant Asea Brown Boveri Ltd.

ABB's Swedish chairman and CEO Percy Barnevik insists that ABB bears a responsibility to the third world to "[transfer] to them the experiences of our own industrialization as well as efficient and clean technology."

But the Bosshard network, critical of the dam projects, sees things differently. It has focused its protest efforts on three huge dam projects: the Narmada Dam in India; the Bakun Dam in Sarawak, Malaysia; and the Three Gorges project in China.

In each case, Bosshard says, well-reasoned NGO protests forced the World Bank to back off plans to fund the project. Crucial to the NGO's case: a likely catastrophic impact on either nature, humanity, or both.

In India's Narmada Valley, the proposed dam would have displaced, seized land from, or cost the jobs of 320,000 people in Gujarat State. The World Bank pullout has prompted India to refocus on smaller, less volatile dam projects.

Malaysia's Bakun Dam project would uproot 9,400 people. Bosshard rates Bakun's potential threat to the partially jungle environment as "among the top 10 trouble spots worldwide." Malaysia seeks to offset the loss of World Bank funds through private capital. China's gigantic Three Gorges project dwarfs all others. It would force the displacement of some 1.3 million people from a 600-km stretch along the Yangtze River valley. The project area alone is four times larger than the state of California. Environmental critics regard the project as a planned disaster masked by extreme nationalistic pride.

Doubts sown by the NGOs about skewed impact studies by corrupt engineers and officials have found their mark.

"Now nobody in government defends these projects anymore," Bosshard says. "But they'll still argue ... that 'If we don't build them, somebody else will.' "

ABB won the consortium leader role for the \$5 billion Malaysia job this year and vies with many competitors for the much larger China project. Beijing is expected to name its prime contractor later this year.

The Berne Declaration hopes both projects can still be stopped. The NGO has lobbied the Swiss government not to grant any firm an export risk guarantee in bidding for the Three Gorges project, an 18,000-megawatt job priced at \$30 billion to \$50 billion.

Bosshard toured China several years ago and had a firsthand look at the fertile valley of the Yangtze, the world's third longest river. His visit coincided with Premier Li Peng's approval of the Three Gorges Dam project.

After speaking with some of the project's critics, Bosshard became convinced that, besides the environmental damage the dam would cause, "many millions of people" would be endangered by the dam due to seismic activity in a region highly sensitive to earthquakes.

But a Chinese public works minister publicly dismissed any possibility of project engineering error "because it would indicate a flaw in socialism, and that is scientifically impossible."

"It's just that sort of 'Apr/s moi le d)luge' thinking that worries us," Bosshard says.

Working with other key NGOs, Bosshard's group now monitors the Chinese project, condemns it before Swiss politicians, and leaflets for public support.

The Swiss will join other international activists at the First International Conference of People Affected by Large Dams, meeting Mar. 11-14 in Curitiba, Brazil, to discuss strategy on the China project, other large dams, and "destructive river infrastructure projects" worldwide.

Other critical projects condemned by groups like the Berne Declaration include the Yacyret Dam on the Paran River at the Argentine-Paraguay border, the Kafin Zarkin Dam in Nigeria's Bauchi State, and the Manantali Dam in Mali's Senegal

River Basin. Swiss environmentalists also label as "hot spots" Turkey's Greater Anatolia project (irrigating the Euphrates

River before it enters Syria), Pakistan's Tarblea Reservoir, and eastern Canada's "GRAND Canal" plan for the northern James Bay.

But in democratic countries (from which China and Three Gorges project must be early be exempted), Bosshard and his Swiss activists say the NGOs have slain a Goliath. Dam critic Patrick McCully agrees.

"The international dam industry," he concludes, "appears to be entering a recession from which it may never escape."

BOSTON GLOBE
The Name Of The Mother: Ulster Figure Alleges FrameUp
By Kevin Cullen, Globe Staff, 02/26/97

COALISLAND, Northern Ireland She walks with a limp now and winces while climbing stairs.

At 49, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey's body is slowly failing, in no small part because of the nine bullets fired into it by Protestant extremists who walked into her home here and shot her in front of her children in 1981.

But McAliskey's mind, which nearly 30 years ago catapulted her from student radical to the leadership of the Catholic civil rights movement and led her to become, at 21, the youngest woman ever elected to the British Parliament, remains sharp.

And her mind is certain of one thing: that she is the reason that her 25 yearold daughter, Roisin, is being held without bail in an English jail, awaiting the birth of a child in May while manacled and chained to a hospital bed.

"My daughter," she says with a sigh, "is being punished for the sins of the mother."

German and British authorities beg to differ. They say Roisin McAliskey was a member of an Irish Republican Army unit that bombed a British Army base in Osnabrueck, Germany, last June. They say a German man identified Roisin as one of the tenants of an apartment he rented out last year, where police later found evidence of an IRA unit, and Roisin's fingerprint on the cellophane wrapper of a cigarette pack.

McAliskey says her daughter is being framed, and insists that Roisin's treatment by British authorities is part of a vendetta for Bernadette's views against

British control of Northern Ireland. Roisin has been denied bail and physical contact with her family, subjected to two strip searches a day, and kept in solitary confinement.

British authorities deny they are treating Roisin McAliskey any differently because of her mother. Privately, during an interview in Belfast, one of the most senior members of the British security forces in Northern Ireland scoffs at the claim.

"Don't you think," he asked, "that if we wanted to get Bernadette, we would've got her a long time ago? Her daughter is not being picked on or singled out. She was arrested based on evidence, not a vendetta." Besides, the official adds, charges against Roisin McAliskey were made by German officials.

"A very risky game"

Bernadette McAliskey laughs when told this. She and her daughter's lawyer contend that the identification process was flawed, and was influenced by British security forces. They say the German witness gave an initial description that did not match Roisin, and later identified her from a photograph supplied by detectives from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, or RUC, Northern Ireland's police force.

As for the fingerprint, McAliskey says the RUC supplied the German authorities with fingerprint samples.

Roisin McAliskey's attorney is Gareth Peirce, who gained international fame when Emma Thompson portrayed her in "In the Name of the Father," a movie based on Peirce's efforts to win the release of four Irish people who served 15 years in prison after being framed for an IRA bombing. In this case, Peirce will try to show that history is repeating itself.

Roisin, meanwhile, is gaining influential supporters in her campaign to be released on bail, and to give birth to her baby without the restraints required under her classification as a high-risk prisoner. Several human rights groups endorsed her request, and last week Dick Spring, Ireland's deputy prime minister, said she should be granted bail.

"She is seven months pregnant," said Spring. "I believe she is entitled to certain basic decency. ... I don't think that she is a threat in relation to escape."

Irish diplomats worry that if McAliskey were to lose her baby because of conditions at the highsecurity Holloway prison in London, it would cause unrest in Northern Ireland, where the deteriorating peace process is under severe strain.

“The British are playing a very risky game here, needlessly, I think,” says one Dublin official.

British officials insist they are following normal procedures as the extradition process winds through the legal system. The Globe requested an interview with Roisin McAliskey, but as a so-called Category A prisoner, meaning she is deemed a high risk to escape, McAliskey is not entitled to visits or correspondence from anyone but her lawyer and immediate family.

Here in Coalisland, and in West Belfast, where Roisin lived in a small apartment with the father of her unborn child, some who know her find it hard to believe she was an IRA volunteer.

“She's very frail,” an acquaintance says. “I can't see the provos using her.”

But another man who knows Roisin said that, while he doesn't know whether she was in the IRA, he wouldn't be surprised.

“You're talking about someone who grew up in a very republican household. How can it not shape her views? And if I saw my mother shot by loyalists while the British Army was outside my house, maybe I'd join the IRA, too.”

Sixteen years ago, Bernadette and her schoolteacher husband, Michael McAliskey, were shot by loyalist gunmen who walked past a British Army patrol stationed outside their home, then in the isolated, rural outskirts of this County Tyrone town. Roisin, then 9, and Deirdre, then 5, were held at gunpoint by Ray Smallwoods while other members of the Ulster Freedom Fighters, a loyalist paramilitary group, shot their mother.

The gunmen were arrested by British soldiers as they tried to flee, and McAliskey later credited the first aid given by the soldiers with saving her life, even as she accused the British government of encouraging and assisting loyalists to target and assassinate nationalists.

Smallwoods, who got out of prison and became a spokesman for the small political party that is allied with the Ulster Freedom Fighters, was murdered by the

IRA in July 1994. Some suggested Smallwoods' murder was in retaliation for his role in the McAliskey attack.

Recalling the attack, McAliskey said she grabbed her then 2-year-old son Fintan from a bed and flung him across the room so the gunmen wouldn't shoot him. When the gunfire ended, McAliskey called out to Roisin, "Mind your sister. Mind your sister."

"The children were incredibly brave," McAliskey says. "They never cried."

A private person

Those who know the McAliskey girls say the assassination attempt had a profound effect on them. Deirdre seemed to emulate her mother, becoming an outspoken student activist at Queen's University in Belfast, where Bernadette Devlin first gained fame as leader of the leftist radical group People's Democracy, a major player in the civil rights movement.

Roisin went to Queen's, too, and studied politics, but she seemed more withdrawn, almost painfully shy. She suffers from stress-related asthma and was prone to illness. McAliskey says Roisin "is a very private person."

"Throughout the whole conflict she saw her friends arrested, but she never got involved," McAliskey says. "Now, all of a sudden, she's chief of staff [of the IRA]? It doesn't make sense."

Many people say they didn't know Roisin's politics, and assumed she was a republican only after seeing her accompany her mother to political meetings. In 1994, she and her mother took turns shouldering the coffin of Dominic McGlinchey, considered by Britain the most ruthless Irish terrorist of his generation.

Even some of Bernadette McAliskey's longtime associates were surprised when she heaped lavish praise on McGlinchey at his funeral. McGlinchey founded the Irish National Liberation Army, an IRA splinter group, and died as a result of one of its incessant internecine feuds. McAliskey eulogized McGlinchey as "the finest republican the struggle has ever produced."

Most people seemed to view Roisin's role at the McGlinchey funeral as a gesture of respect to her mother. But that gesture caught the attention of the security forces.

A senior security force official in Belfast, however, insists that Roisin was not considered an IRA suspect then. "We had nothing on her," he says. Bernadette said she has never been a member of the IRA, a claim that police do not dispute.

Roisin's troubles seemed to begin last fall, when police in Belfast arrested Bobby Storey, a reputed IRA man, and seized a computer disk that police suggest had information about IRA activity. Bernadette McAliskey says the police began interrogating young women who worked on computers at community organizations in republican areas.

"Roisin is computer literate, so she got lifted," her mother says.

There is no doubt McAliskey irks the British and the mostly Protestant unionists who make up about 57 percent of the population of Northern Ireland and want to remain British subjects. In 1970, riding the wave of popularity, she became the youngest woman elected to Westminster. Her election enthralled Catholic nationalists, some of whom called her an "Irish Joan of Arc," but enraged Protestant unionists. A unionist politician derided her as a "miniskirted Castro."

McAliskey lost her parliamentary seat in 1974, but remained an unabashed radical. She scandalized Irish-Americans in Boston when she told them she felt more comfortable, and had more in common, with blacks in Roxbury than with white Irish-Americans.

McAliskey is allowed to visit her daughter only every other week. They are not allowed to embrace or have any physical contact. They sit in separate rooms and try to hold a shouting conversation. McAliskey said the authorities have already told her that she will not be allowed to attend the birth of her first grandchild.

She is bitter over all this, but says the treatment afforded her daughter goes beyond one family's personal struggle.

"The way the British are handling this sends a message to young nationalists. It says, 'Nothing's changed. If you stand up to us, we will crush you.' It feeds the conflict," she says.

For three decades, McAliskey has fought mostly other people's battles. She acknowledges that this one "is heavier, because you carry the emotional weight of your own child."

"I've fought for everybody else's child," she says, "Now I've got to fight for mine."

This story ran on page A1 of the Boston Globe on 02/26/97. #K2PP#

WASHINGTON POST

Editorial: Setting Jerusalem in Concrete
Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A20

THE ISRAELI government risks badly overloading the negotiating circuits by announcing plans to build 6,500 new housing units for Jews in Israeli-occupied and -annexed East Jerusalem. This major housing project for 30,000 people is to go in a sector claimed by Palestinians as their future capital. As a unilateral gesture imposed by Israeli arms, it undercuts Israel's professed readiness to negotiate the future of Jerusalem as peace talks turn from interim to permanent terms.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, it seems, had a political requirement. He had bruised his supporters on his right by what they saw as his falling from annexationist principle on the issues involving Hebron. This is the tribute he now makes to the hard-liners. But he is easing his political problem by dumping a new political burden on Yasser Arafat. This is the pattern, and the mutual bane, of Arab-Israeli negotiations. Nothing so surely inflames Palestinian opinion as to see Israelis "creating facts"--new settlements or, in this instance, new apartments--on land ostensibly intended for cooperative disposition. If Palestinian unrest now bubbles over into violence, the Israeli government can be expected to hold the Palestinians politically liable.

Meanwhile, Mr. Netanyahu has sought to bait an attractive hook for the Palestinians. It lies in his offer to prepare for the immediate building in East Jerusalem of 3,000 units for Arabs, along with the first 2,500 units for Jews. The offer indicates not just a concern for Arab housing relief in a congested, living city but also an Israeli openness to a permanent independent Arab minority in a city otherwise claimed by Israel as its exclusive capital. But of course if Palestinians take the housing, they will be at least partly accommodating a unilateral Israeli scheme for Jerusalem.

It has long been said that Jerusalem, being the hardest Palestinian-Israeli issue, should be left to last. But Israel, by its aggressive map-drawing and hou

sing construction, has literally been setting in concrete its vision of its undivided sovereign capital practically since it acquired the land from Jordan in 1967. More than 150,000 Israeli Jews already live in the expanded post-1967 East Jerusalem, with about the same number of Arabs. At this late date, the scope of negotiation has shrunk. But that small space should not be unilaterally preempted just as negotiators start looking, as they must, for ways to share a city precious to the two peoples.#K2PP#

WASHINGTON POST
Jewish Expansion Set in E. Jerusalem
By Barton Gellman
Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A01

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26--Israel pressed ahead today with plans to build a new neighborhood for 30,000 Jews in East Jerusalem, the largest Jewish residential project since 1980 in the holy city's disputed Arab portion.

The decision returned the Jewish state to a course of confrontation with its Arab peace partners and Palestinian leaders warned it could set off violent clashes with Palestinians at the site and elsewhere.

In going forward with the vast project despite opposition in the Middle East and other places, Israel seeks to cement its claim to all of Jerusalem, including the eastern half conquered from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East War, as its "eternal and undivided capital." Arabs, as well, have long claimed the city and Palestinians, for whom it is a much more recent but no less central symbol of nationhood, insist East Jerusalem should be the capital of their hoped-for independent state.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government staged a show of force to accompany the late afternoon announcement, deploying additional police and border guards in Jerusalem and leaking word that the army has plans to deal with any repeat of last September's gun battles with Palestinian security forces. Officials noted pointedly that Israel is scheduled to hand over another chunk of the West Bank to Palestinian control by March 7 and said the Palestinians thus have "something to lose" from any breakdown in talks.

The Clinton administration, which had sought to dissuade Netanyahu from the construction project, seemed to have reached the conclusion that the Likud leader needed to assuage his right wing after agreeing last month to withdraw the

I
sraeli army from most of Hebron, a predominantly Arab city on the West Bank. A
White House spokesman, David
Johnson, issued a mild rebuke, saying the "decision taken today further complicates an already complicated situation."
But the
administration focused its diplomacy on warning the Palestinians against a violent response.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sought no public forum this evening, but he already has begun gearing up an international campaign of condemnation in the Arab League and U.N. Security Council. Grass-roots organizers said they will resist construction when it begins, as early as several days from now, at the site called Jebel Abu Ghena'im in Arabic and Har Homa in Hebrew.

Faisal Husseini, the city's senior Palestinian official, predicted flatly, "There will be an explosion."

Some of Netanyahu's ministers issued equally martial declarations, such as Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani's that "the battle for Jerusalem has begun." But Netanyahu, to an audience of Arab journalists, portrayed the building plan as part of "our vision of peace," saying that vision includes "peaceful coexistence and harmony between Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs."

Former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who used similar language to describe a far more modest Jewish building project in East Jerusalem less than two years ago, was forced to abandon it under international and domestic pressure. Only an American veto, the first since 1990, staved off a Security Council condemnation then, and Rabin's relations with Jordan and Egypt were set back.

Netanyahu tried to avert that fate with a telephone call today explaining his plan to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. A senior aide said Mubarak warned Netanyahu against proceeding. Later, an Egyptian official said that a previously

discussed Netanyahu trip to Cairo--understood as a firm invitation by Israel--is now no more than "a possibility."

Jordan's King Hussein dispatched a special envoy urging Netanyahu to reconsider, and Jordanian television quoted him as saying the move "is bound to shake the credibility of the peace process as a whole and fuel feelings of anger that will create violence." His brother, Crown Prince Hassan, canceled a planned trip

ip to Israel to dedicate a new peace center to Rabin.

In an effort to demonstrate evenhandedness, Netanyahu pledged that the first phase of construction--2,500 government-built Jewish apartments, of a planned total of 6,500-- will be matched by 3,000 private Arab building permits elsewhere in the city. Only 663 such permits have been issued to Arabs since 1990, a period in which Jews were allowed to build 13,835 apartments in Jerusalem, according to municipal figures.

That dramatically disparate treatment of Arab and Jewish housing needs, applied by Labor and Likud governments alike for 30 years, has enabled Israel to turn East Jerusalem from a virtually all-Arab city in 1967 to one in which Jews slightly outnumber the remaining 160,000 Arabs.

With negotiations set to begin on Jerusalem's future status as part of the next stage of Israeli-Palestinian talks, both sides have intensified their efforts to establish such accomplished facts.

