

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	re: The Secretary's Lunch with EU Ambassadors. (5 pages)	12/12/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 ([Jesse Helms or Senator Helms])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[07/17/1998-12/28/1998]

2006-1363-F

vz5591

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHOTA2563 1982045-UUUU--RHEHAAA.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 172045Z JUL 98

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

OSRI: RUEHOT

DTG: 172045Z JUL 98

ORIG: AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO: RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2055

INFO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5456

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RUPEUNA/HQ USSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO

RUFQAAA/USNMR SHAPE BE

RHEHAAA/THE WHITE HOUSE

RUCNCAN/ALCAN COLLECTIVE

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: IN ERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT,
IRELAND

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 002563

USIA

AGENCY FOR R/MR;I/RFW;VOA/BX ;

I/GWEU;WEU;EEN

STATE FOR EUR/CAN, EUR/PA

WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IN ERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT,
IRELAND

1. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL C URT

UNDER THE HEADLINE "U.S. SET OWN RULES FOR NEW WORLD
COURT" IN THE JULY 16 EDITIO OF THE "VANCOUVER SUN"
THE PAPER EDITORIALIZED:

THE UNITED STATES HS FALLEN OUT WITH TRADITIONAL
ALLIES IN AN EFFOR TO BE EXEMPT FROM THE JURISDICTION
OF A WORLD CURT FOR WAR CRISIS. BUT BEING FIRST AMONG
EQUALS CARRIES RESPONSIBILIT IS.

...AS THE SESSION END THE U S. SHOULD BE REMINDED OF
THE RESPONSIBILIY THE POSITION CARRIES WITH IT.

PRODDED BY SENAOR JESSE HELMS AND THE PENTAGON, THE U.S. INSIST THAT ONLY AMERICANS WILL METE OUT JUSTICE TO AMERICANS. THAT'S CONTRARY TO THE PURPOSE OF THE COURT BUT CONSISTENT WITH HISTORY WHERE A TENDENCY TO ISOLATIONISM IS WELL RECORDED.

BOTH UN SECRETARY GENERAL KOFFI ANNAN AND CONFERENCE CHAIR PHILLIPE KIRSCH OF CANA)A PROMISE THE WORLD COURT'S BIRTH, WITH OR WITHOUT U.S. SUPPORT. BUT THERE IS STILL TIME FOR AMERICANS TO REJECT MR. HELMS AND EMBRACE ANOTHER REPUBLICAN, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, WHO COUNSELLED ACTIONS IN ACCORD WITH 'THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE.'

2. IRELAND

IN THE JULY 17 EDITION OF THE CONSERVATIVE "OTTAWA SUN", THE PAPER'S COLUMNIST AT LARGE, MATTHEW FISHER WRITES, UNDER THE HEADLINE "NO MORE PAINTING THE TOWN ORANGE":

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT LEADERS IN THE CITY ARE TALKING ABOUT NEGOTIATING WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE SECURITY FORCES TO AVOID THE KIND OF SHOWDOWN THAT TURNED DRUMCREE INTO SUCH A QUAGMIRE.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT INDICATED YESTERDAY THAT THE IRA IS ALSO SENDING UNEXPECTED BUT WELCOME SIGNALS THAT IT MAY BE PREPARED TO SOON SURRENDER SOME IF ITS WEAPONS TO GENERAL JOHN DE CHASTELAIN OF CANADA.

PERHAPS SOME GOOD WILL COME FROM THE LUNACY OF DRUMCREE AND THE CRUEL DEATHS OF THE THREE YOUNG BROTHERS FROM BALLYMONEY.

IN THE BUSINESS-ORIENTED "FINANCIAL POST", CORRESPONDENT JOHN BIERMAN WRITES, UNDER THE HEADLINE "EVENTS IN FRANCE AND ULSTER GIVE SOME REASON FOR HOPE":

THE DYING SCREAMS OF THOSE THREE INNOCENTS -- RICHARD, MARK AND JASON QUINN -- REVERBERATED AROUND THE WORLD AND, JUST AS IT SEEMED THE PROVINCE WAS ABOUT TO DESCEND INTO CHAOS, BROUGHT THE 'LOYALIST' MAJORITY TO THEIR SENSES, SO THEY COULD SEE -- MANY OF THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME -- WHERE THE INGRAINED BIGOTRY OF OSTENSIBLY UPRIGHT, DECENT, GOD-FEARING AND HARD-WORKING MEN WAS LEADING THEM.

...IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE LESSON HAS BEEN FULLY LEARNED. BUT A WATERSHED MORE IMPORTANT EVEN THAN THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT ITSELF MAY HAVE BEEN PASSED; PERCEPTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY ALTERED, TO THE DETRIMENT OF EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFESSIONAL AND POLITICAL DIVIDE.

PERHAPS THOSE THREE SMALL BOYS DID NOT DIE ENTIRELY IN VAIN.

THE LIBERAL "TORONTO STAR'S" REGULAR CORRESPONDENT RICHARD GWYN, IN HIS COLUMN "HOME AND AWAY", UNDER THE HEADLINE "OUT OF EVIL IN NORTHERN IRELAND, GOOD MAY YET FLOW" WROTE TODAY:

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 002563

USIA

AGENCY FOR R/MR;I/RFW;VOA/BX ;
I/GWEU;WEU;EEN
STATE FOR EUR/CAN, EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IN ERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT,
IRELAND

SOMETIMES, OUT OF EVIL CAN COME GOOD, AND OUT OF DEATH
CAN COME LIFE.

...
PERHAPS, OUT OF THEIR APPALLING DEATHS, THE VERY HORROR
OF THE OBLITERATION FUNCTIONING AS A CATALYST, CAN NOW
COME LIFE FOR OTHERS.

THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A HOPE. IT IS A DEFINITE
POSSIBILITY, IF A SMALL ONE.

...
IT'S THE CHANGE OF MOOD ON BOTH SIDES THAT IS NURTURING
THAT SMALL FLICKER OF HOPE.

...
THE KEY CHANGE IS WITHIN THE ORANGE ORDER. FOR THE
FIRST TIME, IT IS DIVIDING WITH ITSELF, IN PUBLIC.

PROVIDED THAT THE NATIONALISTS DO NOT STRIKE BACK, IT
IS POSSIBLE THAT SHAME AND REMORSE WILL BEGIN TO
DISSOLVE THE HARD SHELL OF HAT^DD AND FEAR....

THERE WAS ALWAYS BOUND TO BE A BACKLASH, A LAST,
CONVULSIVE LASHING OUT, AND A LAST HISTORIC STAND,
AGAINST THE AGREEMENT.

...
PERHAPS, THOUGH, THE SUN CAN COME OUT, WEAK AT FIRST
BUT GRADUALLY BEING STRENGTHENED, ON BOTH SIDES, BY THE
CURATIVE POWERS OF SHAME AND REMORSE. THEN THERE
REALLY COULD BE DANCING.
CASSEL ACTING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 2563
<^SSN>2563

TOR: 980717164653 M3382626
<^TOR>980717164710 M3382628

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PATUZYUW RUCWAAA6701 2011621-UUUU--RHEHOND.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU

LINE3: P 201621Z JUL 98

LINE4: FM FBIS RESTON VA

OSRI: RUCWAAA

DTG: 201621Z JUL 98

ORIG: FBIS RESTON VA

TO: RUWMBKA/612 AINS DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB AZ//INTA//
RUEADADA/AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
RUQVKEW/AFIWC KELLY AFB TX//OSKC//
RUWMEGA/AFOSI DET 214 HOWARD AFB PM//CC//
RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA
RUCMACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUERFCP/CDRUSARSO FT CLAYTON PM//SOCS-PA//
RUDHSIC/CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//
RHFJJXP/CINCLANTFLT DET SO NZ FT RODMAN PM
RUCXGRD/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUDPHMS/COLMGTOFC82DABNDIV
RUDPTUT/COLMGTOFCXVIIIABNCORPS
RUWGTG/COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA//PI//
RHEHOND/DIR ONDCP//OR//
RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT QUANTICO VA
RHFJFGI/NAVCRIMINVSERVFO MAYPORT FL//05MP//
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
RUWMEGA/USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM//IN//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3-PSY//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCPA/SCJ2-IW//
RUVUSA/USCS CNAC OKLAHOMA CITY OK//OPS/INTEL//
ACCT FBWA-EWDK

INFO: ////

SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2--Foreign Minister on US Communique on MC

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6J

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19980720001002

WARNING: POST FOR DEA, TAT, NAS

WARNING: ASUNCION PASS DEA/POLR

WARNING: TOPIC: NARCOTICS, MILITARY, LEADER, POLITICAL

SERIAL: WA2007162198

PASS: COPY TO GSG/TDD

COUNTRY: PANAMA, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2--Foreign Minister on US Communique on MC

REF: PA2007014298 Panama City El Panama America in Spanish 19 Jul 98 p A-2 /// the entire nation.

SOURCE: Panama City El Panama America in Spanish 19 Jul 98 p A-2
TEXT:

We have limitations, however, imposed by our reality and history. In any event, Panama will continue to be interested in the main problem, which is controlling drug trafficking.

[Reporter] Do you know what countries are being considered for the MCC?

[Arias] I have no official knowledge of any other country; therefore, naming possible sites would be speculation on my part.

[Reporter] US Senator Jesse Helms has stressed that if the MCC fails, the permanence of US troops could be negotiated. Is this so?

[Arias] We can only say that the MCC project has failed if it cannot be established anywhere else. Not establishing it in Panama is not a failure. Panama has never tried to sell the idea of the MCC or sought support from other nations to establish the center. Panama has said that we have a privileged position, that we have suitable conditions for the MCC, and that based on those factors, we have offered our territory.

[Reporter] Do you think that politics and the presidential reelection issue have affected the negotiations?

[Arias] There is no link between the current internal referendum process and the MCC. The president and the government have handled both matters totally independently from each other.

[Reporter] Will seeking another country to establish the MCC affect bilateral relations?

[Arias] First of all, the United States and Panama have many other areas in common besides the MCC. There are topics that perhaps are more important for us than the MCC, particularly those concerning the transfer of the canal, a situation that is unfolding with "incredible harmony." We are also engaged in other common efforts, such as the struggle against drug trafficking and money laundering.

[Reporter] Why did the United States not announce the break in the negotiations if it is not interested in Panama's proposals?

[Arias] I believe that they realize that there has been no break in the negotiations. As they have said, the Panamanian proposal does not satisfy their interests. They will try to find another site for the MCC, but if they do not find another suitable place, it is possible that they will reconsider the Panamanian proposal.

[Reporter] Is that some kind of pressure?

[Arias] I do not want to think it is some kind of pressure. I believe that countries, especially friendly countries, should not handle their relations based on pressures. I do not view this as pressure, but as a reality. They are interested in establishing a center, but they are not satisfied with the Panamanian proposal because they feel it does not totally respond to their interests. Therefore, they will try to find another site that will meet those interests.