Arafat's Palestinian Authority has made inroads on the Temple Mount, acquiring effective control of the Islamic trust that administers the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa mosque, and it has insinuated plainclothed security forces into Arab neighborhoods. But Israel controls far more of the cards, and its Har Homa building project is among the most important. Israel expropriated the land in 1991--unusually, more of it came from Jews than from Arab owners--because of its

strategic location. The 463-acre site holds a commanding position, 2,500 feet high, between the Palestinian neighborhoods of Sur Baher and Umm Tuba to the north and the city of Bethlehem to the south. Apart from its demographic impact, bringing a decisive Jewish majority to East Jerusalem, the new neighborhood would effectively fence off southern Jerusalem's Arab population centers from the Palestinian city of Bethlehem farther south.

Since annexing Jerusalem's eastern portion after capturing it in 1967, Israel has expropriated 5,875 acres of land, most of it from private Arab owners. That is more than one-third of East Jerusalem, proportionally equivalent to all of the District of Columbia east of the Anacostia River. On that expropriated land, and, according to municipal data gathered by the group Ir Shalem and not disputed by the government, Israel has built 38,500 housing units for Jews and none for Arabs.

Under Netanyahu and his ultra-Orthodox Shas party interior minister, the government has apparently stepped up parallel efforts to strip Palestinians of their legal right to live in Jerusalem, confiscating or refusing to renew Jerusalem identity cards of Palestinians who live abroad, or even in adjacent towns in the West Bank.

Since the new government came to power, according to the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem, Edward Abington, the Interior Ministry has told 72 dual Palestinian American citizens that they must renounce U.S. citizenship or lose their right to live in Jerusalem. Tens of thousands of Israeli Jews maintain dual citizenship without loss of residency rights.

"They deny that it's their policy," Abington said, noting that there has been no satisfactory response to consular protests.

"It clearly is a policy. We have too many sworn affidavits saying it is. We feel it is clearly discriminatory against Americans."#K2P P#

NEW YORK TIMES

Israel Plans Jewish Housing in East Jerusalem

By Serge Schmemmann

February 27, 1997

JERUSALEM--The Israeli government on Wednesday approved the development of a large new Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem, drawing a chorus of Arab and international denunciation and defying warnings that the move could provoke a new wave of Palestinian rage.

Seeking to defuse Palestinian anger, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went on Arabic radio and television to portray the widely anticipated development decision as a benign attempt to alleviate a housing shortage in Jerusalem, and even as a bid for "peaceful coexistence and harmony between Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs."

But most Israelis, Palestinians and foreign governments saw the decision to develop the first 2,500 of a planned 6,500 housing units on a wooded lot in southern Jerusalem as a fateful step in the bitter competition for Jerusalem.

"The struggle for Jerusalem has begun," the Israeli police minister, Avigdor Kahalani, said as he went into a session of a special ministerial committee on Jerusalem affairs. "When we take our decision today, we will make it clear once

e and for
all that Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people."

After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh made the announcement that the government would go ahead with the development of the units in an area known to Palestinians as Jabal Abu Ghneim and to Israelis as Har Homa.

Naveh said the government also approved work that would pave the way for construction of some 3,000 housing units for Palestinians in various neighborhoods of East Jerusalem.

Israeli nationalists, who had threatened to bring down Netanyahu's government if he did not approve the Har Homa project, also made no secret that they viewed the development as part of a chain of Jewish neighborhoods around eastern Jerusalem that would preclude any future division of the city.

While Israelis maintain a united Jerusalem will always be theirs, the Palestinian Authority wants to see the old eastern section of the city, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war, become the capital of the independent state it hopes to create.

The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, called an emergency meeting of his negotiating team in Gaza after the Israeli announcement. He made no immediate statement, but other Palestinian leaders, who have been warning of potential violence if Israel went ahead with the project, condemned the decision.

"This decision is a serious violation of the peace process and a major blow to the agreements," said Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, general secretary of the Palestinian Authority.

The White House declared that the action "further complicates an already complicated situation." The European Union issued a statement saying it "deeply deplores" the decision, adding that it had repeatedly stated that "settlements in the occupied territories contravene international law and are a major obstacle to peace."

King Hussein of Jordan, who was Netanyahu's host in Amman earlier this week, warned that the decision would "fuel feelings of anger that will create violence and threaten the peace-building process."

But in private messages to Arab and American officials, Netanyahu and his aides were said to have argued that the prime minister had no choice but to go ahead.

ad with the Har Homa development if he was to survive in office.

Earlier this month, several members of his coalition, evidently concerned that Netanyahu was backing away from the right-wing platform on which he was elected, warned that they would bring down his government unless he promptly approved the construction in East Jerusalem.

The challengers included members of Netanyahu's own Likud party, as well as Industry Minister Natan Sharansky and the leaders of smaller parties.

Despite the various warnings that approval of the Har Homa project could provoke a new wave of violence on the scale of what followed the opening of the archaeological tunnel in the Old City last September, there was no certainty what the reaction would be.

Arafat, who is due to fly to Washington next week to meet with President Clinton, was believed to be wary of permitting large-scale disorder.

The United States told Israeli Cabinet officials that it objected to the plan before the vote. It is expected to be a topic of discussion in meetings Arafat has with Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Nicholas Burns, the State Department's spokesman, called for calm on Wednesday, but added: "Frankly, the United States would have preferred a different decision. We would have preferred that this decision not have been taken."

In what appeared to be a further attempt to dissuade the Palestinians from reacting with violence, unnamed officials were quoted in Israeli newspapers as saying that any disorder could lead to a delay in the transfer of more West Bank lands to Palestinian control. Under the agreement on withdrawing Israeli troops from Hebron that Arafat and Netanyahu reached last month, Israel also agreed that the first of three further pullbacks would take place on March 6.

There were unconfirmed reports that Netanyahu had agreed to increase the territory he would transfer as compensation for Har Homa.

There was little likelihood that any Palestinian would accept Netanyahu's interpretation of the decision to build housing for Jews as benign, or would view the proposed construction of housing for Arabs as a balance to Har Homa.

"The plan entails a modest and long overdue investment in infrastructures which

h will influence development obliquely and only at some undetermined date in the future," said a statement issued by Peace Now, an Israeli organization that has long campaigned for peace with the Palestinians. "For the past 29 years purported plans for Palestinian construction have been taken out of the mothball. Each time the Israeli government has implemented massive building for Israelis in East Jerusalem. None of these plans has been implemented."

According to Palestinian and Israeli human rights groups, more than one-third of East Jerusalem has been annexed by Israel since 1967, and more than 39,000 housing units have been built on it for Jews, and none for Palestinians. Of the remaining land, 60 percent is undeveloped.

The building plan does not involve displacing any Palestinians, since the land for the development was already expropriated in 1991, and most of it, about 75 percent, had been owned by Jews. In any case, actual construction was not expected to begin for at least two weeks. #K2P!P#

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Clinton Tells Saudis of U.S. Resolve
By Norman Kempster, Times Staff Writer
Wednesday, February 26, 1997

WASHINGTON President Clinton told a high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday that he is determined to do whatever is necessary to protect U.S. forces in the desert kingdom from the sort of terrorist bombing that killed 19 Air Force personnel last year as they slept in their barracks in Dhahran.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, who told reporters of Clinton's assertion, supplied no details about increased security precautions.

But the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh urged Americans living in the kingdom to be especially diligent because of fresh evidence that U.S. citizens may become targets for terrorist groups.

Clinton met at the White House with a delegation headed by Prince Sultan ibn Abdulaziz, third in line for the throne and longtime defense minister, for talks that both countries said solidified their generally warm relationship, despite Washington's growing concern about security in the oil-rich kingdom.

McCurry said Clinton "stressed his determination to protect the security of American troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, and they discussed our cooperation in

the fight against terrorism."

In brief remarks to reporters as he left the White House, Sultan said he reassured the president that Saudi investigators are making good progress in solving the bombing at the Khobar Towers barracks. He said that he renewed Saudi pledges to share information about the inquiry with the FBI, which has complained in the past that it was being kept in the dark.

Speaking in Arabic, which was translated by his son, Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar, Sultan said that he sensed a "positive response" from the president.

A few hours before the meeting began, the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh and consulates in Dhahran and Jidda began broadcasting a warning over telephone "hot lines" that provide recorded messages for U.S. citizens.

"Planning for terrorist action against U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia continues unabated," the message said, referring specifically to threats made in a British television interview by Osama bin Laden, an exiled Saudi millionaire living in Afghanistan who has vowed to drive Americans out of the birthplace of Islam.

The message said bin Laden "not only threatened against the U.S. military in Saudi Arabia but also called for the expulsion of American civilians."

"These statements and reports reinforce the embassy's view of the need for the private American community in Saudi Arabia to heighten its vigilance and alertness," it added.

U.S. officials said the situation will be especially dangerous during the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that begins in mid April, because the millions of visitors could provide an effective screen for terrorists and tax the kingdom's security forces.

Saudi officials in Washington expressed concern that security issues would overshadow the visit by one of the highest-level delegations the kingdom has sent to the United States in years. Besides Sultan, who ranks third in the kingdom behind the ailing King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah, the delegation included the kingdom's foreign, oil, commerce and deputy finance ministers.

A Saudi diplomat said the Saudis hope the meeting will set the tone for relations during Clinton's second term on such

topics as oil prices, U.S.Saudi military cooperation and the Middle East peace process.

"I would like to reaffirm the especially strong relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia," Sultan said. McCurry declared: "U.S.Saudi relations are strong and will remain so."

In contrast to most diplomatic missions, which begin with talks at a lower level and build to a meeting at the White House, Sultan started his visit with Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. Today he is to confer with Defense Secretary William S.Cohen and Thursday with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Saudi officials said the kingdom is seeking U.S. permission to sell 112 quarter-century-old F5 warplanes to help finance the purchase of newer jet fighters, possibly U.S. F16s. But Sultan said the issue did not come up during Tuesday's talks.

#K2P"P# NEW YORK TIMES
Clinton Orders Inquiry Into Destruction of Iraqi Depot in 1991
By Philip Shenon
February 27, 1997

WASHINGTON--President Clinton on Wednesday ordered an investigation of newly disclosed evidence that American soldiers who blew up an Iraqi ammunition depot in 1991 were not warned about intelligence reports suggesting that chemical weapons might have been stored there.

The government notified the soldiers only last year that they might have been exposed to a cloud of nerve gas and other chemical agents.

"We simply have to get to the bottom of it," the president said at a news conference. "We will act appropriately on any information we uncover."

Clinton ordered that the inquiry be carried out by the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, a special White House panel that was formed in 1995 to investigate the cause of the mysterious health problems reported by thousands of American soldiers who served in the war.

The president's announcement came amid a flurry of new accusations by veterans groups and members of Congress who say the documents made public this month by the Defense Department prove that the Pentagon and the CIA attempted to cover up evidence of chemical exposures during and after the Gulf War.

The agencies have steadfastly denied any effort to withhold information. They have struggled, however, to explain why evidence that the CIA suspected that chemicals were in the vicinity of the depot--and had warned the Army about the possibility--was not released earlier to congressional investigators and the public.

In announcing the results of an internal investigation on the incident, the Pentagon said Tuesday that Army officers received a warning from the CIA in February 1991, in the midst of the Gulf War, that chemical weapons might have been stored in the vicinity of the Kamisiyah ammunition depot in southern Iraq.

The information was relayed to some groups of American soldiers but not to the 37th Engineer Battalion, the unit that carried out the demolition of the sprawling depot in March 1991, a few days after the end of the war. Many veterans of the battalion have since complained of serious health problems.

Earlier this month, the Pentagon made public two newly declassified CIA reports showing that the agency issued a separate set of warnings to the Army in November 1991, several months after the war, about the possibility that American soldiers had been exposed to chemical weapons at Kamisiyah.

The new disclosures undermined the Pentagon's earlier accounts of the demolition of the depot, an incident that may have exposed more than 20,000 troops to nerve gas and other chemical weapons.

The Defense Department had insisted that the possibility of American soldiers' being exposed to chemical weapons in the demolition of the depot was only brought to the Pentagon's attention last year and that there had been no delay in

following up on intelligence information. There is still no conclusive evidence to suggest that any soldiers were actually sickened by the exposure.

The Pentagon's recent disclosures have also alarmed members of the presidential advisory committee, who say that they had never been told about the CIA's 1991 warnings, despite repeated vows of full disclosure from the agency and the Pentagon.

In a report presented to Clinton last month, the committee, which includes several prominent scientists and researchers, concluded that there was "overwhelming" evidence that American troops had been exposed to chemical weapons at Kamisiyah.

The committee's executive director, Robyn Nishimi, said in an interview Wednesday that while the new disclosures would not have affected the conclusions of the report, "I can certainly understand how this fuels the speculation about a cover-up."

The report by the White House panel singled out the CIA for praise, saying it had been forthcoming in providing information to the committee. But in light of the newly disclosed evidence, committee members said Wednesday that they were concerned that the agency might be withholding other important information.

"Was this intentional?--possibly," said Andrea Kidd Taylor, an occupational health specialist with the United Automobile Workers and a member of the panel. "It certainly appears that the CIA wasn't as forthcoming as it should have been."

In announcing the investigation at a White House news conference Wednesday with President Eduardo Frei of Chile, Clinton said: "It is essential that we get all the help we can from the PAC to focus on the documents and any other new information that might come to light. We cannot stop until we get all the answers about gulf war illnesses." PAC is an acronym for the advisory committee.

In a letter to the committee that was released by the White House, the president asked that the investigation be completed within 60 days.

"There are two important questions raised by these recently declassified documents," the letter said. "(1) When did we have sufficient evidence to conclude that chemical munitions were present at Kamisiyah and that U.S. forces conducting demolition activities may have been exposed to chemical warfare agent; and (2) once we had that information, what actions were taken by whom to investigate this alarming possibility."

There were clear signs of tension Wednesday between the Pentagon and the CIA over the recent disclosures, which have heightened the credibility crisis faced by the Clinton administration in its handling of the issue of gulf war illnesses.

The CIA issued a statement insisting that despite earlier comments from Pentagon officials to the contrary the February 1991 warning to the Army was ambiguous and had not specifically identified the Kamisiyah depot.

The CIA did not identify Kamisiyah as a possible chemical warfare facility until 1995, "and it was confirmed in 1996," the agency said. "The February 1991 report, unconfirmed intelligence cable informed DOD of the possible presence of chemical weapons in the An Nasiriyah region" of southern Iraq. The region "includes Kamisiyah though it was not mentioned by name in the report," it said. #K2P
#P#

NEW YORK TIMES
Even on Big News Day, Chinese Newspapers Toe Party Line
By Seth Faison
February 27, 1997

BEIJING--On Red Star Lane, a narrow alleyway in downtown Beijing where tiny stalls compete for space to sell fruit, comic books, socks and newspapers, it was the newspapers that sold swiftly Wednesday afternoon.

It did not really matter which newspaper a customer picked, because they all looked exactly the same. Beijing's major newspapers--People's Daily, Beijing Daily, Guangming Daily, People's Liberation Daily--all carried front pages with an identical layout, photographs and headline: "Comrade Deng Xiaoping's Funeral Solemnly Held in Beijing."

In a period of political transition, after Deng's death last week at 92, China's news outlets are the first place to look for a hint that a real change is under way, or that someone is challenging the new leadership headed by President Jiang Zemin.

But Wednesday, the pages of China's major newspapers looked deadly dull, with the same full text of Jiang's eulogy, itself a dry account of Deng's life and contributions that lacked any sign of initiative or rhetorical flourish. For a reader, not much to go on.

In fact, with China changing so rapidly in business and society, it is striking how torpid and old-fashioned the news outlets remain, and it is even more striking on a big news day. The more modern China becomes each year, the more its official coverage of political events stands out for seeming to be stuck in another time.

Given such a listless rendering of the day's news, what may be most surprising is that many newspapers sold at all. But Chinese newspaper readers, from year

s of practice, expect to look for subtle indications of political shifting, not for an accurate rendering of the day's events.

So Wednesday's news of Deng's funeral, full of symbolism if not content, was something to feed on. The day's newspapers sold far faster than usual on Red Star Lane.

"I want to read the speech," said Sun Yaping, a government employee, referring to the way he will scour it for subtle references. "This is an important time to read carefully."

Wang Yanli, a retired man who wandered down the lane from his home to buy the afternoon paper, said: "I'm getting old and don't care so much about politics. But I want to see how it looks today."

Oddly, it is precisely at times of national crisis in China when journalists are least busy, rather than the reverse. With a large and sensitive news story at hand, a Chinese editor explained, the writing and layout are dictated entirely by the authorities at the Propaganda Department, with little room for much else.

"They give us the material and put it in," said the editor, who insisted on anonymity. "This week has been the most relaxed we've been in years."

Wu Guoguang, a former editor at People's Daily who now teaches at the Chinese University in Hong Kong, pointed out that Chinese newspapers had progressed in small ways in the last 10 years, covering crime and international news that were as simply omitted in the past.

"In the political realm, you really have no chance of seeing anything in the newspapers," Wu said. "If we have a serious power struggle, it is more likely to be reported in a debate over economic policy."

Wu added that with the wheels of change turning slowly in China's top leadership, he did not expect to see any sign of serious debate in the Chinese news media for about six months.

Virtually all newspapers in China are government-controlled, and editors at the large ones take guidance daily from the Propaganda Department, now run by Ding Guangen. He has coordinated a political campaign in the last year to make sure that China's press, films and television are tightly supervised.

Ever since the Communist Party took power in 1949, China's media have been used to carry out political campaigns. That situation reached an extreme at the height of the Cultural Revolution in 1966, when People's Daily reflected the fanatical attitude of the day with the headline: "There Is Chaos Under Heaven -- the Situation Is Excellent."

A glaring exception to state control over the news media came in 1989, when student demonstrations paralyzed the party's leadership and won the sympathy of newspaper editors. For three weeks, newspapers reported freely on the demands for democracy, free speech and, incidentally, freedom of the press. #K2P\$P#

LOS ANGELES TIMES

FlareUp in China's Far West Points to Potential Hot Spot for New Regime

By Anthony Kuhn, Special to The Times

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

BEIJINGOnly two weeks before "paramount leader" Deng Xiaoping died in Beijing, Muslim separatists and Chinese police clashed violently in the far western Xinjiang region.

Chinese government officials said the Feb. 56 "riot" in the Central Asian region near the border with Kazakhstan was quickly subdued and that no more than 10 people died. But Muslim advocates of an independent "East Turkestan" claim that fighting still rages and that dozens have been killed, including Chinese police.

And with bombs killing at least two and injuring dozens in the regional capital, Urumqi, on

Tuesday, the very day of the Deng memorial, the latest flareup in Xinjiangone of China's most volatile regions, rich in oiland other natural resourcesunderscores what many feel will be a major challenge in the postDeng era: keeping the wild frontier territory tied to Beijing during a period of political transition.

"China can handle a bad image with Tibet, but there are larger international implications for how they handle Xinjiang, " said Dru Gladney, an expert on Chinese Muslims at the University of Hawaii.

The Xinjiang disturbances sparked demonstrations in Washington; Istanbul, Turkey; and other cities.

Because China relies increasingly on Middle Eastern oil imports, Gladney said, Beijing can't afford to alienate Islamic

nations "that have long felt solidarity with Muslims living under communism."

The region, which the Chinese government formally identifies as the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, covers about 636,000 square miles four times the size of California. Its vast stretches of arid dunes and forbidding mountains contain oil reserves estimated at up to 40 billion tons, accounting for nearly two fifths of China's total. The region also contains nearly 40% of China's coal, as well as rich resources of gold and copper.

In the glacier-fed oases that lie between the deserts and mountains, Xinjiang's dozen or so minority nationalities coexist uneasily with the majority Han Chinese. The minorities are tied across political boundaries to their ethnic relatives in the Central Asian states of the former Soviet Union.

Xinjiang's minorities the largest of which are the Turkic-speaking Muslim Uighurs have resisted assimilation by virtue of cultural, linguistic and geographic differences.

"We have nothing in common with the Chinese people or their culture," said Hui Tuerdi, a Uighur native of the city of Kashgar who now lives in the United States. "Even though they think their culture is superior to ours, we find they have nothing attractive to us except the superior technology, which they also got from the West."

The resentment is apparently mutual. Han Chinese often gripe about preferential treatment they believe minorities are getting. They often view minority religions and customs as tokens of backwardness.

Han chauvinism reached fanatical heights during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, when mosques were razed, public prayer was banned, Koranic schools were shut down and Han settlers raised pigs in Muslim neighborhoods in violation of Islamic prohibitions.

Like Tibetans, Xinjiang's minorities complain that they are being swamped by a flood of ethnic Han Chinese from the crowded east. While Chinese officials estimate that minorities make up 59% of a population of about 15 million in the region, Uighurs contend they are already outnumbered by Han. The resulting animosity has fueled sporadic violence in Xinjiang for decades. Last year, separatists killed a pro-government Muslim leader of the regional parliament, and a

oliceman and a Muslim were shot to death when authorities tried to catch a suspect.

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the politically shaky Central Asian states have become wary both of growing Islamic fundamentalism and of China's wrath toward countries that harbor its separatists. The states have responded to China's offers of increased trade and investment by curbing separatist agitation at home. Last year, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan signed a communique in Shanghai agreeing to avoid military conflict along common borders.

Beijing recognizes that eastern and western China did not benefit equally from the economic gains of the Deng era. To compensate, President Jiang Zemin has pledged to narrow income disparities by increasing government investment in land infrastructure and natural resource exploitation.

But Uighurs say that outsiders will just "repatriate" their profits to Beijing. Xinjiang gets to keep little of its oil revenue. Uighur separatists claim that almost all of the industrial and technical jobs in the region are set aside to entice Han Chinese to migrate to Xinjiang while large numbers of minority youth remain unemployed. Many of these resort to drug trafficking and other crime.

The death of Deng is unlikely to have an immediate effect on the shaky balance of the region. China's current leadership is determined to learn from the Soviet collapse and strengthen the central government. But if political instability develops in Beijing, the Muslims of Xinjiang probably will be among the first to take advantage of it.

Like their Han compatriots, Uighurs greeted the news of Deng's death with a range of sentiments from optimism to indifference.

"I hope Deng's death will bring change to people who are dissatisfied with their fortunes under the Deng regime," said a Uighur restaurateur in Beijing who requested anonymity.

Another Uighur exile, writing anonymously on the Internet, ventured that "another, greater Chinese leader will emerge" who, like former Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, will "liberate Uighurs and Tibetans, because the ultimate way for them to preserve [their] own culture is through independence."

Exile Huji Tuerdi viewed the prospect of transition with disaffected equanimity: "We do not have too many personal opinions about Deng Xiaoping. . . . The wolf goes and the jackal comes."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

China Would Like To Stave Off A Formal United Nations Condemnation Of Its Human Rights Practices.

By Jim Mann

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

WASHINGTON The funeral ceremonies for Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping are over, so what will his chosen successor, President Jiang Zemin, do now? And how should President Clinton handle Jiang's opening gambits?

At the moment, Jiang is struggling with what the Chinese indelicately call *shimen zheng zhi* "dead man politics." He is trying to overcome the legacy of recent Chinese history: that the deaths of Chinese leaders have, over the past decades, often led to political upheaval.

That is why the funeral ceremonies for Deng were so carefully controlled. Jiang, as stiff and angular as a pane of glass wearing spectacles, gave a warm, correct eulogy for Deng. But on television he also looked as if he were thinking, "Let's hurry up and get back to business."

The hunch here is that Jiang will, over the coming weeks or months, make some sort of modest gesture toward the United States. He may retreat a bit from China's intransigent humanrights policies of the last few years. Or he may make some conciliatory move in another area, like weapons proliferation.

Jiang has some good foreignpolicy reasons for doing so. China would like to stave off a formal United Nations condemnation of its humanrights practices; that issue may come to a vote at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in April. Meeting fences with the United States would show Jiang's leadership ability. And it might conceivably be good politics at home, too.

There is speculation, for example, that China may be preparing to release a few dissidents, or that it may offer to talk about letting the International Committee of the Red Cross into its prisons. But administration officials said this week that for now, there is no sign of any change in China's policies. "It'

s the same old story," one U.S. official said.

If Jiang does make such a move, however, Clinton and his new foreign policy team will confront some hard decisions.

They are going to have to figure out how to evaluate any peace offering from Jiang. Should they seize upon it as a sign of dramatic change and use it to declare victory for their China policy?

Let's hope Clinton shows restraint. It would be worthwhile to keep two episodes from China's recent history in mind. The first occurred on Clinton's own watch in the White House. The other took place during the earliest stages of Deng Xiaoping's rule.

In the fall of 1993, just as Jiang was preparing to meet Clinton for the first time during a summit meeting of Asian leaders, China made a startling announcement: It was willing to talk about letting the Red Cross into its jails.

That would have been a significant step for China, whose extensive prison system has long been offlimits to outsiders. The news made the front pages of American papers.

The problem is that it never happened. After the 1993 summit, China balked at following through. The Red Cross conducted endless negotiations with China, but they went nowhere. Instead, China has moved backward on human rights to the point where the State Department concluded that in 1996, "all public dissent against the party and government was effectively silenced."

Oddly enough, the last four years of Chinese truculence leave Jiang in good shape to negotiate. He can take steps to ease repression in ways that will win him praise around the world. And yet, it is possible he will be merely returning the situation in China to where it was four years ago.

If China starts talking about opening its prisons to the Red Cross, that would simply bring things back to where they were in 1993.

Or let's suppose Jiang takes the much more dramatic step of releasing Wei Jingsheng, China's most prominent proponent of democracy. That would seem improbable, vastly out of character with the way the Chinese regime has behaved for the last four years. Yet even Wei's release would bring things back only to where they were in 1993, when Wei was set free while China was trying to win support to hold the Olympic Games in Beijing.

In other words, as the Clinton administration deals with China under Jiang, it's a classic case of having been down so long that everything begins to look like up. Whatever changes may be forthcoming from China should be kept in perspective.

The other episode worth remembering dates back nearly two decades. In late 1978, just as Deng was working to gain control over the Chinese Communist Party, he sent out signals that he supported China's fledgling democracy movement.

At the time, the Beijing streets were full of young Chinese talking about the need for change; they put up wall posters calling for democratic political institutions and the creation of a modern legal system. Deng told foreign visitors the wall posters were "a good thing." The crowds in the street cheered.

Wei Jingsheng happened to be one of those young Chinese activists. A British diplomat asked Wei why he didn't believe that leaders like Deng wanted more freedom in China. "Because they have been Communists all their lives," Wei replied. His instincts were right. Over the next two years, Deng reversed course, eradicated the protest movement and jailing its leaders.

The lesson is clear. It is conceivable that, with the death of Deng, some small hints of political change may be coming soon in China. We need to be prepared to ask ourselves how far these changes go, and whether they will prove to be merely evanescent.

In the past, too many have been fooled too often into believing Chinese leaders talk about a political opening. Let's watch Jiang and his colleagues with both skepticism and a sense of history.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

At China's Helm, Jiang Is Suddenly Alone
By Rone Tempest, Times Staff Writer
Wednesday, February 26, 1997

BEIJINGFinally, it was Jiang Zemin's time to stand alone. Tense, emotional, stopping to dab tears from his eyes, Jiang, 70, China's president and Communist Party leader and commander in chief of the world's largest army, delivered the eulogy for "paramount leader" Deng Xiaoping on Tuesday in the Great Hall of the

e People.

That Jiang was chosen to head Deng's funeral committee and deliver the farewell oration before the 10,000 assembled members of the Communist Party elite already meant something. It confirmed that the former Shanghai mayor was at least "first among equals" in the post-Deng political equation.

Moreover, Prime Minister Li Peng, one of his purported rivals in the post-Deng political succession, had only a few lines to speak at the memorial. They were mostly inaudible because Li did not stand close enough to the microphone. This caused irreverent titters among at least a few of the estimated 400 million people who watched the service on national television. "At least Jiang Zemin knows how to read from a prepared text," quipped a Beijing accountant.

But as diplomats sifted through the 50-minute speech in search of elusive import, the most striking impression left by China's final formal farewell to Deng was what might be called the sudden loneliness of Jiang Zemin. For the first time in the seven years since he was lifted from the obscurity of his provincial deck chair to sit at the captain's table in the political order, Jiang no longer had his principal patron to prop him up.

Deng, his starmaker, was finally dead at age 92. Although Deng had not been healthy enough to participate actively in politics since at least 1993, his aura as a famed revolutionary still had great protective force while he remained alive, however enfeebled.

Where Deng was unassailable, protected by his role as one of the founders of Chinese communism, Jiang on Tuesday appeared suddenly vulnerable. This was instantly obvious to many who watched him sob into his handkerchief during the funeral oration.

"Now he can no longer go to Deng Xiaoping for help, or say that 'Deng Xiaoping said this' or 'Deng Xiaoping said that,'" commented a Beijing-based diplomat.

"Now the other officials can finally argue with him," said a midlevel military officer.

Of course, not everyone agreed with this assessment. "Between the 15th [Communist] Party Congress this fall and next spring there will be a reshuffling of leadership," said a former Justice Ministry official who is now in private busi-

ness. "I think Deng's death is actually good for the transition. It removes restraints upon Jiang, since at times there had been friction between him and Deng."

Meanwhile, most diplomats and analysts agreed that the entire mourning period from Deng's death last Wednesday to the steam engines lined up in the rail yards blowing their whistles to announce the memorial ceremony had been almost perfectly choreographed by the Beijing regime. Credit for that will probably go to Jiang, who was chairman of the funeral committee.

"It went like clockwork," said one admiring diplomat. Cynics commented that this was no great feat, because Deng's long, slow decline gave the Chinese leadership almost seven years to prepare for this inevitable event.

Still, nothing was left to chance. Beijing's Tiananmen Square, the site of practically all of China's key political protests in the last century, was cleared by police hours before the memorial. Television coverage of Deng's private funeral and cremation Monday was comprehensive and perfect in detail for the mass audience, down to the closeup of the late senior leader's daughter, Deng Na, kissing the waxen cheek of her dead father.

At the events attended by China's senior leaders, the same political protocol was strictly observed: First came President Jiang, then Premier Li, then National People's Congress leader Qiao Shi, down to the members of the Politburo and so on in perfect descending order as though they had been lifted off the leadership charts at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va.

And the content of the funeral oration itself? Analysts and students of nuance in the Communist political rhetoric agreed there were only a few key moments.

According to an elderly, retired cadre who scrutinizes such language, the most important elements were that Jiang equated Deng's historical stature with that of Chairman Mao Tsetung; that he boldly and clearly described the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution as a "grave mistake"; and that he carefully managed his description of the 1989 incident in Tiananmen Square, where a military crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators left hundreds, perhaps thousands, dead.

Before his death, Deng had always been placed at a lower rung of the revolution

nary ladder than Mao. Now, in Jiang's speech, he was on a par.

Although Deng himself made it fashionable to criticize the political terrors of the Cultural Revolution, during which Deng was humiliated and exiled to the provinces, it had seldom before been so clearly characterized as a serious blunder.

"Of course, privately, we all said that," said the retired cadre.

Finally, there was the careful way that Jiang treated the period of open political opposition that led to the Tiananmen Square crackdown. That Jiang brought up this incident, however obliquely, was not a big surprise. "You can't just not mention anything about it," said a diplomat, commenting on the eulogy as a historical document, written by committee, that recounts the events of a man's life.

But the way in which the Tiananmen mention was phrased won admiration from the retired cadre, among others, who noted of Jiang: "His way of speaking of it was very subtle, very clever."

Jiang termed the events leading up to the Tiananmen incident a "severe test" and said, "With political upheavals occurring both domestically and internationally at the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s, our party faced another major historical juncture."

The retired cadre noted that Jiang "said it was something that happened in his story. But he didn't go into details because the details are controversial." Jiang, for example, did not characterize the participants in the 1989 political demonstrations in any way. Nor, tellingly, did he implicate himself in the incident, instead laying responsibility on "Comrade Deng Xiaoping and other senior comrades . . . the party and the government."

Some diplomats had hoped that Jiang would offer a "reassessment" of Tiananmen, a move that would rectify this shameful chapter in Chinese history. But after the speech, several said they were satisfied that he at least did not rule out the possibility of a healing reassessment in the future. "He definitely did not close the door," said one diplomat.

Most diplomats and observers agreed that Jiang China's man of the hour survived his first serious test by avoiding controversy and skillfully managing the difficult Deng mourning period. But how much momentum this will give him as he

at
tempts to lead China remains to be seen, for, as in the complicated plots of the famous and famously long Peking Opera, said the former Justice Ministry official, "The good scenes are yet to come."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Editorial: Telling It Like It Is In China
Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Madeleine Albright's message to Beijing this week was refreshingly clear: Let's be friends, but clean up your act on human rights.

In a visit intended to put a tougher, nononsense stamp on U.S. foreign policy, Albright warned Beijing after Deng Xiaoping's death that without progress on human rights, the U.S. would put its signature to a UN resolution criticizing China's record. That's something President Jiang Zemin couldn't have been all that happy to hear.

During meetings in which she says she "told it like it is," Albright conveyed the U.S. desire for a smooth transition in Hong Kong when the colony reverts to mainland rule July 1. She also told the Chinese the U.S. expects Hong Kong's traditions of freedom and capitalism to be respected.

Pushing beyond human rights, Albright warned that sales of weapons and chemicals to Iran and Pakistan could create a problem in U.S.-China relations and asked Beijing to lighten up on Taiwan.

Albright's approach is a decided change from that of her predecessor, Warren Christopher, who does not indicate a cavalier attitude toward an emerging superpower. In fact, she called U.S. relations with China a key to stability and prosperity in the 21st Century and stressed that her purpose in coming to Beijing was to demonstrate continuity in U.S. policy. Moreover, she joined her Chinese hosts in expressing the need for progress toward improved relations.

With Russia facing years of recovery from decades of reckless Soviet economic and social experiments, China presents the U.S. with perhaps its greatest global challenge in the immediate future.

It is in both nations' interests to set realistic goals for cooperation and community. But the price of harmony cannot be U.S. or global disregard of human liberties in the world's most populous nation.

Albright let it be known that the U.S. will continue its pressure on Beijing's leaders while she is secretary of state. She seems to promise a strong and thoughtful approach to a tough foreign policy challenge.

The Chinese didn't appear to be put off or offended by her blunt demeanor. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen expressed gratitude for her frankness, and Prime Minister Li Pang avoided all traces of past sarcasm.

With honesty and openness as her policy, Albright may be off to a good start toward improving a complex and important relationship.

XX CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Two Statutes Worry Hong Kongers On Future Liberties Under China
Todd Crowell, Special to The Christian Science Monitor
Thursday February 27, 1997 Edition

HONG KONG Some Hong Kong laws may have to go because they conflict with the territory's post-1997 constitution, called the Basic Law, or because they apparently are politically unacceptable to China.

The Beijing-appointed Preparatory Committee, charged with managing handover details, scrutinized all 550 local ordinances and recommended that 25 of them be either scrapped or modified. That action has caused considerable unhappiness in the territory.

Some of the laws are anachronisms, such as the "Colony Armorial Bearings Ordinance," which prohibits the use of Hong Kong's royal coat of arms without permission. But other changes strike close to the heart of the colony's freedoms.

At issue are two statutes: the Public Order and the Societies Ordinances. The Preparatory Committee recommended reinstating language, repealed as recently as 1995, which would require police permits for holding demonstrations and limit the freedom of political parties to form links with foreign organizations.

Even some who normally sympathize with China's point of view say such changes are unwarranted. "I've read the Basic Law again and again, and I cannot find how it is infringed" by these statutes, claims Allen Lee, a member of the provisional legislature, which will formulate replacement laws. Though the number of public protests has risen in tandem with growing tensions accompanying the transition, none has produced violence or bloodshed.

Some say that the new chief executive designate, Tung Chee Hwa, who replaces the colonial governor on July 1, was too quick to endorse the committee's proposals. Since then, he has backpedaled somewhat, noting that what is to replace these laws will be up to his government, not China.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
East Barely Meets West in Hong Kong
Todd Crowell, Special to The Christian Science Monitor
Thursday February 27, 1997 Edition

HONG KONG It's quite a challenge. How do you translate the common law, some of the terms incomprehensible even to untrained English speakers, into Chinese, the language of a country with no commonlaw tradition, not even, some would argue, respect for the rule of law?