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(endall)

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6701

TOR: 980720122351 M3384656

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RATUZYUW RUCWAAA2488 2041659-UUUU--RHEHOND.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU

LINE3: R 231659Z JUL 98

LINE4: FM FBIS RESTON VA

OSRI: RUCWAAA

DTG: 231659Z JUL 98

ORIG: FBIS RESTON VA

TO: RUWMBKA/612 AINS DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB AZ//INTA//
RUEDADA/AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
RUQVKEW/AFIWC KELLY AFB TX//OSKC//
RUWMEGA/AFOSI DET 214 HOWARD AFB PM//CC//
RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA
RUCMACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUERFCP/CDRUSARSO FT CLAYTON PM//SOCS-PA//
RUDHSIC/CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//
RUCXGRD/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUDPHMS/COLMGTOFC82DABNDIV
RUDPTUT/COLMGTOFCXVIIIABNCORPS
RUWGTCG/COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA//PI//
RHEHOND/DIR ONDCP//OR//
RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT QUANTICO VA
RHFJFGI/NAVCRIMINVSEVFO MAYPORT FL//05MP//
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
RUWMEGA/USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM//IN//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3-PSY//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCPA/SCJ2-IW//
ACCT FBWA-EWDK

INFO: ////

SUBJ: Trabajadores: Radio, TV Marti a 'Lack of Political Log

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6A

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19980723001097

WARNING: USVIENNA: ASG

WARNING: TOPIC: TELECOM, POLITICAL, DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: PA2307164998

PASS: ATTN BBC SD
COPY TO SIB, ESG

COUNTRY: CUBA

SUBJ: Trabajadores: Radio, TV Marti a 'Lack of Political Log

SOURCE: Havana Trabajadores (Internet version) in Spanish 20 Jul
98

TEXT:

[Report by Lazaro Barredo Medina]

[FBIS Translated Text]

With the recent budget approved by the House Appropriations Committee, the US Congress has used more than \$300 millions of the taxpayers' money to finance Radio and TV Marti.

It is incredible how much money is wasted to support the extremist positions of the most conservative American legislators, who are deaf to all rational logic as long as they keep up, unchanged and at any cost, their strategic goal of fueling the anti- Cuban industry.

This is perhaps the most convincing proof of the delirious stubbornness that upholds its refusal to change the US Congress' views on Cuba, in addition to the overwhelming interests of people such as Jesse Helms and other legislators who are really after a few Miami votes, or are seeking funds for their political campaigns from people who have proven links to terrorist activities.

Their stubbornness makes them blind to the most basic question: What is the cost-benefit of this project?

They have spent more than \$160 million in their failed goal of encouraging a domestic front that would promote a situation of riots and clashes, and so each day that goes on this project becomes an absurd echo of scant credibility. They have likewise spent more than \$140 million in the ill-named TV Marti, which for 10 years has been a "no-see-TV" [noseteve].

Of course, there are some legislators who have been objective in opposing these bills, such as Democrat Representative David Skaggs, whose investigations and analyses prove that both outlets are a waste of public funds and have become naturalized goals within the national policies of the United States.

The headaches caused by these outlets have not been few. The leaders of US official media policies are still amazed by these events. The number of accusations on the poor management and diverse problems of these official American outlets (Radio and TV Marti are attached to the US Information Agency and the Broadcasting Council is appointed by the President of the United States) which everybody knows have been controlled until now by a Phalanx of Nostalgic Affluent Cubans [a play on words: Falange de Nostalgicos Cubanos Adinerados] (the so-called Cuban-American National Foundation Cuban- American National Foundation), FNCA.

A few months ago, there was a controversy resulting from the findings of the State Department's Inspector General, who dismissed the accusations of TV Marti employees and their complaints of reprisals for opposing the manipulations of the FNCA. However, the report acknowledged finding examples of poor management.

Previously, the United States Information Agency (USIA) had completed another report on a two-year investigation of Radio Marti which noted a "variety of serious charges" (including corruption), which were later shelved under pressure by the FNCA.

All this lack of political logic toward Cuba is justified under the false belief that these broadcasts help maintain the pressure. It is sad that the American taxpayers are not aware that while their social programs are being cut, a group of congressmen waste such amounts of money in a futile project in order to boast their technological might and try to humiliate a small country.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2488

TOR: 980723130133 M3390125

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA5507 2060147-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 250144Z JUL 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 250144Z JUL 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0948
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5454
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0156
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 0087
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE 6483
RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 2273
RUATNPP/AMCONSUL PUSAN IMMEDIATE 6550
RUEHKOF/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 8403
RUEHKON/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 1810
RUHBBMA/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 2075
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 5186
RUEHKOS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO IMMEDIATE 7032
INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 6678
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 5144
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 9900
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 6096
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 2546
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 3941
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 6796
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 5913
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 3909
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KOR//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS//PRIORITY
RUAGAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KOR PRIORITY
RHHMHAH/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY 4493
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY 6090
RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD PRIORITY
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY 7995
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY 0923
SUBJ: JULY 24, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
USCINOPAC FOR FPA TEAR
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 STATE 135507

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, XE, US
 SUBJECT: JULY 24, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
 SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
 USCINOPAC FOR FPA TEAR
 USVIENNA FOR UNVIE
 ROME FOR STORELLA
 MANILA -- ALSO FOR A/S ROTH

1. INDEX

-- CAMBODIA: SANCTIONS (PARAS 2 AND 3)
 -- JAPAN: NEW PRIME MINISTER (PARAS 2 AND 4)
 -- JAPAN: DASD CAMPBELL COMMENT ON GUIDELINES LEGISLATION
 (PARAS 2 AND 5)
 -- NORTH KOREA: REPATRIATION OF U.S. SOLDIERS (PARAS 2 AND
 6)
 -- PAPUA NEW GUINEA: TSUNAMI UPDATE (PARAS 2 AND 7)
 -- CHINA: DETENTION OF CEO OF CHINESE COMPANY (PARAS 2 AND
 8)
 -- INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT: SFRC HEARING (PARAS 2 AND
 9)
 -- RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION LEGISLATION (PARAS 2 AND 10)

2. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON 7/24/98.
 THERE WAS NO REGULAR PRESS BRIEFING ON THAT DAY. POSTS MAY
 DRAW FROM THESE GUIDANCES FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

3. CAMBODIA: SANCTIONS

CONTEXT: CAMBODIA'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD
 JULY 26, WITH PRELIMINARY RESULTS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 1. U.S.
 BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA REMAINS SUSPENDED.