For the past 10 years, Tony Yen and his crew of 46 lawyers and translators have been laboring mightily to translate into Chinese the legal accumulation of 150 years of British colonial rule. That amounts to some 550 ordinances, or 21,000 pages of text.

All of the basic translations have been completed, and they are slowly working their way through a complex vetting process that is about twothirds complete.

Mr. Yen is working overtime to see that it is finished by the time the British flag is hauled down in about four months. "Our target is to complete the entire process by July 1," he says.

It hasn't always been easy. Take a typical phrase: the burden of proof. "That's not too hard," Yen says. "There are accepted transliterations of the main words." In literal Chinese it comes out as something like "responsibility for providing evidence."

But other, more arcane legal terms derived from Europe's feudal past have proved almost impossible to translate.

"Sometimes we've had to coin entirely new words," he says. The results have sometimes been criticized as being inelegant Chinese (a charge not unknown against legalese in English either.)

A more serious criticism is that disagreements will arise over different meanings between Chinese and English. "The fear held by many is that a wholesale swinging toward the use of Chinese throughout our courts will eventually lead to the

abandonment of the commonlaw system," says Christopher Chan, president of the Law Society.

"We anticipated this problem when we began 10 years ago," Yen says. His group studied and adopted some of the solutions of other bilingual jurisdictions, such as Canada and especially the United Nations. He notes that arguments over meanings of words are unavoidable, even in singlelanguage environments.

The work of Yen and his colleagues is critical because under a 1984 Sino British agreement Hong Kong will remain a commonlaw jurisdiction, even after China's takeover. The courts, respect for contracts, and the rule of law are considered essential for the territory's continuing prosperity and autonomy from the communist mainland.

Because of the complexities of the common law, the judiciary, now about half expatriate, will likely be staffed with foreigners for many years after the handover. Attorney General Jeremy Mathews is almost the last British holdout, besides the governor, in the upper reaches of the civil service, now "localized" with ethnic Chinese. Chief Executive designate Tung Chee Hwa recently named solicitor Elsie Leung to replace him after July 1.

The new Final Court of Appeal, which replaces London's Privy Council as the territory's post1997 court of final appeal, is comprised of five justices, one of whom may be a foreigner from another commonlaw jurisdiction. Many liberals would have preferred that there be at least two foreigners to ensure the continuity of the legal system.

All of this means that English will continue to be the primary language of Hong Kong's courts for a long time. In recent years, some lowerlevel court trials have been conducted in Cantonese, the local dialect. But in the higher courts, English is still the rule. Even Chinese lawyers, many trained in London, may feel more comfortable arguing fine points of law in English. Moreover, many of the precedents would be taken from other commonlaw jurisdictions, almost invariably in English.

Jury trials are still in English, which raises the question of whether the 98 percent Chinese majority really receives trials by their "peers" since the jury pool is by necessity heavily weighted toward expatriates. Only about 250,000 of the territory's 6.3 million people are fluent enough in English to follow the proceedings and thus be eligible to serve on juries.

"We're not trying to abandon the use of English entirely; we're providing an alternative," says law drafter Yen. "We'll need one or two generations before we become completely bilingual."

There are some who doubt that the rule of law can be preserved in Hong Kong following the handover, just as there are those skeptical of other promises of maintaining civil liberties and local autonomy. In January, for example, a US district court judge in Boston refused to extradite an accused smuggler back to Hong Kong because he would appear in court after July 1.

Judge Joseph Tauro seems to have based his ruling on the technical grounds that the US doesn't have an extradition treaty with China, which is sovereign in Hong Kong after July 1. The US Justice Department, eager that the US not become a future haven for Hong Kong criminals, has appealed the decision.

Such higher issues do not stop Yen and his team as they rush to finish their task. Translating laws into Chinese does not guarantee that the British common law will continue. But if they do their work well, it will make sure that the accused will be tried in their own vernacular, without compromising their basic rights.

BOSTON GLOBE

Editorial: Deng's Terrible Legacy In Tibet
By Globe Staff, 02/26/97

Even after the Leninist oligarchy he left in power has passed from the scene, Deng Xiaoping may be remembered by his countrymen primarily as the realist who undid the damage of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution.

For another people, the Tibetans, Deng's historic role has already been clearly defined. From the early days of the Communist invasion of Tibet, Deng was the great tormentor of Tibetans.

In 1950, Mao entrusted the "liberation" of Tibet to Deng, leader of the party's southwest bureau and political commissar of the 2d Field Army of the People's Liberation Army, the military arm that the Chinese Communists used to conquer the "roof of the world." Deng's brutal policies after the conquest provoked the Tibetan revolts of the '50s. In a deliberate effort to liquidate the religious and cultural tradition of the Tibetans, Deng had senior Buddhist lama

s taken off to China, where they disappeared. Sacred scriptures were used to pave public toilets. Communist Party functionaries supplanted Buddhist monks in the administration of renowned monasteries. Mao had wanted to proceed more slowly in colonizing Tibet, but Deng's insistence on a hard line prevailed. Deng purged Tibetan Communists who had the disloyalty to complain about the murder of Tibetans during the "squashing rebellion" movements from 1957 to 1959.

When Deng returned to power after being purged himself during the Cultural Revolution, he dictated Tibet policy. One reason his heir apparent, Hu Yaobang, lost power was because he proposed more autonomy for Tibet. In the last decade, Deng presided over campaigns of repression in Tibet and a migration of Han Chinese meant to render the Tibetans a minority in their own country.

In an open letter to Deng, the imprisoned Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng wrote that Deng will be "condemned by history" for the tragedy he directed in Tibet. As a prisoner of conscience speaking truth to power, Wei exposed the parochial lies Beijing has told about Tibet. He identified history's verdict on Deng with Tibet's.

This story ran on page A14 of the Boston Globe on 02/26/97.

BOSTON GLOBE
China Ends Mourning, Embraces Deng Legacy
By Indira A. R. Lakshmanan, Globe Staff, 02/26/97

BEIJING Ship horns, train whistles and factory sirens sounded in unison at 10 a.m. yesterday from China's vast northwest to the bustling harbor of Hong Kong, a colony just four months away from rejoining the country as Chinese saluted Deng Xiaoping and called for stability of the regime and continuity of the economic reforms he championed.

A memorial service orchestrated by the Communist Party hierarchy brought to a close six days of official mourning for Deng, who died last week at 92. As with other events since his death, the ceremony projected an image of a country united in its commitment to carry forward his legacy of firm leadership and development of an increasingly open market.

"Without Comrade Deng Xiaoping, it would be impossible for the people of China to have this new life," said President

Jiang Zemin in a tearful eulogy. ``We have to adhere to the teachings of Comrade Deng Xiaoping. ... The central committee calls on all people to turn grief into strength."

Yet China today is a country also united by its ubiquitous commercial bustle. Business continued as usual during the mourning period, and while people expressed their high regard for Deng and his reforms, the flags at halfstaff and a ban on singing and dancing for lunar New Year's were in many places the only outward indications that something was different.

The stock exchange in Shanghai, a city that owes its renaissance to Deng's opening of a special economic zone, was denied a request to close for a half day in observance of his funeral.

The lowkey approach to Deng's passing his body did not lie in state, but was cremated in a private ceremony was in keeping with his family's wishes. But it was also seen as an attempt by the government to prevent the kind of demonstrations that have followed the deaths of other top leaders and to drive home the message of a continuous line of leadership, with the mantle passing directly from Deng to Jiang, his handpicked successor and the only speaker at yesterday's memorial.

But with communism apparently in retreat even in China, the death of China's last significant revolutionary leader and the farewell accorded him leave questions about whether Deng's market reforms and the rising prosperity they are

bringing China will satisfy people enough to dissuade them from demanding political freedom. The early signs are that, at least for now, the Chinese have accepted the bargain.

``We hope politically, the state will remain as stable as in the last couple of years," said one entrepreneur who asked not to be identified, pausing from his bookkeeping for a moment to glance at the funeral on television.

``In 1989, if events were different," he said, referring to prodemocracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square that were crushed by government troops ordered in by Deng, ``our country would have collapsed like Russia did, and our currency would be as worthless as the ruble."

While China has plenty of new ``red capitalists" and Western ways, yesterday's

memorial appeared out of a Communist Party textbook. The service was held in the Stalinist-style Great Hall of the People, a vast auditorium with a single red communist star on the ceiling. The audience of 10,000 guests was restricted to party leaders, army officers and handpicked representatives of government-affiliated groups. Guests stood at attention for an hourlong eulogy.

Deng's ashes lay in a box draped in the communist international hammer and sickle flag, underneath a 15-foot tall glossy photographic portrait. Black banners invoked "Eternal glory to Comrade Xiaoping" and unity under his successor. Guests bowed three times before Deng's ashes, and, in descending order of importance, shook the hands of Deng's relatives.

Jiang praised his mentor's legacy and his "immortal feats for the independence and liberation of the Chinese nation."

Absent from the hall was deposed leader Zhao Ziyang, who had been Deng's chosen heir until Deng purged him for being too soft on student leaders in 1989. Zhao formally applied to be excused from house arrest to attend the funeral, but was denied access by Jiang, who may still fear him as a potential rival.

Jiang made vague reference to the crackdown in Tiananmen Square by calling it a "severe test" that required a "firm and sober" response.

Among Jiang's challenges in cementing his authority are his lack of charisma and revolutionary cachet, competition from other top leaders and his tenuous standing with the People's Liberation Army, in which he never served.

The message of his speech was one of stability and continuity, and that is what people outside the gathering who paused in shops and workplaces to catch the proceedings said they wanted. Even students at Beijing University, historically a hotbed of political activity, said they were counting on a stability under Jiang to pursue jobs, and were not interested in demonstrating to achieve greater political freedoms.

"I think the government's action [in 1989] was a sensible thing to do. What China needs is stability," said a 25-year-old graduate student in civil engineering. "China doesn't need absolute democracy. We're not ready for it. If we tried to become a democracy overnight, the only result would be chaos."

This story ran on page A2 of the Boston Globe on 02/26/97.

#K2P%P# NEW YORK TIMES
Koreans Divided on Leader's Apology
By Andrew Pollack
February 27, 1997

TOKYO--South Korean President Kim Young Sam appears to have won sympathy from the public by apologizing for a scandal that has engulfed his administration, but he has still not fully put the affair behind him, according to political experts and the results of opinion polls made public Wednesday.

"It's a good step for President Kim to cope with this crisis," said Park Chan Wook, a professor of political science at Seoul National University. While apologies are often a ritual by senior leaders in many Asian societies, Park said that the president went beyond symbolism by announcing concrete measures for dealing with the scandal, as well as with labor unrest and economic problems confronting Korea.

A major shake-up of the Cabinet and the governing New Korea Party is expected to be Kim's next step. Many government and party leaders offered to resign Tuesday to clear the way. Changes in the Cabinet have been frequent in Kim's administration, with ministers seeming to last less than a year on the job on average.

Although the apology may have bought Kim at least a temporary respite, the widening corruption scandal has severely damaged the credibility of a man who took office pledging to root out corruption.

Although Kim is prohibited by law from running for a second term, he may now find it harder to govern in his final year. And he is expected to have little influence in choosing his party's candidate for the presidential election, which will be held in December.

In a nationally televised speech Tuesday morning, Kim apologized for the scandal surrounding a bankrupt steel company that has resulted in the indictment of some politicians close to him and raised charges of influence-peddling by his son. The company, Hanbo Steel, collapsed last month under nearly \$6 billion in debt. Prosecutors say that Hanbo executives bribed politicians to put pressure on banks to keep lending money to Hanbo when all prudent banking practices would have dictated otherwise. Some bank presidents have also been indicted in

connection with accepting bribes from Hanbo.

"Whatever the reason, however, all this is due to a lack of virtue on my part," the president said in his speech. "I am responsible. With humility I am willing to accept whatever reproach and criticism you make."

Kim's apology was an expected gesture in a society still influenced by the Confucian tradition of strong but benevolent rulers. In Korea, presidents exert wide control even over local governments, and leaders are expected to accept responsibility when things go wrong.

When a major bridge collapsed in 1994, Kim also said it was because of his lack of virtue, even though the bridge had been built well before he took office.

The latest apology seems to have struck a chord with about half of the public. In a telephone poll conducted by Chosun Ilbo, Korea's leading newspaper, and the Gallup organization, the public was evenly split on whether Kim was sincere in his apology, with 49.0 percent saying he was and 48.7 saying he wasn't.

But only 30.5 percent of those surveyed said his speech and the measures announced in it would help resolve the scandal, as well as the nation's labor unrest and economic problems, while 58.8 percent said they would not.

The Joong-Ang Ilbo, another major daily, said in an editorial that the president should have promised that his son would testify at hearings on the Hanbo scandal to be held by the National Assembly. Opposition parties want an independent prosecutor to investigate the scandal because the usual prosecutors are under the control of Kim.

Kim was highly popular when he came into office in early 1993 as the first civilian president in three decades, after a career spent fighting the previous military dictatorships.

The most sensitive issue regarding the Hanbo affair involves Kim's second son, Kim Hyon Chul. The 38-year-old son has no formal job in the government and has been studying for a Ph.D. at a Korean university. But he has often been accused of influence peddling.

Opposition party members, without presenting solid evidence, have said that Kim Hyon Chul orchestrated the effort to procure the bank loans for Hanbo, perhaps

s because Hanbo had contributed heavily to President Kim's 1992 campaign.

The younger Kim brought libel charges against six opposition lawmakers, but dropped the suit after his father's speech. Prosecutors cleared the son of suspicion after questioning him for more than 24 hours.

Despite that, the president said in his speech that he was "ashamed" that there were even rumors about his son. He said he would see to it that his son "suspends all social activities, behaves himself and stays away from me."

There are reports in Korea that the son might be sent abroad to study. #K2P&P#

NEW YORK TIMES
Student's Death Widens Protests in Kenya
By James C. Mckinley Jr.
February 27, 1997

NAIROBI, Kenya--For a fourth straight day, thousands of students marched through the streets of this East African capital Wednesday in a widening campus revolt over the mysterious death of a student leader last weekend.

The protests began Sunday night as a call for an investigation into the death of a popular student activist, Solomon Muruli, who became the fourth student leader to be killed in the last three months when a fire and explosion took place in his dormitory room early Sunday morning.

But the daily marches have begun to take on a more overtly political tone, coming in a year when President Daniel arap Moi must hold presidential and parliamentary elections. Some students have begun to turn their invective on the government, suggesting that Muruli was killed by police because he was a potential opposition leader. "Muruli was killed because of politics," said one protester, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "This Moi must go."

At times in the last few days, the demonstrations have verged on riots, as angry students skirmished with police officers in riot gear on street corners near Nairobi University. Late Sunday night, several motorists were stoned by students who had blocked a major highway with flaming tires and large stones.

But Wednesday's march was peaceful. Police were under orders not to confront the demonstrators, who did little more than tie up traffic for several hours.

Thronging the city's steamy streets at lunchtime, about 2,500 students waved 1

leafy branches and chanted, "We want justice!" Hundreds sat down in the street in front of the police headquarters, screaming: "They are killers! They are killers!"

One student carried a hand-lettered sign saying, "Who Killed Muruli?"

Muruli was a 23-year-old education student at Nairobi University who helped organize a series of campus protests last November over problems ranging from unsanitary conditions in dormitories to favoritism in the granting of student loans.

In December, police officers shot and killed two students at Kenyatta University in Nairobi and one at Egerton University, near Nakuru. Moi replaced the police commissioner after the killings. A dozen officers were arrested, though no further legal action has been taken against them.

After the shootings, Muruli told authorities he had been kidnapped by police officers, tortured and later dumped semiconscious in a churchyard, because of his role in the demonstrations.

Police started an investigation into Muruli's allegations, but nothing has come of it.

Last week, Muruli told fellow students and his doctor that he had received death threats. Then, at 3 a.m. Sunday, a sudden fire tore through Muruli's room at a university hostel in Kikuyu, 18 miles outside the capital. His charred body was discovered inside.

With Western diplomats and human rights advocates here calling for a full investigation, Moi's police department has hurriedly appointed a commission to look into the killings. The new commission has not satisfied the students. Most said they believed that police were behind Muruli's death.

"What these guys did was very simple," said a marcher, Joseph Ondiekayim, 22.

"They took him and abducted him and beat him and killed him and brought him back to the dormitory and set him ablaze. In my opinion, this man was killed because he championed the interests of the majority."

A police spokesman, Peter Kimanthi, said there was no evidence that police officers had killed Muruli.

The cause of death had not even been determined, nor was it clear the student

had been murdered, he said. The young man's body had been found alone in a burning room, locked from the inside, he said.

"Shouting in the streets and telling people that the police are responsible without offering evidence is not going to help anyone," he added. "We are all interested to know the cause of death of Muruli."

The killings of student leaders appear to have radicalized many students who had not necessarily opposed the government in the past.

Most students said they had joined the protests last fall not for ideological reasons but because of anger over mundane problems on campus.

It remains to be seen if the recent campus unrest will become a force in the coming elections, political analysts said.

Even if the students wanted to support a presidential challenger, the main opposition parties here are still deeply divided and unable to agree on a single candidate to take on Moi.

For many students, however, Muruli has become a martyr to a political cause as yet undefined. On the street, their anger is palpable, capable of turning violent in an instant. They pound the windows of cars as they pass and taunt the mounted police, shaking branches at the horses.

"They killed Muruli's body, but his soul still marches on!" yelled Kaleb Kere, a 19-year-old economics student. "Even if they kill more of us, our souls will march on too." #K2P'P#

NEW YORK TIMES

Editorial: Mexican Denies Links to Drug Traffickers
February 27, 1997

MEXICO CITY--The patriarch of one of Mexico's leading political families said Wednesday that he had never had ties to drug traffickers and denied that a woman who raised narcotics accusations against him was his personal secretary.

"I sustain categorically that neither my family nor I have had any relation with any drug trafficker," wrote Raul Salinas Lozano, the father of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, in a letter distributed Wednesday to Mexican newspapers.

In testimony in a federal narcotics trial in Newark in 1992, Magdalena Ruiz Pe

layo said that she served for more than 10 years as private secretary to Salinas Lozano.

According to court documents published in a Mexican magazine, Mrs. Ruiz Pelayo told the U.S. authorities that she carried drug payments for Salinas Lozano.

Salinas Lozano's letter was addressed to the publisher of The New York Times after an article in The Times on Wednesday about the accusations.

His letter says that Mrs. Ruiz Pelayo has been in trouble with the Mexican and United States authorities since 1989 but "has never before made mention of me or my family." That has not been confirmed. #K2P(P#

MIAMI HERALD
Bipartisan Chorus Urges Clinton To Threaten Sanctions Over Corruption
By Christopher Marquis Herald Staff Writer
Wednesday, February 26, 1997

WASHINGTON Appalled by charges linking senior Mexican officials to drug traffickers, U.S. lawmakers pressured the Clinton administration on Tuesday to send Mexico a stern message that it risks sanctions if it fails to clean up its act.

Gaining force seemingly by the hour, the bipartisan chorus accused the administration of failing to detect or choosing to overlook corruption at Mexico's highest levels, placing antidrug efforts and American lives at risk.

The outcry from Capitol Hill focused on President Clinton's imminent decision on whether to certify Mexico as a reliable ally in the battle against illegal narcotics. By law, Clinton must evaluate the cooperation of 31 countries by the end of this week. A decision to decertify opens the door for economic sanctions.

While no final decision has been made, administration officials said for the first time they are considering denying Mexico full certification. The option under review is symbolic: Give Mexico a failing grade, then avoid any sanctions by issuing a waiver stating it is in America's national interest to continue aid and cooperation.

"I believe the evidence is overwhelming and can lead to no decision other than the decertification of Mexico," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat.

mocrat, in a letter to the president. "It would send a strong signal to Mexico and the world that the United States will not tolerate lack of cooperation in the fight against narcotics, even from our close friends and allies."

Rep. J. Dennis Hastert, Illinois, warned the administration that giving Mexico a clean bill of health while it maintains the decertification of Colombia would be seen as applying a double standard and would protect business interests in Mexico at the expense of an effective drug strategy.

"If this is the president's decision, it will be apparent to most that competing interests in U.S.-Mexican relations trumped the status of U.S.-Mexican trust on counter-narcotics," said Hastert, who presided over hearings on Mexico Tuesday in a Government Reform and Oversight subcommittee.

CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES

U.S. officials confess they are sifting through a pile of competing imperatives on Mexico. They are eager to protect the economic alliance forged under the hardwon North American Free Trade Agreement, whose successes they hope to highlight with Clinton's first visit to the country in April.

"If ever there was a time for the waiver option, it is now," said one State Department official. "But Clinton goes to Mexico April 11 and 12 and they don't want to visit and have to wrap their arms around a decertified Mexico."

At the same time, the officials say, they are afraid of undercutting the authority of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo whom they continue to trust or sacrificing the few areas of cooperation that are bearing fruit, including military contacts, a joint border council and streamlined legal procedures that led to the extradition of 13 suspected traffickers from Mexico last year.

Then, too, there is an almost personal aspect to the U.S. deliberations, which take place under the direction of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who will make a final recommendation to the president. Especially eager for punishment are members of the U.S. law enforcement agencies that have been most affected by Mexican corruption and the shocking downfall of that country's antidrug czar, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo.

Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the White House drug czar who in January offered lavish praise of Gutierrez, declined to say whether he would advise decertification if

or Mexico. Yet his gloomy appraisal of relations Tuesday came in stark contrast to his normally upbeat picture.

A 'BLOW' TO PARTNERSHIP

"We are giving the whole subject enormous discussion for the last several months," McCaffrey said at a press conference outlining his overall drug strategy for 1997. "I personally share the Mexicans' enormous disappointment at this serious blow to our partnership."

Part of the uncertainty hovering over U.S. decisionmakers is the fact that there is still no objective analysis of how much intelligence may have been jeopardized by Gutierrez Rebollo who was given confidential U.S. briefings during his two-month tenure or whether other top Mexicans are equally suspect.

White House officials said a damage assessment is under way. Robert Gelbard, assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and legal matters, told lawmakers Tuesday that nothing leads him to doubt the integrity of Zedillo, who took action "secretly and swiftly" against Gutierrez Rebollo.

But Rep. Bob Barr, a Georgia Republican and former intelligence agent, said events could hardly be seen as flattering for Zedillo.

"Only two conclusions can be reached," Barr said. "No. 1: Zedillo is not the knight in shining armor" portrayed by Washington. "Or No. 2: He has no knowledge or control over what's happening in his own government."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Plan to Certify Mexico's Drug Efforts Assailed

By Elizabeth Shogren, Mary Beth Sheridan, Times Staff Writers

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

WASHINGTONAs Mexico's attorney general announced that his office will be overhauled to root out corruption and improve that country's battle against the narcotics trade, a foreign policy battle erupted here Tuesday over the possibility that the United States will certify Mexico as a nation that cooperates in the war on drugs.

Clinton administration drug officials used unusually harsh language in criticizing corruption in the Mexican government as opposition grew on Capitol Hill to the United States certifying its southern neighbor as part of an 11-year-old,

congressionally required scrutiny of several dozen nations around the world.

But it appeared likely that the Clinton administration will still grant Mexico the certification. That is because any move to decertify would fuel tensions between the economic partners, could unnerve foreign investors and would probably derail President Clinton's plans to visit Mexico this spring.

Until last week when Mexico announced that its antidrug czar, Gen. Jose de Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, had been arrested for his alleged links to Mexico's most notorious drug trafficker the decision to certify Mexico had appeared to be a certainty. For months, top U.S. anti narcotics officials had used glowing terms in referring to the cooperation they were receiving from their partners in Mexico.

But the charges against Gutierrez and concerns that he may have compromised much of the U.S. Mexican counternarcotics effort changed the picture.

"There clearly is a major corruption problem at all levels" in Mexico, Robert Gelbard, assistant secretary of state for narcotics affairs, told a House subcommittee hearing Tuesday. The news of Gutierrez's reported ties to traffickers "belied previous assumptions that corruption was largely limited to the police," Gelbard added.

But when questioned by members of Congress, Gelbard refused to say whether he thought the administration should certify Mexico and not interrupt the flow of the country's U.S. foreign aid.

And although Gelbard's criticism was harsh, he also applauded Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo for investigating, arresting and jailing Gutierrez, despite the embarrassment to his government.

A Mexico state judge formally indicted Gutierrez on Tuesday on charges of protecting drug shipments, racketeering and accepting bribes. Bail was denied.

Meantime, members of Congress from both parties started flooding the White House on Tuesday with advice for Clinton on Mexico.

Because the U.S. action regarding Mexico's drug fighting efforts might have dire effects on the two countries' economic partnership including the North American Free Trade Agreement many of the lawmakers suggested that Clinton take a middle course: Decertify Mexico but waive the mandated economic sanctions.

"The flow of drugs into the U.S. via Mexico has risen dramatically in recent years," House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt (DMo.), a leading NAFTA opponent, said in a letter urging the president not to certify Mexico. "We cannot continue to allow our children's futures to be jeopardized as part of some short-term political calculus."

Both California senators also urged the president to deny Mexico the narcotics fighting certification. "It would send a strong signal to Mexico and the world that the United States will not tolerate lack of cooperation in the fight against narcotics, even from our close friends and allies," Democratic Sen. Diann Feinstein said in a letter to Clinton.

Some Republicans were even more blunt at the hearing. "We can't trust these people that's the whole point," Rep. Bob Barr (R Ga.) said

Tuesday, lambasting the Clinton administration for failing to take harsher action against Mexico on drugs. "We don't have a generation to wait until they develop their country."

If the president does decide to certify Mexico, Congress could pass a resolution of disapproval rejecting that move. It is too early to tell whether such a measure could win enough votes to be veto proof. But the prospect of such congressional action cannot go unnoticed by the White House.

Clinton, who made scant mention of Mexico as he sketched out his drugfighting plan at the White House on

Tuesday, did not reveal his position on the issue. "We are committed to cooperating with our friends in Latin America," Clinton said. "We want to cooperate with them, but we want them to cooperate with us as well."

But his antidrug czar, Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, said of Mexico: "There's been a tremendous amount of progress in the last year, I would assert, on new laws, extradition, on crop eradication, on confrontation with the issue. . . . But this is a very difficult issue to talk about."

In a reflection of Mexican anger over the possibility of a qualified certification, Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria Trevino said Tuesday in an interview on Mexico's Radio Formula that the debate in Washington "is introducing an enormous amount of static and the possibility of a reverse in our relations, of a fracturing of our relations."

Atty. Gen. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar conceded Tuesday that Mexico faces "the worst crisis" in its legal system "in modern Mexican history" and vowed to radically overhaul the institutions that are supposed to combat drug trafficking and organized crime.

"The changes must be radical," the former human rights activist told a news conference.

But Madrazo spoke only in general terms about planned reforms in his office, which oversees Mexico's version of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as well as hundreds of police officers involved in antidrug work.

The reforms, which Madrazo said were ordered by Zedillo, include developing a "truly functional, reliable intelligence system," adding computers and fighting corruption through better training, screening and salaries, he said.

Shogren reported from Washington and Sheridan from Mexico City. Times staff writer Stanley Meisler contributed to this report.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Certify or Not Certify? That Isn't the Question
By Peter Hakim
Thursday February 27, 1997 Edition

Last week's revelation by the Mexican government that it had arrested its top antidrug official because he was on the payroll of the nation's largest and most vicious drug cartel came at a bad time. It was just 15 days before President Clinton has to decide whether or not to "certify" that Mexico (and other producing and transit countries) cooperates fully with the United States in the fight against narcotics. Rather than a cause for denying Mexico certification, which would leave that country open to a variety of US economic sanctions, the events underscore the deep flaws in the certification process.

In the first instance, it is almost always misleading to classify a country, in a cutanddried fashion, as either cooperating or not cooperating. Most of the countries where it really matters are doing both. Lack of full cooperation may indicate bad faith, but it also may reflect honest differences of opinion on how to address the problems. Some agencies of a foreign government may be collaborating effectively while others may be corrupt, inefficient, or stubborn. T

That is the case in both Mexico and Colombia, the two countries that supply the US with most of its drugs.

Convincing arguments can be found for certifying or decertifying either of them, but it is a waste of time for US and foreign officials to focus efforts on marshaling those arguments, on making simplistic blackwhite distinctions. What is needed, instead, are careful and nuanced analyses of the drug problems facing particular countries in order to develop constructive policies and programs. Certification turns the analysts into advocates.

Second, certification often forces the application of a double standard. Under any circumstance, it is virtually impossible for the US to consider decertifying Mexico. Given the degree of economic interdependence between the two nations, we know that decertification could seriously harm the Mexican economy, which, in turn, would damage the economies of many US states and communities.

Only two years ago, the US lent Mexico \$13 billion to halt the collapse of its economy because the US has such a large stake in that country's economic success. It is absurd to think that we would or should now put Mexico's recovery at risk by decertifying its antinarcotics performance. We, of course, have no such stake in Colombia's economy, or that of any other Latin American nation.

Our treatment of Mexico is correct, and should be the norm. We should not allow the single issue of drugs to dominate US bilateral relations with any country, overshadowing all other matters.

Third, certification is selfdefeating, producing more antagonism than cooperation between the US and other countries in the battle against drugs. It is true that the Colombian government, following US decertification last year, stepped up its efforts to satisfy US demands for tougher antidrug measures, but this kind of forced collaboration is unlikely to be enduring and will generate longterm resentment. It almost certainly would not work in Mexico.

Indeed, decertification of Mexico would probably end prospects of productive cooperation for some time on drugs and other issues. Effective antidrug partnerships with Latin America are more apt to emerge if the US stops judging the antinarcotics efforts of other countries and "decertifying" and penalizing those that are not performing satisfactorily according to Washington's standards. No cooperative approach can work if the US insists on the right to make unilateral

al
judgments about its partners and then to impose sanctions on them.

Even though it was exposed by the Mexican government, the alliance between Mexico's chief antidrug official and its biggest drug kingpin was a damaging blow to the narcotics control efforts of both the Mexican and US governments and set back cooperation between them. But the certification process is doing far greater damage to antidrug cooperation in the hemisphere.

* Peter Hakim is president of the InterAmerican Dialogue in Washington.

#K2P)P# WASHINGTON POST
U.S. Aides Dismiss Colombian Attempt At Drug Crackdown
By Douglas Farah
Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A23

BOGOTA, Colombia, Feb. 26--President Ernesto Samper, fighting a festering drug corruption scandal, has moved to stave off U.S. blacklisting for lack of commitment in the war against narcotics smuggling. But U.S. officials said the last ditch effort to avoid "decertification" for the second straight year--a decision the Clinton administration is to announce this week -- will not be enough.

Two laws, approved in the past week, greatly increase the penalties for drug trafficking and give U.S. ships broader latitude in interdicting Colombian vessels suspected of carrying drugs. In December, the Colombian Congress also passed a law making it easier to seize drug traffickers' assets.

But Assistant Secretary of State Robert S. Gelbard, in testimony to Congress Feb. 14, said the laws were passed less out of desire to impede narcotics smuggling than because of last year's decertification, international pressure and the threat of economic sanctions.

U.S. officials have charged that Samper took \$6 million from the Cali cartel to finance his 1994 presidential campaign. Last year Colombia became the first country with a democratically elected government to be decertified, and Samper's U.S. visa was revoked. Gelbard called Samper a "truly corrupt president who has had a clear history of cooperating with drug dealers and receiving drug money back to 1982."

Samper has repeatedly denied the charges, and was cleared of wrongdoing by Colombia's Congress last year. He also denied that the recent measures were taken in response to pressure over decertification. Replying to Gelbard's charges, he said Tuesday that the United States uses certification to hide its own inadequacies, called the annual process "unacceptable" and declared that it "fairly demonizes the institutions of a solid and serious democracy in the eyes of the world."

Justice Minister Carlos Medellin said the U.S. refusal to acknowledge the efforts of the Samper government could affect Colombia's willingness to take up other legislation Washington views as vital, including reestablishing extradition of Colombian traffickers to the United States.

"If what we have done is not evaluated objectively, the only winners will be the drug traffickers," Medellin said. ". . . After all we've done, I cannot imagine how the Congress will react if we are decertified again."

Influential Colombians have been pressing for Samper's resignation for months because of his alleged ties to drug traffickers. They say the problem is not the new laws but the fact that they leave the main drug barons, currently in prison, almost untouched.

Brothers Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, the leaders of the powerful Cali cocaine cartel who were captured in the summer of 1995, got their plea bargains speeded up and in place just before the new sentencing law was passed. They received the full benefits of the old, extremely lenient law.

In January, the two brothers were sentenced to 9 and 10 1/2 years, respectively, and because of plea bargaining, they could be freed in four years. Medellin said that, under the old law, a drug trafficker sentenced to the maximum 12 years could, through confessions and prison benefits, get out in just 17 months.

"We knew the law was absurd, it was crazy, and that is why we changed it," Medellin said.

But the sentences and other allegations of corruption brought a stinging rebuke from Colombia's most famous citizen, Nobel laureate in literature Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Garcia Marquez announced this month that he will not return to C

Colombia as long as Samper is president because he is disgusted with the corruption.

Fabio Castillo, an influential columnist for the newspaper El Espectador, wrote Monday that Samper's ability to get Congress to pass the laws quickly, after years of making no effort to get congressional action, showed his "responsibility in the impunity enjoyed by drug traffickers."

"By waiting for the light sentences against the Rodriguez Orejuelas, the stiffening of the sentences actually favors the Rodriguez Orejuelas, because now the new law will only be applied against their enemies," Castillo wrote.

The law passed too late to affect many members of Congress and other officials close to Samper who were convicted of taking money from the Cali cartel during the 1994 campaign. Those arrested are held in comfortable private cells in military or police barracks, not regular prisons. Almost all will be free when Samper's term ends in 1998.

Maria Izquierdo, a senator sentenced to five years for taking cartel money, was freed in November 1996 after serving only 11 months of her sentence. Like most of Samper's jailed supporters, she made maximum use of a law that reduces a prisoner's sentence by one day for every two eight-hour days the prisoner studies or works. According to police documents, Izquierdo claimed to have studied up to 250 hours a month, or almost 10 hours a day, six days a week, taking classes such as semantics, classical languages and yoga.

Jose Medina, a cashiered general who was convicted of taking money from drug cartels while commander of the National Police, is working 150 to 200 hours a month as a "veterinary assistant" to knock time off his sentence.

Medellin said it was up to the prison guards to verify whether work was actually done and the reductions were legal.

WASHINGTON POST
For Colombia: Partnership Not Punishment
By Juan Manuel Santos
Thursday, February 27 1997; Page A21

BOGOTA--Colombia is once again facing the threat of decertification by the United States as a reliable ally in the war on drugs, and with it the threat of economic sanctions. On behalf of the majority of Colombians who support neither the current government nor the drug traffickers, I would like to say some thi

ngs to the American people.

The caricature of the Colombian people that has been presented in the United States is that of a group of bandit criminals who are falling over themselves to gain easy money. That caricature is as far from the truth as that of the American as an overfed, avaricious power-seeking individual who walks the streets looking for drugs.

The truth is that little difference separates the average American and the average Colombian. Both are decent, hard-working people whose major interest is the betterment of themselves, their families and their country. And both are in danger of having their hopes and ambitions destroyed by the scourge of illegal drugs. For while the United States is fighting to stop the use of drugs by its people, Colombia is fighting for its very freedom.

During the Prohibition era, Americans saw the mob infiltrate virtually all walks of life. Bribery of police officials, judges and politicians was commonplace. Later, second- and third-generation mobsters, often Harvard and Wharton graduates, combined their sophisticated education with the criminal methods used by their fathers and grandfathers to take over entire industries.