Q: ARE THERE ANY SANCTIONS IN PLACE AGAINST CAMBODIA?

A: FOLLOWING THE VIOLENT OUSTER OF THE ELECTED FIRST PRE
 MINISTER LAST JULY, WE SUSPENDED TWO-THIRDS OF OUR \$38
 MILLION FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, RETAINING ONLY PROGRAMS
 FOR HUMANITARIAN AND DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED THROUGH
 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. CONGRESS HAS PASSED
 LEGISLATION RESTRICTING FY98 U.S. ASSISTANCE TO
 HUMANITARIAN, DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE. THAT
 LEGISLATION IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY.

WE ALSO WORKED WITH LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES IN THE UN TO KEEP
 CAMBODIA'S SEAT OPEN UNTIL THE PARIS PEACE ACCORD FRAMEWORK
 IS FULLY RESTORED.

THE UNITED STATES IS PROVIDING \$2.3 MILLION FOR
 OBSERVATION, TRAINING OF POLLWORKERS AND OTHER ELECTION-
 RELATED ACTIVITIES BY CAMBODIAN AND INTERNATIONAL NON-
 GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING \$400,000
 TO THE UNITED NATIONS' ELECTION ASSISTANCE SECRETARIAT IN

PHNOM PENH.

(IF ASKED)

OUR DECISIONS ON FUTURE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 STATE 135507

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JULY 24, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

WILL DEPEND IN LARGE PART ON THE CONDUCT OF THE JULY 26
ELECTIONS AND RESPECT FOR THE ELECTION RESULTS BY ALL
CAMBODIAN PARTIES.

THERE ARE NO TRADE OR INVESTMENT SANCTIONS.

4. JAPAN: NEW PRIME MINISTER

CONTEXT: THE LDP IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO FORM THE NEW
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT -- AND CONFIRM ITS NEW PRESIDENT, MR.
OBUCHI, AS PRIME MINISTER -- BECAUSE IT HAS A MAJORITY IN

THE DIET LOWER HOUSE. ONE POSSIBLE COMPLICATION, HOWEVER,
IS THE THREAT MADE DURING THE LDP PRESIDENCY CAMPAIGN BY
TWENTY YOUNG LDP LOWER HOUSE MEMBERS THAT THEY WOULD RESIGN
IF MR. OBUCHI WERE CHOSEN, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE LDP
MAJORITY. THIS WOULD COMPLICATE, BUT PROBABLY NOT BLOCK
THE EXPECTED JULY 30 DIET CONFIRMATION OF MR. OBUCHI AS
PRIME MINISTER.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE ELECTION OF MR. OBUCHI AS
PRESIDENT OF THE LDP, WHICH VIRTUALLY ASSURES HE WILL
SHORTLY BECOME PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN?

A: WE CONGRATULATE MR. OBUCHI ON HIS VICTORY AS LDP PARTY
PRESIDENT. THE NEXT STEP IN CHOOSING A PRIME MINISTER WILL
BE A VOTE IN THE DIET, EXPECTED ON JULY 30. MR. OBUCHI HAS
BEEN FOREIGN MINISTER AND WE HAVE WORKED WELL AND CLOSELY
WITH HIM TO STRENGTHEN U.S.-JAPAN BILATERAL TIES AND ON
MANY ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
CONTINUING THAT PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP.

THE UNITED STATES HAS CLOSE AND ENDURING TIES TO JAPAN, ITS
KEY ALLY IN THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION. OUR SECURITY,
POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS ARE EXTENSIVE AND VITAL
TO BOTH COUNTRIES. THE AMERICAN AND JAPANESE PEOPLE SHARE
VALUES, MANY COMMON INTERESTS, AND STRONG BONDS OF
FRIENDSHIP. WE VIEW JAPAN AS A TRUE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL
PARTNER. OUR DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION WORLDWIDE AND IN THE
UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING OUR WORK TOGETHER ON
TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES, HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS FORCE FOR GOOD.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH JAPAN
WILL CONTINUE TO PROSPER UNDER THE NEW PRIME MINISTER. WE
LOOK FORWARD TO EARLY ACTION TO ADDRESS JAPAN'S ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS. A HEALTHY JAPANESE ECONOMY IS VITAL TO JAPAN,

THE REGION, AND THE WORLD.

Q: (IF ASKED) TWENTY LDP LOWER HOUSE DIET MEMBERS SAID THEY WOULD RESIGN IF MR. OBUCHI WERE SELECTED AS LDP PRESIDENT. WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT OF THIS LOSS OF AN LDP MAJORITY IN THE LOWER HOUSE AND WHAT IS YOUR REACTION?

A: THAT IS A MATTER OF JAPANESE DOMESTIC POLITICS. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT

5. JAPAN: DASD CAMPBELL COMMENT ON GUIDELINEt LEGISLATION

CONTEXT: IN A JULY 24 INTERVIEW WITH THE JAPANESE DAILY YOMIURI, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE KURT

CAMPBELL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE LDP'S LOSSES IN THE UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 STATE 135507

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JULY 24, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

UPPER HOUSE ELECTION WOULD AFFECT TWO BILLS ON IMPLEMENTING THE DEFENSE GUIDELINES THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEFORE THE JAPANESE DIET. CAMPBELL SAID THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THE GOJ MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE DEFENSE GUIDELINES PROCESS IN BRDER TO APPEASE OPPOSITION PARTIES.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE KURT CAMPBELL'S COMMENTS ON JAPAN'S DRAFT GUIDELINES LEGISLATION?