Imagine what is happening in Colombia, where the ratio of "dirty" money to "clean" money is infinitely more disproportionate than in the United States. The purchase of farmland has become almost impossible for the typical farmer. Small businessmen can hardly compete against the huge illegal fortunes. Almost every facet of life--from the price of food and medicine to the purchase of a home--has been affected by the drug cartels. With the exception of a handful of criminals, Colombians want the same from their lives as Americans: the freedom to work and earn a living, to raise and educate their children and to live without fear. The billions of illegal dollars that are flowing into Colombia are as harmful to us as are the drugs that flow to your country.

For these reasons, any economic sanctions and the ensuing hardships imposed on the Colombian people by the United States would only be counterproductive. How can you ask a person who has lost his job or his business to be loyal to the very people who have created his hardship? If we are to be partners against a common enemy, common sense would dictate that just the opposite should occur.

It is extremely important that Americans understand that Colombians have suffered terribly from the drug trade, that literally thousands of young soldiers and policemen have died fighting this war; and a dreadful number of judges, political and social leaders and common citizens have lost their lives in this fight.

We want Americans to know that we understand the discomfort of their government with our president, Ernesto Samper. He has failed both Americans and Colombians. But as the question of decertification of Colombia comes up again, we ask

Americans not to place conditions upon this country that they would not place on themselves.

Americans have had the experience of seeing murderous mobsters laughing at justice, but you preferred to see them on the streets for a long time rather than compromise the basic tenets of your Constitution. No matter how unpopular our president might be, we must respect the fact that he is the constitutional head of state.

Most Colombians did not agree with the outcome of our president's trial in Congress, much less the sentences imposed on the Cali cartel kingpins. But for democracy to work, we too must honor the verdicts based on existing laws. When the laws fail us, we must change them, as now is happening in Colombia. But neither Americans nor Colombians should be asked to bypass existing laws simply for convenience.

It should be noted that by law, no Colombian president can succeed himself, and for that reason our president will be out of office within 18 months. Let us not allow him to leave in his wake a heritage of hate between our two peoples.

Colombians need to see the United States not as a powerful, dominating Big Brother but as a close and faithful partner in a mutual fight for survival. Let us not play into the hands of self-serving politicians in both countries who would use this cause as a means of igniting a dangerous nationalism, nor to fulfill the dreams of the traffickers to create a rift between us.

The writer is a former Colombian government minister who is running for president to replace the incumbent.

#K2P*P#===== END ATTACHMENT 2 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: swalitsk (swalitsk@usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:27-FEB-1997 10:04:00.00

SUBJECT: Early Report 2/27: ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

The Israeli government's decision to build new settlements in East

Jerusalem

garnered unanimously negative reaction from editorial voices in the

Middle

East--outside of Israel--and in Europe. In Damascus, government-owned

Al-Thawra

declared that "the international denunciation of this step is a positive

sign

which indicates that the world community will not admit such Israeli

measures

in Jerusalem." While some Israeli commentators voiced their support for

the

decision, and called on Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to act "as

swiftly as

possible" to avoid the appearance of a "weak government," Tel Aviv's

mass-appeal

, pluralist Maariv observed that both Israel and the Palestinians are

"playing

with holy fire" in a "deadly game" that could kill the peace process.

The

paper added, "Both we and the Palestinians should try to be smart rather

than
right. Not only our fate but the fate of our children is at stake."
Amman's
center-left, influential Al-Dustur criticized "the shy and timid U.S.
stances
on Israeli measures that could destroy past and future achievements."
Saudi-owned, internationally circulated Ash-Sharq Al Awsat warned that
the
settlements could "lead to a new intifada." Paris's left-of-center Le
Monde
judged that "the historic reconciliation between Palestinians, Israelis
and
their neighbors demands a similarly historic compromise on Jerusalem.
Netanyahu has a choice: taking a further step towards peace...or
sacrificing
the peace process on the altar of national politics."

WILL CLINTON CERTIFY MEXICO AND COLOMBIA ON DRUG EFFORTS?

With President Clinton facing a decision by March 1 on certification
of--most
notably--Mexico and Colombia for their cooperation in fighting illegal
drug
trafficking, writers in Latin America and Europe speculated on how a
negative
decision would affect U.S. political and economic ties with both
countries. A

move to "decertify" Mexico, argued Mexico's moderate Novedades, would not only damage "the good relationship between Mexican and U.S. institutions"--but also would represent "a victory for drug trafficking organizations." In Bogota, economic La Republica--apparently resigned to a second year of "decertification" for Colombia--asked that sanctions not accompany the decision, since restrictions on its principal export outlet, the U.S., would "sink us completely in this crisis." Brussels's independent Catholic De

Standaard pointed to the widely-held impression that the recent disclosures

about official drug corruption in Mexico serve as "grist to the mill of those

Congress members who are opposed to NAFTA" and a reminder of the contrast between how Washington deals with Mexico and with Colombia.

BRIEFS

- Asia: Albright's 'Good Start,' France: Trade Vs. Human Rights
- U.S. Politics, Economics: Of Campaign Funds And Interest Rates
- Russia: Will Yeltsin Sack Chernomyrdin?
- U.S.-Saudi Arabia: 'Partnership In Security, Strategic Matters'

EDITORS: Mildred Sola Neely and Pat McArdle

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN EAST JERUSALEM--'CASUS BELLI'?

ISRAEL: "Moving From Words to Deeds"

Top-circulation, pluralist Yediot (2/27) said: "Decisions are easier to take than to carry out, particularly when foreign and domestic opposition is making the going extremely tough. But a decision which remains on paper is worse than no decision at all.... It is important, therefore, that deeds follow words as swiftly as possible. The government yesterday took a step toward proving Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem. If it gets stuck now, in the execution stage, it will be perceived as a weak government and yesterday's decision will have proved to have done more harm than good."

"The Battle Begins"

Mass-appeal, pluralist Maariv (2/27) remarked: "The government of Israel's decision signals the beginning of the battle for Jerusalem. We know it,

the
Palestinians know it as does the rest of the world The decision
indicates
that the government of Israel's has agreed to take a calculated risk.
That
risk may become prohibitive if Israel tries to carry out the decision
right
away Both sides are playing with holy fire and the deadly game
might kill
the peace process. Both we and the Palestinians should try to be smart
rather
than right. Not only our fate but the fate of our children is at stake."

"Hats Off to Builders of Jerusalem"

Nationalist, religious Hatzofe (2/27) said: "We welcome the government's
decision and urge it to match its words with swift action Let's
point out
for the record that while the city of Jerusalem is mentioned over 600
times in
the bible as the eternal capital of the people of Israel, there is not
even a
single reference in the Koran to the bond between the city and Islam
The
day the decision to build a Jewish neighborhood on Har Homa was taken
will be

remembered forever as a day of bliss in the history of the City of David.

Our

enemies are certain to try to harm the builders of Jerusalem but with

God's

help we'll overpower them."

EGYPT: "Peace Is A Gain For Israelis And Arabs"

A contributor to pro-government Al Ahram (2/27) wrote: "It should be

clear

that peace is not only a gain for Arabs but also a gain for Israelis.

Since

real peace should eventually mean the return of Arab usurped land and

rights,

this peace will necessarily give Israel its legitimacy and Arab

recognition....There is a change in the American position after

Netanyahu's

visit. The Clinton administration clearly rejected settlements, but

Clinton's statements during Netanyahu's visit were completely

different....Washington has become required to renew its clear position

toward

Netanyahu....Will it accept the return of Netanyahu's No's?"

JORDAN: "Rejected And Irresponsible Israeli Decision"

Pro-government, influential Al-Ray (02/27) contended, "The right-wing

Israeli

government has deafened its ears to all warnings, and will now have to bear the consequences.... Previously warning of the consequences of continued

Israeli settlement policy, the U.S. administration is required to adopt a firm stand that would tell Netanyahu and his government that they are not free to drag this region back to a state of violence and tension."

"Israel Declares War Against Jerusalem And Peace"

Center-left, influential Al-Dustur (2/27) judged, "Showing scorn for the feelings and repeated warnings of Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims, Netanyahu approved the construction of the Jabal Abu Ghuneim settlement.... Showing contempt for international law and for the signed

peace accords, Netanyahu and his government declared against Jerusalem, Palestinian and Arab rights and peace. Not only have Netanyahu and his government jeopardized future accords with the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese, but they have also endangered already signed treaties with

Jordan and Egypt.... It is high time for the U.S. peace process sponsor to

adopt a serious stand. The shy and timid U.S. stances on Israeli measures that could destroy past and future achievements altogether are meaningless."

MOROCCO: "Israeli Casus Belli"

A front page editorial in semi-official, French-language Le Quotidien (2/27)

observed, "Ever travelling, ever smiling, Arafat has the reputation of a tireless man of peace.... The king and Arafat have examined the necessity of convening an urgent meeting of the Al Quds Committee to mobilize the international community to face the suicidal strategy of Netanyahu's government. Netanyahu's decision to build new Jewish settlements is a real casus belli."

SAUDI ARABIA: "Settlement May Lead To New Intifada"

London-based, internationally-circulated Ash-Sharq Al Awsat (2/26) commented,

"Today the cornerstone of the new Israeli settlement in Jabal Abu Ghuneim will be laid.... The beginning structure in the new settlement may lead to a new intifada or perhaps an Arab intifada. Some fear that the decision to

build this

settlement will lead to the funeral of the peace process, although that

is

unlikely, because Yasser Arafat will after a few days head for Washington

on an

initiation extended to him solely and personally."

SYRIA: "A Tyrannical Step"

Government-owned Al-Thawra (2/27) said on page one, "The new Israeli

settlement

plan in Abu-Ghneim mountain is an unsuited, provocative and tyrannical

step

that aims at aggravating tension in the region... the international

denunciation of this step is a positive sign which indicates that the

world

community will not admit such Israeli measures in Jerusalem and still

insists

on considering them as void and null."

BRITAIN: "Israel Warned Of New Intifada Over Settlement"

The liberal Guardian (2/27) said, "Israel headed for a new crisis with

the

Palestinians and attracted swift Arab and international condemnation

yesterday

over its controversial plan to build new Jewish homes in Arab east

Jerusalem...

Amid warnings of new violence that could undermine the fragile peace process, a cabinet committee gave the go-ahead for a project that is widely seen as an attempt to pre-empt a decision on the final status of the city, supposed to be decided in future negotiations... Mr. Netanyahu chose to ignore the warnings of his security chiefs that the decision could touch off violence reminiscent of last September's."

FRANCE: "Danger In Jerusalem"

Left -of-center Le Monde (2/27) opined: "One step forward, and two back... No sooner has the ink on the Hebron agreement had time to dry, and the Israeli authorities raise a new project that could hinder the peace process.... The East Jerusalem construction project may trigger new violence.... The joint declaration signed in Washington by the PLO and Israel is clear.... Until negotiations on Jerusalem get under way, no new construction is to take place.... Faced with his own domestic difficulties, Netanyahu may be

trying

to bring together his majority with a radicalization over Jerusalem....

This

is a dangerous game.... The historic reconciliation between

Palestinians,

Israelis and their neighbors demands a similarly historic compromise on

Jerusalem. Netanyahu has a choice: taking a further step towards

peace...or

sacrificing the peace process on the altar of national politics."

GERMANY: "Fight For Jerusalem"

A front-page editorial in right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin said (2/27):

"The

outbreak of unrest on the West Bank and the confrontation in Eastern

Jerusalem

between Palestinians and Israelis about the construction of new

settlements

are the unavoidable consequences of incompatible claims on the same

city....

The fight for Jerusalem as seat of the government of a Palestinian

state' is

unavoidable as long as Israel does not give in, something which can be

ruled

out under Premier Netanyahu, or as long as Arafat is not satisfied with

a

simple representation in a Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.

"There is reason to Arafat's accusation that the new settlement in the periphery of the city should create 'faits accomplis' before the talks on

Jerusalem have even begun, but he is wrong, nevertheless. Israel does not

want to talk about Jerusalem.' This is also the problem for King Hussein and

for the Saudi monarchy which need to support not only the holy sites of

Islam,' but also the Arab claim on the city to preserve their reputation and

to remain partners of the United States. This is why nothing could be more

inappropriate for Vice President Al Gore's visit to Saudi Arabia than Netanyahu's bulldozers on the hills of Jerusalem."

ITALY: "Contradicting The Basic Principles of Oslo"

Lorenzo Cremonesi from Jerusalem wrote in centrist, top-circulation Corriere

della Sera (2/27): "For Palestinian leaders, the building of the new Jewish

settlement in Jerusalem contradicts the basic principles of the Oslo agreements....And a large part of the international community agrees with

them. Washington, in fact, 'deplored' the initiative, underscoring that it does not help to create confidence."

WILL CLINTON CERTIFY MEXICO AND COLOMBIA ON DRUG EFFORTS?

MEXICO: "Decertification Against Interests Of U.S., Mexico"

An editorial in moderate Novedades (2/26) stated: "McCaffrey is right.

Beyond

the painful incident that involves Gutierrez Rebollo in drug trafficking activities is a possible U.S. 'decertification' and its resulting

economic and

political sanctions. It would be a serious blow for the good relationship

between Mexican and U.S. institutions and a victory for drug trafficking organizations that have invaded Mexican territory.... McCaffrey knows well

that it would be the worst thing to happen...because it would seriously damage

the mutual confidence that prevails among the authorities of both countries and

it would open a door for drug traffickers. This action would be against the

interests of both countries. It is up to the United States to decide."

"Accusations Are Not Created"

Independent El Diario de Monterrey's editorial (2/2) said, "Mexico's main enemies are not outside the country. The real enemies are Mexicans and they live here. With the U.S. Congress' imminent certification on the drug trafficking fight, there has been an anti-U.S. campaign in recent weeks, blaming Washington for all our calamities.... This is not to say that there's no pressure from Washington on Mexico to act for the benefit of our northern neighbor, but it is wrong to believe that the U.S. press simply creates accusations, especially when they come from a paper as serious as the New York Times."

"To Weaken Mexico"

Independent El Norte observed (2/26) in an editorial by former presidential candidate of the Labor Party (PT) Cecilia Soto: "The image of the CIA held by any Mexican over 40 years of age is of continuous harassment owing to (Mexico's) independent posture concerning Cuba, Chile and other contentious topics in these two countries.... What's the meaning of the article signed

by Sam Dillon and Craig Pyes? It appears to be the usual (U.S. government) effort to make the Mexican government yield to the pressure of certification.... The purpose is to weaken Mexico and leave Clinton in a predicament due to his support for President Ernesto Zedillo."

COLOMBIA: "'No' To A Decertification With Sanctions"

The lead editorial in economic La Republica (2/25) seemed to take for granted that a decision to decertify Colombia has already been made, and added, "The United States is our premier trade partner, since it is the final destination of close to 40 percent of our exports. The latter have suffered over the past few months because of an intense process of revaluation of our currency, and the sanctions that they may apply --increase in tariffs, suspension or limitation of the ATPA, cuts in the sugar quotas, measures against bananas--would be a definite blow.... The decertification, therefore, would sink us completely in this crisis."

ARGENTINA: "If Not The Military, Who Would Destroy Drug Trafficking?"

The main editorial in daily-of-record La Nacion (2/26) opined,
"Following
Washington's requirements to the countries of the continent, the
(Argentine)
Air Force and Navy are preparing their respective operational areas, as
the
first visible result of our country's commitment to the armed forces' participation in the fight against drug trafficking.... The United
States
insists in implementing (military participation) in all of Latin America
and,
almost unanimously, voices from the barracks are expressing their
opposition
to taking over a leading role.... The military fear that the nature of
their institutions could become changed. They presume that morale
problems
could be added to the many problems that already burden them.... In view
of
the proven weakness of regional--and local--security structures...if the
military do not destroy drug trafficking, who would? Undoubtedly, this
depressing question remains hanging in midair, in our country and in
many
others."

BRITAIN: "In The Balance: U.S.-Colombia Ties"

According to the liberal Guardian's correspondent in Bogota (2/27):

"Diplomatic

and trade relations between Colombia and the United States hang in the

balance

this week as Washington decides whether to certify Colombia as an

effective

ally in the war on drugs."

BELGIUM: "Drug (Related) Corruption Threatens U.S.-Mexican Cooperation"

Latin American affairs writer Francis Van den Berghe wondered in

independent

Catholic De Standaard (2/27), "Will Mexico receive from Washington the

certificate of good behavior in the fight against drugs? For the first

time

since 1986 there is doubt about that annual 'certification.'... Clinton

has to

reckon with the credibility of his own anti-drug policy. It will now be

difficult for him to tell the Americans that he wants to protect their

children

against drugs if, at the same time, he delivers a certificate of good

behavior

to a country where drug gangs feel at home and which supplies

three-fourths of

America's illegal cocaine and marijuana. The drug affair in Mexico is

grist to

the mill of those Congress members who are opposed to NAFTA. In Latin America,

the easiness with which Mexico received the 'certificate' is compared to the

denial of it to a country like Colombia--which allowed America to guard the

coast and was praised by the UN for eliminating major drug gangs."

BRIEFS

ASIA: ALBRIGHT'S 'GOOD START'; FRANCE: TRADE VS. HUMAN RIGHTS

CHINA: "Announcement No. 3 By Comrade Deng's Funeral Committee"

This Xinhua News Agency release made the front page of official,

Communist

Party People's

Daily (Renmin Ribao) and all other major Chinese papers, including the

English-language China Daily (2/27): "The whole party, the whole army and the

people of all ethnic groups...are determined, under the leadership of the party

central committee with comrade Jiang Zemin as the core, to hold high the great

banner of Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with chinese

characteristics, to adhere unswervingly to the party's basic line, to
adhere to
an independent foreign policy of peace, to turn grief into strength, and
to
fight for the realization of the 'three-step' development strategy and to
build
our country into a prosperous, democratic and civilized modern socialist
nation."

SINGAPORE: "The Right Approach To Asia"

An editorial in the pro-government Straits Times maintained (2/27):

"Madeleine

Albright's visit to Asia...was a welcome combination of symbolism and
substance. If sustained, her approach should move trans-Pacific
relations into

higher gear during President Clinton's second term in office.... The
impr

ession left behind by America's top diplomat in both places (Tokyo and
Seoul)

was that of an astute, experienced and decisive person who wanted to
build on

the United States' Asian ties. That is good news, of course, for a
region

where the U.S. plays a critical balancing role.

"Ms. Albright's visit to China, was, if anything, more promising. A

number of

issues, led by human rights, have bedevilled relations between the existing

superpower and the arriving one. Any prolonged drift in ties can turn into the

single most intractable issue facing the Asia-Pacific in the coming years.

Many hope, therefore, that President Clinton's second term would provide him

the opportunity of addressing the interests at the heart of the relationship

instead of allowing it, as has sometimes appeared, to be dominated by an agenda where the exertions of human rights and other U.S. lobbies have loomed

large. It was time for a new start. Going by reports of Ms. Albright's discussions in Beijing, that would certainly seem to be the case. The energetic new secretary of state kept her promise to be straightforward on

human rights, but her talks reaffirmed Washington's commitment to a strategic dialogue with Beijing."

BELGIUM: "France And China--Trade Vs. Human Rights"

Philippe Paquet wrote this observation in conservative, Catholic La Libre

Belgique (2/27): "French Minister of Foreign Affairs Herve de Charette

is a

visionary. To justify France's opposition to the Fifteen's adoption of

an

American draft resolution denouncing human rights violations before the

appropriate UN Commission, he has recommended, according to Agence France

Presse...that confirmation be deferred until the next Congress of the

Chinese

Communist Party in (October.)...

"No one fails to see that the French ministry is engaging in a stalling

strategy. In the highest interest of French trade, it is appropriate to

help

China to gain time.... This procrastination policy only has one

shortcoming:

in the Chinese gulag, political prisoners are also waiting....

"Mr. de Charette's interested cowardice is particularly out of place

because

the reawakening of Muslim separatism in the Chinese Turkestan is exposing

for

the first time China to the risk of being condemned in Geneva. She has

avoided

it so far because of support from third world countries benefitting from

China's economic or military assistance. But many Islamic countries,

from

Turkey to Iran and from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, cannot remain

indifferent to

the suppression of the Yining's riots, a suppression which, according to some

eye-witness accounts, was brutal, even 'wild.' "At a moment when those countries -- which of course are not all in a position to teach lessons on

human rights -- are worrying about Beijing's attitude, it would be strange, to

say the least, if Europe were to start referring to 'progress.'"

THAILAND: "Jiang Zemin: The Next Rising Son In China"

The independent Nation cautioned (2/27): "The looming danger in China now is

that without a leader of Deng's stature, power could spiral down to the de

facto power, the military. And given the weakness of China's civilian system,

the influence of the military as a power broker may be boosted....

Although

lacking the charisma and stature of Deng and dismissed by many as an interim

leader, 70-year-old Jiang Zemin has proved his political mettle, avoiding

antagonizing either conservatives or liberals in the party. By blending power politics with populism, he has not only survived politically, but has significantly consolidated his power base. His 'strike hard' crusade against corruption has won Jiang wide support from the public, which, for years has been deeply discontented with corruption and rising crime. His 'spiritual civilization crusade' is China's latest ideological tool to rid society of the 'evils of capitalism.' Although some believe this could be Jiang's distinct political legacy, others think it is a master stroke aimed mainly at appeasing old Communist Party guards opposed to excessive Western influence on Chinese society.... Another significant indication that Jiang is wooing popular support is his hints that he might re-evaluate the 1989 Tiananmen massacre... Jiang is shrewd. He realizes that by reversing the official verdict of the Tiananmen crackdown, he could earn the support of the public and the international community. But Jiang Zemin, who does not have a military background, will still have to cultivate support of the military elite if he wants to continue his own brand of politics: that of making both

conservatives

and liberals happy."

U.S. POLITICS, ECONOMICS: OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS AND INTEREST RATES

BRITAIN: "Greenspan Warning Rocks Wall Street"

The conservative Daily Telegraph had this report from New York (2/27):

"Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan yesterday sent shudders through

the

financial markets after he warned 'caution seems especially warranted'

over the

sharp rise in American share prices.... He declined to rule out a

pre-emptive

increase in United States interest rates before inflation reaches

unacceptable

levels, to hold economic growth and prices in check."

"White House 'Overnights' Encouraged By Clinton"

The independent Financial Times reported this from Washington (2/27):

"Documents released by the White House have placed President Clinton

firmly at

the center of the campaign finance scandal which dominates national

politics

and which threatens to overwhelm the president's legislative agenda for a

second term.... So far, Mr. Clinton has sought to distance himself from the scandal, blaming abuses or improprieties on party officials. But these records show his involvement was both detailed and direct.... There is no evidence that these donations were illegal, but they are widely perceived as improper. They will add new fuel to investigations into whether the president or anyone else in the White House went beyond the bounds not only of propriety but of the law."

BELGIUM: "Inn-Keeper Clinton Is In A Fine Fix"

Washington correspondent Yve Laudy wrote in conservative, Catholic La Libre

Belgique (2/27): "After the publication of a memo reflecting (Clinton's)

enthusiasm to welcome contributors to the White House, the scandal of campaign

financing has touched Bill Clinton. Even though he or his assistants did not

do anything illegal, the doubt triggered new calls for the nomination of an

independent prosecutor. And, the daily disclosures about a scandal which

is

easier to understand than 'Whitewater;' and, the weakness of the White House

which can only retort that 'the Republicans did the same thing,' could at last

shake the public's political apathy."

"Who Says Greenspan Never Speaks Plainly"

Financial daily Financieel-Economische Tijd's New York correspondent proposed

(2/27): "Who said that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve never speaks in

clear language?... Yesterday Alan Greenspan gave the clearest and most alarming speech in his career....uttering warnings about higher interest rates,

more inflation and the explosion of the speculative soap bubble in Wall Street. Despite that harsh language, investors in shares do not really seem to

be impressed.... Wall Street reacted extremely calmly to Greenspan's words.

Traders remarked that his words did not really come as a surprise."

ITALY: "Special Prosecutor?"

Ennio Caretto commented from Washington in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera (2/27): "A new quarrel is thus beginning. Senate Republican leader

Trent Lott asked for the appointment of a special prosecutor. For now, Attorney General Janet Reno is hesitant. The appointment of a special prosecutor may result in a double-edged weapon for the Republicans.

'They are not perfect either,' said Stephanopolous, who now works for ABC television, 'they risk getting a special prosecutor at their heels as well.' That would be a modest price for all to pay if a serious reform of electoral funding were to result from all of this."

SPAIN: "Did Clinton 'Rent' The White House For Fund-Raising"

Javier Valenzuela wrote this for liberal El Pais (2/27): "The known data indicate that Clinton has turned the most sacred bedroom in the United States into a luxury motel.... This umpteenth side of Clinton's fund raising campaign bothers his fellow citizens in extreme.... The high cost of last year's campaign against Bob Dole has placed Clinton in such a difficult

situation that analysts are beginning to recall the case of Richard Nixon--forced to resigned during his second term. What is most serious is that there is evidence that Clinton himself spurred the voracity of fund raisers."

RUSSIA: WILL YELTSIN SACK CHERNOMYRDIN?

RUSSIA: "All Right, Let It Be Yeltsin"

Neo-communist Pravda (2/27) granted in this piece by Anatoly Salutsky:

"If ailing or recuperating Yeltsin, as a president, can quickly mobilize the nation in the face of NATO expansion, let him stay. After all, Roosevelt did splendidly, guiding America from a wheelchair, and in a crisis, too."

"There's No Alternative To Chernomyrdin"

Vladimir Razuvayev asserted in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (2/26):

"Sacrificing the 'political queen' is all but impossible. In Russia, there is no alternative to either President Yeltsin or Prime Minister Chernomyrdin."

"President Is No Fool To Do Such A Thing"

Andrei Bagrov asserted on page one of reformist, business-oriented
Kommersant

Daily (2/26): "Nobody in his right mind, not even the president, will
sacrifice

someone with real political and financial power, over enormous damage and

fierce resistance from one or several influential financial-industrial
groups."

GERMANY: "Long-Term Scapegoat"

Moscow correspondent Markus Ziener in business Handelsblatt of
Duesseldorf
commented

(2/27): "Whatever Yeltsin's state of health, with a feeling for
populism, he

still recognizes the signs of the time. With his rebuke of the
government, he

is trying to disassociate himself from his premier.... Indeed, in the
current

situation, Yeltsin could tend to distract attention from his own
deficits by

sacrificing his long-term scapegoat, Viktor Chernomyrdin.... But
because of

all the obvious deficits, Yeltsin can hardly separate himself from his
premier, since personal alternatives are not in sight. Yeltsin cannot

personally enter a political clinch by sacrificing his loyal premier.

All indications are that there will be a new edition of the Russian solution of the social crisis: Some responsible officials will get the sack, while new ones will come and continue the crisis management."

U.S.-SAUDI ARABIA: 'PARTNERSHIP IN SECURITY AND STRATEGIC MATTERS'

SAUDI ARABIA: "Partnership In Security And Strategic Matters"

Influential Ar-Riyadh commented (2/27): "The United States is a friendly

country which has its own perspective and foreign policy toward each country,

whether it is a friendly country or an enemy. Its relations are based on no

single color or fixed standing position. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aware

that dealing with states is subject to change according to circumstances...finds that the list of needs which bond it with the

United

States include not only a military one or oil but that there is a partnership

in security and strategic matters and other longstanding positions which make

interests control the road on which the wagon of mutual relations
advance."

"To Give U.S.-Saudi Relations A Push"

Conservative Al-Madina (2/26) asserted: "The visit has a very important
strategic aim.... Its purpose is to give Saudi -U.S. relations a push and
to
form a new policy for Washington's relation's with the Arab world and its
issues."

##

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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RFC-822-headers:
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id <01IFWLKRRSJ400VMN6@PMDf.EOP.GOV> for susan_e._walitsky@oa.eop.gov; Thu,
27 Feb 1997 09:09:27 -0500 (EST)
Received: from XGATE.USIA.GOV by gatekeeper.eop.gov;
(5.65v3.2/1.1.8.2/17Oct95-0424PM) id AA19420; Thu, 27 Feb 1997 09:09:24 -0500

Received: from Connect2 Message Router by usia.gov via Connect2-SMTP 4.20B.6;
Thu, 27 Feb 1997 09:08:19 -0500
Organization: USIA
X-Mailer: Connect2-SMTP 4.20B.6 MHS/SMF to SMTP Gateway
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===== ATTACHMENT 2 =====
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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#Patricia McArdle, Branch Chief Media Reaction (R/MR), #:x2PkCXP#
#XP\ P6QyP#mcardle@usia.gov, (202) 6196511 Ann
Pincus, Direct
or, (202) 6196511

#Xn\ P6Qy&P#Thursday, February 27, 1997

X' hp x (# ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN EAST JERUSALEM'CASUS BELLI'
X' hp x (#

The Israeli government's

decision to build new settlements in East Jerusalem
garnered unanimously negati
ve reaction from editorial voices in the Middle
Eastoutside of Israeland in Eur
ope. In Damascus, governmentowned
AlThawra declared that "the international de
nunciation of this step is a
positive sign which indicates that the world commu
nity will not admit such
Israeli measures in Jerusalem." While some Israeli c
ommentators voiced
their support for the decision, and called on Israeli Prime
Minister
Netanyahu to act "as swiftly as possible" to avoid the appearance of a
"weak
government," Tel Aviv's massappeal, pluralist Maariv observed that bot
h
Israel and the Palestinians are "playing with holy fire" in a "deadly game"
t
hat could kill the peace process. The paper added, "Both we and the
Palestina
ns should try to be smart rather than right. Not only our fate but
the fate of
our children is at stake." Amman's centerleft, influential
AlDustur crit
icized "the shy and timid U.S. stances on Israeli measures
that could destroy
past and future achievements." Saudiowned,

internationally circulated AshSharq
Al Awsat warned that the settlements
could "lead to a new intifada." Paris's l
eftofcenter Le Monde judged that
"the historic reconciliation between Palestin
ians, Israelis and their
neighbors demands a similarly historic compromise on
Jerusalem. Netanyahu
has a choice: taking a further step towards peace...or s
acrificing the peace
process on the altar of national politics."

WILL CLINTON CERTIFY MEXICO AND COLOMBIA ON DRUG EFFORTS?

With President Clinton facing a decision by March 1 on certification of most
no
tably Mexico and Colombia for their cooperation in fighting illegal drug
traffic
king, writers in Latin America and Europe speculated on how a negative
decision
would affect U.S. political and economic ties with both countries.
A move to
"decertify" Mexico, argued Mexico's moderate Novedades, would not
only damage "
the good relationship between Mexican and U.S.
institutions" but also would repr
esent "a victory for drug trafficking
organizations." In Bogota, economic La
Republica apparently resigned to a
second year of "decertification" for Colombia
asked that sanctions not
accompany the decision, since restrictions on its prin
cipal export outlet,
the U.S., would "sink us completely in this crisis." Bru
ssels's independent
Catholic De Standaard pointed to the widely held impression
that the recent
disclosures about official drug corruption in Mexico serve as "
grist to the
mill of those Congress members who are opposed to NAFTA" and a rem
inder of
the contrast between how Washington deals with Mexico and with Colombi
a.

#:d2PkCP#BRIEFS

#Xn\ P6Qy&P# Asia: Albright's 'Good Start;' France: Trade Vs. Human Rights

U.S. Politics, Economics: Of Campaign Funds And Interest Rates

Russia: Will Yeltsin Sack Chernomyrdin?

U.S.Saudi Arabia: 'Partnership In Security, Strategic Matters'

EDITORS: Mildred Sola Neely and Pat McArdle

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN EAST JERUSALEM 'CASUS BELLI'?

ISRAEL: "Moving From Words to Deeds"

Top circulation, pluralist Yediot (2/27) said: "Decisions are easier to take than to carry out, particularly when foreign and domestic opposition is making them going extremely tough. But a decision which remains on paper is worse than no decision at all.... It is important, therefore, that deeds follow words as swiftly as possible. The government yesterday took a step toward proving Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem. If it gets stuck now, in the execution stage, it will be perceived as a weak government and yesterday's decision will have proved to have done more harm than good."

"The Battle Begins"

Mass appeal, pluralist Maariv (2/27) remarked: "The government of Israel's decision signals the beginning of the battle for Jerusalem. We know it, the Palestinians know it as does the rest of the world The decision indicates that the government of Israel's has agreed to take a calculated risk. That risk may become prohibitive if Israel tries to carry out the decision right away Both sides are playing with holy fire and the deadly game might kill the peace process. Both we and the Palestinians should try to be smart rather than right. Not only our fate but the fate of our children is at stake."

"Hats Off to Builders of Jerusalem"

Nationalist, religious Hatzofe (2/27) said: "We welcome the government's decision and urge it to match its words with swift action Let's point out for the record that while the city of Jerusalem is mentioned over 600 times in the Bible as the eternal capital of the people of Israel, there is not even a single reference in the Koran to the bond between the city and Islam The day the decision to build a Jewish neighborhood on Har Homa was taken will be remembered forever as a day of bliss in the history of the

City of David. Our enemies are certain to try to harm the builders of Jerusalem but with God's help we'll overpower them."

EGYPT: "Peace Is A Gain For Israelis And Arabs"

A contributor to progovernment Al Ahram (2/27) wrote: "It should be clear that peace is not only a gain for Arabs but also a gain for Israelis. Since real peace should eventually mean the return of Arab usurped land and rights, this peace will necessarily give Israel its legitimacy and Arab recognition.... There is a change in the American position after Netanyahu's visit. The Clinton administration clearly rejected settlements, but Clinton's statements during Netanyahu's visit were completely different.... Washington has become required to renew its clear position toward Netanyahu.... Will it accept the return of Netanyahu's No's?"

JORDAN: "Rejected And Irresponsible Israeli Decision"

Progovernment, influential AlRay (02/27) contended, "The rightwing Israeli government has deafened its ears to all warnings, and will now have to bear the consequences.... Previously warning of the consequences of continued Israeli settlement policy, the U.S. administration is required to adopt a firm stand that it would tell Netanyahu and his government that they are not free to drag this region back to a state of violence and tension."

"Israel Declares War Against Jerusalem And Peace"

Centerleft, influential AlDustur (2/27) judged, "Showing scorn for the feeling and repeated warnings of Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims, Netanyahu approved the construction of the Jabal Abu Ghuneim settlement.... Showing contempt for international law and for the signed

peace accords, Netanyahu and his government declared against Jerusalem, Palestinian and Arab rights and peace. Not only have Netanyahu and his government jeopardized future accords with the Palestinians, the Syrians and

the Lebanese,
but they have also endangered already signed treaties with
Jordan and Egypt...
. It is high time for the U.S. peace process sponsor to
adopt a serious stand
. The shy and timid U.S. stances on Israeli measures
that could destroy past
and future achievements altogether are meaningless."

MOROCCO: "Israeli Casus Belli"

A front page editorial in semiofficial, Frenchlanguage Le Quotidien (2/27)
observed, "Ever travelling, ever smiling, Arafat has the reputation of a
tireless
man of peace.... The king and Arafat have examined the necessity of
convening
an urgent meeting of the Al Quds Committee to mobilize the
international community to face the suicidal strategy of Netanyahu's
government. Netanyahu's decision to build new Jewish settlements is a real
casus belli."

SAUDI ARABIA: "Settlement May Lead To New Intifada"

Londonbased, internationallycirculated AshSharq Al Awsat (2/26) commented,
"To
day the cornerstone of the new Israeli settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim
will be
laid.... The beginning structure in the new settlement may lead to a
new intifada or perhaps an Arab intifada. Some fear that the decision to
build this settlement will lead to the funeral of the peace process, although
that is unlikely
, because Yasser Arafat will after a few days head for
Washington on an initiative extended to him solely and personally."

SYRIA: "A Tyrannical Step"

Governmentowned AlThawra (2/27) said on page one, "The new Israeli
settlement
plan in AbuGhneim mountain is an unsuited, provocative and
tyrannical step that
aims at aggravating tension in the region... the
international denunciation
of this step is a positive sign which indicates
that the world community will
not admit such Israeli measures in Jerusalem
and still insists on considering
them as void and null."