A: WE HAVE ENJOYED EXCELLENT COOPERATION WITH PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO ON DEFENSE ISSUES, AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE UNDER HIS SUCCESSOR. THE DEFENSE GUIDELINES ARE IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHENING OUR ALLIANCE, AND WE HOPE IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION WILL MOVE FORWARD.

6. NORTH KOREA: REPATRIATION OF REMAINS OF U.S. SOLDIERS

CONTEXT: THREE SETS OF WHAT ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE REMAINS OF U.S. SOLDIERS WERE REPATRIATED AT 1100 AM FRIDAY JULY 24 AT PANMUNJON. ON THE HEELS OF RECENT TROUBLING ACTIONS BY THE DPRK INCLUDING THE SUBMARINE INCIDENT, THE FROGMAN INCURSION, THREATS TO RESUME REPROCESSING SPENT FUEL, PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON MISSILE SALES, AND THE DETENTION OF A U.S. CITIZEN ON PATENTLY FALSE ESPIONAGE CHARGES, THE SO-FAR UNEVENTFUL REPATRIATION REPRESENTS A POSITIVE ACTION BY THE DPRK.

Q: CAN WE CONFIRM REPORTS THAT SOME SETS OF U.S. SERVICEMEN REMAINS WILL BE REPATRIATED AT PANMUNJON THIS WEEK?

A: THREE SETS OF WHAT ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE REMAINS OF

U.S. SOLDIERS WERE REPATRIATED AT 11:00 AM FRIDAY (LOCAL TIME), JULY 24 AT PANMUNJON. A UNITED NATIONS COMMAND HONOR GUARD WAS ON HAND THERE TO RECEIVE THE REMAINS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DPRK'S CONTINUING COOPERATION ON THIS ISSUE.

Q: WHAT WILL BE THE DISPOSITION OF THE REMAINS FOLLOWING REPATRIATION?

A: FOLLOWING REPATRIATION, THE REMAINS WILL BE FLOWN TO THE ARMY CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN HAWAII FOR ANALYSIS AND POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION.

?. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: TSUNAMI UPDATE

Q: CAN YOU BRING US FURTHER UP TO DATE ON THE SITUATION AND U.S. RESPONSE?

A: OUR EMBASSY IN PORT MORESBY REPORTS THAT CONFIRMED DEATHS NOW TOP 2,000, WITH AN EQUAL NUMBER SAID TO REMAIN MISSING. ACCORDING TO THE GPNG, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RECOVER ALL THE BODIES FROM THE SWAMPS AND LAGOON, AND IT HAS DECIDED TO DECLARE THE LAGOON AREA "OFF LIMITS."

THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS CENTER--PACIFIC (SOCPAC) COMMUNICATIONS TEAM AND C-141 FULL OF SUPPLIES HAVE ARRIVED IN COUNTRY. THE SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE PNG UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 STATE 135507

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JULY 24, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

RED CROSS. THE SPECIAL OPS TEAM IS WORKING WITH THE PNG NATIONAL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP ON IMPROVING TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

THE TWO MILITARY PHYSICIANS WILL ARRIVE 25 JULY, AND WILL PROCEED TO VANIMO COURTESY OF THE PNG RED CROSS.

USAID OFDA DISASTER RELIEF ADVISOR WILL ARRIVE 25 JULY.

MEANWHILE, THE NGO FLORIDA SPECIAL RESOURCE TEAM DOG TEAM HAS ALSO ARRIVED VIA AUSTRALIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO THE DISASTER AREA.

8. CHINA: DETENTION OF CEO OF CHINESE COMPANY

CONTEXT: THE WASHINGTON POST HAS REPORTED THE DETENTION BY LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS OF THE CEO OF A CHINESE COMPANY, ASIA ELECTRONICS HOLDING CO., INC., WHICH IS LISTED ON THE NASDAQ STOCK EXCHANGE. (THE CEO, DU QINGSONG, IS A PRC, NOT US CITIZEN.) DISCLOSURE OF THE DETENTION, AS REQUIRED BY SEC RULES, HAS CAUSED THE VALUE OF THE COMPANY STOCK TO DROP DRAMATICALLY. THE ARTICLE

NOTES THAT LACK OF INFORMATION ON THE CHARGES AGAINST DU, NEXT STEPS IN HIS CASE, ETC. HAVE CAUSED CONCERN NOT ONLY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS COMPANY'S STOCK, BUT ABOUT THE SPILL-OVER EFFECT ONTO ALL PRC-LISTED COMPANIES IN US STOCK EXCHANGES. THIS COULD AFFECT US SHAREHOLDERS AND DAMAGE CHINA'S CHANCES FOR ACCESSING EQUITY MARKETS IN THE FUTURE, ONE ELEMENT OF ITS ECONOMIC REFORM PLANS. EAP AND COMMERCE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY US LAWYERS REPRESENTING ASIA ELECTRONICS HOLDING CO., WHO HAVE ASKED FOR ADVICE ON WHO TO APPROACH IN CHINA TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON DU'S SITUATION. THEY HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR EMBASSY BEIJING'S HELP

IN SETTING UP MEETINGS FOR THEM WHEN THEY TRAVEL THERE NEXT WEEK. WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING THE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THE LAWYERS HAVE NOT ASKED FOR OUR INTERVENTION. THEY BELIEVE, AND WE CONCUR, THAT THIS IS BEST HANDLED NOW AS A PURELY COMMERCIAL MATTER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON THE DETENTION OF THE CEO OF A PRC COMPANY LISTED ON THE NASDAQ EXCHANGE?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF THIS ISSUE. I WOULD ONLY NOTE THAT THIS IS A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL INTEGRATION OF MODERN ECONOMIES. ACTIONS BY LOCAL OFFICIALS IN CHINA CAN HAVE AN EFFECT ON SHARES OF A COMPANY IN A STOCK MARKET IN NEW YORK. IT ALSO UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE GLOBAL CAPITAL MARKETS ATTACH TO TRANSPARENCY AND PREDICTABILITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE FACTORS FOR COUNTRIES THAT WANT TO MAINTAIN SOUND AND STABLE GROWTH.

(IF PRESSED)

WE AND THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY US ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING ASIA ELECTRONICS HOLDINGS, INC., BUT HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED TO INTERVENE ON THIS CASE, WHICH REMAINS A PURELY COMMERCIAL MATTER.

9. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT: SFRC HEARING

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 STATE 135507

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JULY 24, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

CONTEXT YESTERDAY, AMBASSADOR DAVID SCHEFFER TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ROME TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, SENATOR HELMS STATED THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER ITS OVERSEAS OBLIGATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE ICC TREATY ADOPTED IN ROME.

Q: YESTERDAY, SENATOR HELMS CALLED FOR THE US TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL FOREIGN PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES AND REOPEN BASING AGREEMENTS TO PROTECT US FORCES FROM PROSECUTION UNDER THE

ICC. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT THIS POSITION?

A: THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF A FAIR, EFFECTIVE AND PROPERLY-CONSTITUTED INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT THAT WILL BRING TO JUSTICE THE PERPETRATORS OF GENOCIDE, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND SERIOUS WAR CRIMES.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE TREATY AGREED TO IN ROME LAU WEEK WAS FLAWED. THE U.S. CANNOT SUPPORT THE TREATY AS IT NOW STANDS.

A KEY AMERICAN CONCERN, ONE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SHARES WITH SENATORS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, IS THAT THE COURT MAY EXPOSE AMERICAN TROOPS AND PERSONNEL TO POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED PROSECUTIONS. NO AMERICAN SHOULD EVER BE SUBJECTED TO UNWARRANTED PROSECUTION BY ANY COURT.

THE ICC SHOULD NOT SECOND-GUESS THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS OF COUNTRIES WHERE THE RULE OF LAW IS STRONG AND JUST. AMERICANS WHO DESERVE TO BE PROSECUTED WILL BE PROSECUTED - IN THE CRIMINAL OR MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES.

UNDER THE PRESENT TEXT OF THE TREATY, THE POL POTS COULD EVADE PROSECUTION BUT PEACEKEEPERS COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PROSECUTIONS.

THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT FUTURE EFFORTS CAN REPAIR THE FLAWS IN THE EXISTING TREATY AND PERMIT U.S. PARTICIPATION.

Q: (IF PRESSED) BUT YOU ARE GOING TO DO WHAT HELMS SUGGESTED AND REVIEW STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS?

A: WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION ON THIS ISSUE, BUT NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN MADE.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO PROTECT OUR TROOPS IF WE DETERMINE SUCH ACTION TO BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

Q: HAVE YOU HAD ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN ALLIES ON THIS?

A: WE ALREADY HAVE BEGUN CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR ALLIES TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE AWARE OF OUR CONCERNS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE RIGHT COURSE IS TO CORRECT THE TREATY'S FLAWS. WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO CORRECT THEM BEFORE WE WOULD HAVE TO MOVE INTO ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO THE TREATY.

10. RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION LEGISLATION
UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 STATE 135507

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, XE, US

SUBJECT: JULY 24, 1998 PRESS GUIDANCES FOR THE EAP REGION

Q: THE SENATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY CONSIDERATION OF THE NICKLES BILL (S.R.1868, "THE INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1998") . WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? DOES THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSE THE LEGISLATION?

A: THIS ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO THE PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD AND WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS TO ADDRESS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ISSUES.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE TWO SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT BILLS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE CONGRESS: THE WOLF SPECTER BILL AND THE NICKLES BILL.

WE CONTINUE TO HAVE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO THE WOLF-SPECTER BILL AND THE DEPARTMENT HAS STATED REPEATEDLY THAT IF THE WOLF-SPECTER BILL WERE PLACED BEFORE THE PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENT'S SENIOR ADVISORS WOULD RECOMMEND A VETO.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHLIGHTED ITS CONCERNS ON THE NICKLES BILL IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON MAY 12. WE HOPE THAT THESE CONCERNS WILL BE ADDRESSED.

IF ASKED:

WE WILL WAIT TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE NICKLES BILL UNTIL WE HAVE A FINAL VERSION.
PICKERING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 06

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INFO: RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 2542
SUBJ: "media reaction" u.s. role, golan, war crimes
tribunal

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DAMASCUS 004603

USIA

USIA FOR R/MR, VOA NEWS CA, NEA, I/GNEA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
SECSTATE FOR PA, NEA/ARN, INR/IC/CD
NICOSIA FOR MG
CENTCOM FOR CCPA

E.O.12958: N/A

SUBJECT: "media reaction" u.s. role, golan, war crimes
tribunal

1. Summary: Syrian newspapers reported the failure of
the Palestinian-Israeli talks and the American threat to
withdraw from the peace process. Editorialists
criticized the U.S. stand, describing it as
"disappointing and provocative."

The Syrian press also criticized the Israeli Knesset
vote on non-withdrawal from the Golan; one editorialist
characterized it as anti-Arab aggression.