BRITAIN: "Israel Warned Of New Intifada Over Settlement"

The liberal Guardian (2/27) said, "Israel headed for a new crisis with the Palestinians and attracted swift Arab and international condemnation yesterday over its controversial plan to build new Jewish homes in Arab east Jerusalem... Amid warnings of new violence that could undermine the fragile peace process, a cabinet committee gave the go-ahead for a project that is widely seen as an attempt to preempt a decision on the final status of the city, supposed to be decided in future negotiations... Mr. Netanyahu chose to ignore the warnings of his security chiefs that the decision could touch off violence reminiscent of last September's."

FRANCE: "Danger In Jerusalem"

Left of center Le Monde (2/27) opined: "One step forward, and two back... No sooner has the ink on the Hebron agreement had time to dry, and the Israeli authorities raise a new project that could hinder the peace process.... The East Jerusalem construction project may trigger new violence.... The joint declaration signed in Washington by the PLO and Israel is clear.... Until negotiations on Jerusalem get under way, no new construction is to take place.... Faced with his own domestic difficulties, Netanyahu may be trying to bring together his majority with a radicalization over Jerusalem.... This is a dangerous game.... The historic reconciliation between Palestinians, Israelis and their neighbors demands a similarly historic compromise on Jerusalem. Netanyahu has a choice: taking a further step towards peace...or sacrificing the peace process on the altar of national politics."

GERMANY: "Fight For Jerusalem"

A frontpage editorial in right of center Die Welt of Berlin said (2/27): "The outbreak of unrest on the West Bank and the confrontation in Eastern Jerusalem

between Palestinians and Israelis about the construction of new settlements are the unavoidable consequences of incompatible claims on the same city.... The fight for Jerusalem as seat of the government of a Palestinian state' is unavoidable as long as Israel does not give in, something which can be ruled out under Premier Netanyahu, or as long as Arafat is not satisfied with a simple representation in a Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.

"There is reason to Arafat's accusation that the new settlement in the periphery of the city should create 'faits accomplis' before the talks on Jerusalem have even begun, but he is wrong, nevertheless. Israel does not want to talk about Jerusalem.' This is also the problem for King Hussein and for the Saudi monarchy which need to support not only the holy sites of Islam,' but also the Arab claim on the city to preserve their reputation and to remain partners of the United States. This is why nothing could be more inappropriate for Vice President Al Gore's visit to Saudi Arabia than Netanyahu's bulldozers on the hills of Jerusalem."

ITALY: "Contradicting The Basic Principles of Oslo"

Lorenzo Cremonesi from Jerusalem wrote in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera (2/27): "For Palestinian leaders, the building of the new Jewish settlement in Jerusalem contradicts the basic principles of the Oslo agreements.. ..And a large part of the international community agrees with them. Washington, in fact, 'deplored' the initiative, underscoring that it does not help to create confidence."

WILL CLINTON CERTIFY MEXICO AND COLOMBIA ON DRUG EFFORTS?

X' hp x (#MEXICO: "Decertification Against Interests Of U.S., Mexico"

An editorial in moderate Novedades (2/26) stated: "McCaffrey is right. Beyond the painful incident that involves Gutierrez Rebollo in drug trafficking activities is a possible U.S. 'decertification' and its resulting

economic and political sanctions. It would be a serious blow for the good relationship between Mexican and U.S. institutions and a victory for drug trafficking organizations that have invaded Mexican territory.... McCaffrey knows well that it would be the worst thing to happen...because it would seriously damage the mutual confidence that prevails among the authorities of both countries and it would open a door for drug traffickers. This action would be against the interests of both countries. It is up to the United States to decide."

X' hp x (#

"Accusations Are Not Created"

Independent El Diario de Monterrey's editorial (2/2) said, "Mexico's main enemies are not outside the country. The real enemies are Mexicans and they live here. With the U.S. Congress' imminent certification on the drug trafficking fight, there has been an anti-U.S. campaign in recent weeks, blaming Washington for all our calamities.... This is not to say that there's no pressure from Washington on Mexico to act for the benefit of our northern neighbor, but it is wrong to believe that the U.S. press simply creates accusations, especially when they come from a paper as serious as the New York Times."

"To Weaken Mexico"

Independent El Norte observed (2/26) in an editorial by former presidential candidate of the Labor Party (PT) Cecilia Soto: "The image of the CIA held by any Mexican over 40 years of age is of continuous harassment owing to (Mexico's) independent posture concerning Cuba, Chile and other contentious topics in these two countries.... What's the meaning of the article signed by Sam Dillon and Craig Pyes? It appears to be the usual (U.S. government) effort to make the Mexican government yield to the pressure of certification....

The purpose is to weaken Mexico and leave Clinton in a predicament due to his support for President Ernesto Zedillo."

COLOMBIA: "No' To A Decertification With Sanctions"

The lead editorial in economic La Republica (2/25) seemed to take for granted that a decision to decertify Colombia has already been made, and added, "The United States is our premier trade partner, since it is the final destination of close to 40 percent of our exports. The latter have suffered over the past few months because of an intense process of revaluation of our currency, and the sanctions that they may apply increase in tariffs, suspension or limitation of the ATPA, cuts in the sugar quotas, measures against bananas would be a definite blow.... The decertification, therefore, would sink us completely in this crisis."

X' hp x (# ARGENTINA: "If Not The Military, Who Would Destroy Drug Trafficking?"

X' hp x (#

The main editorial in daily record La Nacion (2/26) opined, "Following Washington's requirements to the countries of the continent, the (Argentine) Air Force and Navy are preparing their respective operational areas, as the first visible result of our country's commitment to the armed forces' participation in the fight against drug trafficking.... The United States insists in implementing (military participation) in all of Latin America and, almost unanimously, voices from the barracks are expressing their opposition to taking over a leading role.... The military fear that the nature of their institutions could become changed. They presume that morale problems could be added to the many problems that already burden them.... In view of the proven weakness of regional and local security structures...if the military do not destroy drug trafficking, who would? Undoubtedly, this depressing question remains hanging in midair, in our country and in many others."

BRITAIN: "In The Balance: U.S.Colombia Ties"

According to the liberal Guardian's correspondent in Bogota (2/27): "Diplomatic and trade relations between Colombia and the United States hang

in the balance this week as Washington decides whether to certify Colombia as an effective ally in the war on drugs."

BELGIUM: "Drug (Related) Corruption Threatens U.S.Mexican Cooperation"

Catholic Latin American affairs writer Francis Van den Berghe wondered in independent De Standaard (2/27), "Will Mexico receive from Washington the certificate of good behavior in the fight against drugs? For the first time since 1986 there is doubt about that annual 'certification.'... Clinton has to reckon with the credibility of his own antidrug policy. It will now be difficult for him to tell the Americans that he wants to protect their children against drugs if, at the same time, he delivers a certificate of good behavior to a country where drug gangs feel at home and which supplies threefourths of America's illegal cocaine and marijuana. The drug affair in Mexico is grist to the mill of those Congress members who are opposed to NAFTA. In Latin America, the easiness with which Mexico received the 'certificate' is compared to the denial of it to a country like Colombia which allowed America to guard the coast and was praised by the UN for eliminating major drug gangs."

BRIEFS

ASIA: ALBRIGHT'S 'GOOD START'; FRANCE: TRADE VS. HUMAN RIGHTS

CHINA: "Announcement No. 3 By Comrade Deng's Funeral Committee"

This Xinhua News Agency release made the front page of official, Communist Party People's

Daily (Renmin Ribao) and all other major Chinese papers, including the English language China Daily (2/27): "The whole party, the whole army and the people of all ethnic groups...are determined, under the leadership of the party central committee with comrade Jiang Zemin as the core, to hold high the great banner of Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, to

o adhere unswervingly to the party's basic line, to adhere to an independent foreign policy of peace, to turn grief into strength, and to fight for the realization of the 'three-step' development strategy and to build our country into a prosperous, democratic and civilized modern socialist nation."

SINGAPORE: "The Right Approach To Asia"

An editorial in the progovernment Straits Times maintained (2/27):

"Madeleine

Albright's visit to Asia...was a welcome combination of symbolism and substance.

If sustained, her approach should move trans-Pacific relations into higher gear during President Clinton's second term in office.... The impression left behind by America's top diplomat in both places (Tokyo and Seoul) was that of an astute, experienced and decisive person who wanted to build on the United States' Asian ties. That is good news, of course, for a region where the U.S. plays a critical balancing role.

"Ms. Albright's visit to China, was, if anything, more promising. A number of

issues, led by human rights, have bedevilled relations between the existing

superpower and the arriving one. Any prolonged drift in ties can turn into the

single most intractable issue facing the Asia-Pacific in the coming years. Many

hope, therefore, that President Clinton's second term would provide him the

opportunity of addressing the interests at the heart of the relationship instead

of allowing it, as has sometimes appeared, to be dominated by an agenda where

the exertions of human rights and other U.S. lobbies have loomed large. It

was time for a new start. Going by reports of Ms. Albright's discussions in Beijing,

that would certainly seem to be the case. The energetic new secretary

of state kept her promise to be straightforward on human rights, but her talks

reaffirmed Washington's

commitment to a strategic dialogue with Beijing."

X` hp x (# BELGIUM: "France And China Trade Vs. Human Rights"

X` hp x (#

Philippe Paquet wrote this observation in conservative, Catholic La Libre Belg
ique (2/27): "French Minister of Foreign Affairs Herve de Charette is a
vision
ary. To justify France's opposition to the Fifteen's adoption of an
American d
raft resolution denouncing human rights violations before the
appropriate UN Co
mmission, he has recommended, according to Agence France
Presse...that confirma
tion be deferred until the next Congress of the Chinese
Communist Party in (Oct
ober.)...

"No one fails to see that the French ministry is engaging in a stalling
strateg
y. In the highest interest of French trade, it is appropriate to help
China to
gain time.... This procrastination policy only has one shortcoming:
in the C
hinese gulag, political prisoners are also waiting....

"Mr. de Charette's interested cowardice is particularly out of place because
th
e reawakening of Muslim separatism in the Chinese Turkestan is exposing for
the
first time China to the risk of being condemned in Geneva. She has
avoided it
so far because of support from third world countries benefitting
from China's
economic or military assistance. But many Islamic countries,
from Turkey to Ir
an and from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, cannot remain
indifferent to the suppress
ion of the Yining's riots, a suppression which,
according to some eyewitness ac
counts, was brutal, even 'wild.' "At a
moment when those countries which of c
ourse are not all in a position to
teach lessons on human rights are worrying
about Beijing's attitude, it
would be strange, to say the least, if Europe were
to start referring to
'progress.'"

THAILAND: "Jiang Zemin: The Next Rising Son In China"

The independent Nation cautioned (2/27): "The looming danger in China now is
that without a leader of Deng's stature, power could spiral down to the de
fact

o power, the military. And given the weakness of China's civilian system, the influence of the military as a power broker may be boosted.... Although lacking the charisma and stature of Deng and dismissed by many as an interim leader, 70-year-old Jiang Zemin has proved his political mettle, avoiding antagonizing either conservatives or liberals in the party. By blending power politics with populism, he has not only survived politically, but has significantly consolidated his power base. His 'strike hard' crusade against corruption has won Jiang wide support from the public, which, for years has been deeply discontented with corruption and rising crime. His 'spiritual civilization crusade' is China's latest ideological tool to rid society of the 'evils of capitalism.' Although some believe this could be Jiang's distinct political legacy, others think it is a master stroke aimed mainly at appeasing old Communist Party guards opposed to excessive Western influence on Chinese society.... Another significant indication that Jiang is wooing popular support is his hints that he might reevaluate the 1989 Tiananmen massacre... Jiang is shrewd. He realizes that by reversing the official verdict of the Tiananmen crackdown, he could earn the support of the public and the international community. But Jiang Zemin, who does not have a military background, will still have to cultivate support of the military elite if he wants to continue his own brand of politics: that of making both conservatives and liberals happy."

U.S. POLITICS, ECONOMICS: OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS AND INTEREST RATES

BRITAIN: "Greenspan Warning Rocks Wall Street"

The conservative Daily Telegraph had this report from New York (2/27): "Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan yesterday sent shudders through the financial markets after he warned 'caution seems especially warranted' over the sharp rise in American share prices.... He declined to rule out a preemptive increase in United States interest rates before inflation reaches

unacceptable levels,
to hold economic growth and prices in check."

X' hp x (# "White House 'Overnights' Encouraged By Clinton"

X' hp x (#

The independent Financial Times reported this from Washington (2/27):

"Docume

nts released by the White House have placed President Clinton firmly
at the cen

ter of the campaign finance scandal which dominates national

politics and which

threatens to overwhelm the president's legislative agenda

for a second term...

. So far, Mr. Clinton has sought to distance himself

from the scandal, blaming

abuses or improprieties on party officials. But

these records show his involv

ement was both detailed and direct.... There is

no evidence that these donatio

ns were illegal, but they are widely perceived

as improper. They will add new

fuel to investigations into whether the

president or anyone else in the White H

ouse went beyond the bounds not only

of propriety but of the law."

BELGIUM: "InnKeeper Clinton Is In A Fine Fix"

Washington correspondent Yve Laudy wrote in conservative, Catholic La Libre
Bel

gique (2/27): "After the publication of a memo reflecting (Clinton's)

enthusia

sm to welcome contributors to the White House, the scandal of

campaign financi

ng has touched Bill Clinton. Even though he or his

assistants did not do anyth

ing illegal, the doubt triggered new calls for the

nomination of an independent

prosecutor. And, the daily disclosures about a

scandal which is easier to und

erstand than 'Whitewater;' and, the weakness of

the White House which can only

retort that 'the Republicans did the same

thing,' could at last shake the publi

c's political apathy."

"Who Says Greenspan Never Speaks Plainly"

Financial daily FinancieelEconomische Tijd's New York correspondent proposed

(

2/27): "Who said that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve never speaks in

clear language?... Yesterday Alan Greenspan gave the clearest and most alarming speech in his career....uttering warnings about higher interest rates, more inflation and the explosion of the speculative soap bubble in Wall Street. Despite that harsh language, investors in shares do not really seem to be impressed....

Wall Street reacted extremely calmly to Greenspan's words. Traders remarked that his words did not really come as a surprise."

X` hp x (# ITALY: "Special Prosecutor?"

X` hp x (#Ennio Casetto commented from Washington in centrist, topcirculation Corriere della Sera (2/27): "A new quarrel is thus beginning. Senate Republican leader Trent Lott asked for the appointment of a special prosecutor. For now, Attorney General Janet Reno is hesitant. The appointment of a special prosecutor may result in a doubleedged weapon for the Republicans. 'They are not perfect either,' said Stephanopolous, who now works for ABC television, 'they risk getting a special prosecutor at their heels as well.' That would be a modest price for all to pay if a serious reform of electoral funding were to result from all of this."

X` hp x (# SPAIN: "Did Clinton 'Rent' The White House For FundRaising"

X` hp x (# Javier Valenzuela wrote this for liberal El Pais (2/27): "The known data indicate that Clinton has turned the most sacred bedroom in the United States into a luxury motel.... This umpteenth side of Clinton's fund raising campaign bothers his fellow citizens in extreme.... The high cost of last year's campaign against Bob Dole has placed Clinton in such a difficult situation that analysts are beginning to recall the case of Richard Nixonforced to resign during his second term. What is most serious is that there is evidence that Clinton himself spurred the voracity of fund raisers."

X` hp x (#

X` hp x (# RUSSIA: WILL YELTSIN SACK CHERNOMYRDIN?

RUSSIA: "All Right, Let It Be Yeltsin"

Neocommunist Pravda (2/27) granted in this piece by Anatoly Salutsky: "If ailing or recuperating Yeltsin, as a president, can quickly mobilize the nation in the face of NATO expansion, let him stay. After all, Roosevelt did splendidly, guiding America from a wheelchair, and in a crisis, too."

"There's No Alternative To Chernomyrdin"

Vladimir Razuvayev asserted in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (2/26): "Sacrificing the 'political queen' is all but impossible. In Russia, there is no alternative to either President Yeltsin or Prime Minister Chernomyrdin."

"President Is No Fool To Do Such A Thing"

Andrei Bagrov asserted on page one of reformist, business-oriented Kommersant Daily (2/26): "Nobody in his right mind, not even the president, will sacrifice someone with real political and financial power, over enormous damage and fierce resistance from one or several influential financial-industrial groups."

X' hp x (#

X' hp x (# GERMANY: "Long-Term Scapegoat"

X' hp x (#

X' hp x (# Moscow correspondent Markus Ziener in business Handelsblatt of Düsseldorf commented

(2/27): "Whatever Yeltsin's state of health, with a feeling for populism, he still recognizes the signs of the time. With his rebuke of the government, he is trying to disassociate himself from his premier.... Indeed, in the current situation, Yeltsin could tend to distract attention from his own deficits by sacrificing his long-term scapegoat, Viktor Chernomyrdin.... But because of all the obvious deficits, Yeltsin can hardly separate himself from his premier, since personal alternatives are not in sight. Yeltsin cannot personally enter a political clinch by sacrificing his loyal premier. All indications are that there will be a new edition of the Russian solution of the social crisis: Some responsible officials will get the sack, while

new ones will come and continue the crisis management."

U.S.SAUDI ARABIA: 'PARTNERSHIP IN SECURITY AND STRATEGIC MATTERS'
X` hp x (#
X` hp x (#SAUDI ARABIA: "Partnership In Security And Strategic Matters"

Influential ArRiyadh commented (2/27): "The United States is a friendly country which has its own perspective and foreign policy toward each country, whether it is a friendly country or an enemy. Its relations are based on no single color or fixed standing position. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aware that dealing with states is subject to change according to circumstances...finds that the list of needs which bond it with the United States include not only a military one or oil but that there is a partnership in security and strategic matters and other longstanding positions which make interests control the road on which the wagon of mutual relations advance."

"To Give U.S.Saudi Relations A Push"

Conservative AlMadina (2/26) asserted: "The visit has a very important strategic aim.... Its purpose is to give Saudi U.S. relations a push and to form a new policy for Washington's relation's with the Arab world and its issues."

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