Newspapers also criticized the U.S. Congress, naming
Senator Jesse Helms, for campaigning against the

establishment of an international War Crimes Tribunal. One commentator noted that "the U.S. is contradicting herself as she always claims concern about human rights." End summary.

2. Selected headlines:

Government-owned Al-Thawra (7/24, page 1) "America is annoyed by the failure of talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and refuses to send Dennis Ross to the region"

Government-owned Tishreen (7/25, page 1) "American criticism for establishment of an International War Crimes Tribunal"

Government-owned Al-Thawra (7/26, page 1) "Israel seizes Palestinian lands in Jerusalem. The Netanyahu government is responsible for the failure of talks [between Israel and the Palestinian Authority]... News circulated of an American initiative to save the talks"

Government-owned Tishreen (7/27, page 1) "Presidents Asad and Mubarak discuss in Alexandria recent developments and Arab and international efforts to re-start the peace process. President Mubarak: The European role is complementary to the American role"

3. Editorial block quotations:

"Mutilating the Peace Corpse"

Chief Editor Amid Khouli commented in government-owned Al-Thawra (7/25):

"The Israeli Knesset's dangerous vote on not withdrawing from the Golan is pure anti-Arab aggression. It is no surprise that the U.S. feigns neutrality...as if the U.S. were blessing the Israeli vote and pushing the region towards a dangerous and frightful escalation of tensions...

"Does America aim to withdraw from the peace process silently or to mutilate the corpse of peace with cold blood?"

"Our Rights Cannot be Discounted"

Mohamed Ali Buza commented in government-owned Al-Thawra (7/26): "While everyone is watching for a U.S. awakening--albeit late--to correct the course of action in the region, Washington surprises us with disappointing, frustrating and provocative stands tantamount to her withdrawal from the peace process....

"By keeping silent on the Israeli actions, Washington gives Israeli leaders time to evade the Madrid conference requirements, to prolong the policy of occupation and to make the law of jungle take the place

of achieving peace and defusing tension in the region...."

"Israel is Behind the U.S. Congress Campaign"

An unsigned editorial in government-Tishreen reads
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 DAMASCUS 004603

USIA

USIA FOR R/MR, VOA NEWS CA, NEA, IGNEA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
SECSTATE FOR PA, NEA/ARN, NR/IC/CD
NICOSIA FOR ILMG
CENTCOM FOR CCPA

E.O.12958: N/A

SUBJECT: "media reaction" u.s. role, golan, war crimes
tribunal

(7/26): "The U.S. Congress is waging a fierce campaign
against the International War Crimes Tribunal on all
fronts...."

"It is no surprise that Israel is leading such a hostile
campaign against the tribunal, that the U.S. is adopting
the Israeli stand and that Senator Jesse Helms is
threatening all governments and states that supported
the establishment of the tribunal.

"The U.S., always a defender of human rights, is
contradicting herself as she insists on her double
standard policy...."

WURR,
ACTING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

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USIA

USIA FOR R/MR, AR (DAVIS), D/P, I/G, I/RW, I/ANY,
I/RLA, B/VOA, B/VOA/L,
B/TVWSC
STATE FOR S/S, ARA/PAF, ARA/BSC, ARA/P (HAHN)
WH FOR PRESS OFFICE (MCCURRY), NSC

E.O. 12958:N/A
SUBJECT: ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS; U.S., CHINA, JAPAN;
ROME'S INTERNATIONAL COURT; AFRICA: CONGO DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC; SAO PAULO

A. CENTER-RIGHT 0 ESTADO DE S. PAULO'S LEAD EDITORIAL
COMMENTS (08/06) THAT QUOTE THE RISK OF A RECESSION IN
THE U.S. MARKET AS A RESULT OF THE PERSISTENT ASIAN
CRISIS SEEMS TO BE REDUCED. THIS CRISIS HAS AFFECTED
U.S. FOREIGN TRADE BUT WILL HARDLY CAUSE MAJOR DAMAGES
TO AN ECONOMY BASED ON EXTREMELY SOLID
FOUNDATIONS.UNQUOTE

1. QUOTE HOWEVER, THERE IS A FEAR IN WORLD MARKETS
REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION IN ASIA AND
RUSSIA... IN THE CASE OF JAPAN THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT
HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT SO FAR TO PERMIT ANY CERTAINTY
REGARDING THE RESUMPTION OF GROWTH. THE UNCERTAINTY
CONTINUES TO PRODUCE STRONG SWINGS IN JAPAN'S CAPITAL
MARKETS. THIS DEVELOPMENT AFFECTS ASIAN MARKETS WITH
FREQUENT CONSEQUENCES TO WESTERN STOCK MARKETS.

2. QUOTE THE INSECURITY REGARDING THE JAPANESE ECONOMY

ALSO RISES DOUBTS ABOUT THE CHINESE POLICY... IF THE FRAGILITY OF THE YEN PERSISTS, THE CHINESE POLICY MAY PERHAPS BECOME UNTENABLE, ACCORDING TO THE EVALUATION OF SEVERAL EXPERTS. A DEVALUATION OF THE YUAN COULD BE DISASTROUS FOR MOST OF THE ASIAN ECONOMIES. IN THIS CASE THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MUCH MORE STRONGLY THAN IN THE PREVIOUS STAGES OF THE CRISIS.

3. QUOTE SINCE THE RISK IS WELL KNOWN, THE GOVERNMENTS' CONCERN TENDS TO MAKE A LARGER DISASTER IN ASIA LESS UNLIKELY... IT WOULD BE AN EXAGGERATION TO PAINT THIS PICTURE AS BEING SECURE OR COMFORTABLE, BUT IT NEITHER JUSTIFIES THE PESSIMISM SO FREQUENTLY SHOWN... THE VIGOR OF THE WESTERN ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE U.S., CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT SHOCK ABSORBER OF ASIA-ORIGINATED IMPACTS.UNQUOTE

B. A BYLINER IN LIBERAL FOLHA DE S. PAULO'S OP-ED PAGE (08/06) QUESTIONS U.S. REFUSAL TO RATIFY THE INTERNATIONAL PENAL CODE UNDER THE TITLE, QUOTE THE UNFORGIVEN,UNQUOTE QUOTE WHY THE U.S. OPPOSES THE ADOPTION OF MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH ATTEMPT TO DEFINE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LIVING TOGETHER IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY?UNQUOTE

1. QUOTE WASHINGTON'S REITERATED INTERVENTIONS -- VEILED OR OPEN -- IN OTHER NATIONS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAVE BECOME COMMON UNDER THE JUSTIFICATION THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT DEFEND THE SELFISH NATIONAL INTEREST BUT MANKIND'S SACRED PRINCIPLES... WASHINGTON JUSTIFIES (SUCH ATTITUDES) ALLEGING QUESTIONS OF TERMINOLOGY, INSUFFICIENCY OF TEXTS AND THEIR SUPPOSED INAPPLICABILITY....

2. QUOTE THE U.S. REFUSAL TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL LAW ADVANCE AND TO TRANSFORM CIVILIZED PRINCIPLES INTO UNIVERSAL ONES IS DUE TO THE AWARENESS THAT THE LAW IS THE SHIELD OF THE WEAK AND FORCE IS THE REASON OF THE STRONG. HOW THEN DOES ONE CONVINCE THE WORLD ABOUT THE FAIRNESS OF SUCH PRINCIPLES IF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NATION... IS ITS MAJOR ADVERSARY?...

3. QUOTE THE U.S. OBSTRUCTION AND CERTAIN LIMITATIONS OF THE TEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT STATUTE IN ROME SHOULD NOT OVERSHADOW THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVANCE IT (THE INTERNATIONAL PENAL CODE) REPRESENTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS...

4. QUOTE THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE (U.S.) SENATE, HEADED BY THE POWERFUL JESSE HELMS, WOULD HARDLY APPROVE THE COURT'S STATUTES. BUT THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S OBLIGATION HAS TO SIGN THE ACCORD AND LEAVE TO THE CONGRESS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TRYING TO BAR THE MOST HUMANE ADVANCE IN CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL LAW.UNQUOTE

C. BYLINER IN CENTER-RIGHT O ESTADO DE S. PAULO(8/6) UNDER TITLE QUOTE U.S. AND FRENCH DIPLOMACY FAILS IN

CONGO UNQUOTE SAYS THAT QUOTE THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MOBUTU AND KABILA IS THAT ONE HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH AND THE OTHER OF THE AMERICANS.UNQUOTE

1.QUOTE BOTH PRESIDENTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (FORMER ZAIRE) HAVE NO COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY. BOTH ALWAYS HAD THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AFRICAN DICTATORS.

2.QUOTE TODAY, THE U.S. ADMITS ITS INABILITY TO CONTROL ITS ALLY KABILA.

3.QUOTE KABILA HAS RASHLY INTRODUCED BY THE AMERICANS AS THE MAN WHO WOULD SAVE THIS COUNTRY AFTER MOBUTU'S LONG DICTATORSHIP.

4.QUOTE THE AMERICANS SUPPORTED LAURENT KABILA FOR A LONG TIME, IGNORING THE FACT THAT HIS DEMOCRATIC TALK-HAS JUST FOR EFFECT.

5.QUOTE HOWEVER, WASHINGTON FOUND IN KABILA A MAN WILLING TO HUMILIATE BILL CLINTON'S ENVOY WHO TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO PROGRESSIVELY DEMOCRATIZE THE COUNTR.

6.QUOTE TODAY, ONE CAN SURELY SAY THAT THE BET ON LAURENT KABILA, CONSTITUTED A RUDE COUP FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.

7. QUOTE THE FAILURE IN WASHINGTON IS SUCH THAT THE AMERICANS ARE BEING ADVISED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THE FRENCH TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY AND FOLLOW THE SAME PATH.

8.QUOTE AS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND RWANDA DETERIORATE, THE POSITION OF U.S. DIPLOMACY IN THE REGION IS EVEN MORE DELICATE. AFTER ALL, IT HAS THE AMERICANS WHO CONVINCED THE MILITARY IN RWANDA TO HELP KABILA AGAINST MOBUTU.

9.QUOTE THE FORMER ZAIRE IS AGAIN STRONGLY THREATENED BY DIVISION DUE TO THE INABILITY OF ITS LEADERS TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY, WHOSE HISTORY IS MARKED BY CORRUPTION AND EXPEDIENCY.UNQUOTE
DWYER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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ACCT FBWA-EWDK

INFO: ////

SUBJ: Further on Alleged Plot Exposed by Legislator Bush

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6J

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19980806003474

WARNING: TOPIC: POLITICAL, DOMESTIC

SERIAL: PA0708002198

COUNTRY: PANAMA

SUBJ: Further on Alleged Plot Exposed by Legislator Bush

REF: pa0608130798 panama city telemetro television network
spanish 052300 -- arnulfists, prd's bush expose alleged
plots

SOURCE: Panama City El Panama America in Spanish 6 Aug 98 p 1

TEXT:

[Article by Aquilino Ortega Luna]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The official sector exposed yesterday an alleged conspiracy reportedly involving a son of former President George Bush, Alfredo Oranges of the [ruling] Democratic Revolutionary Party, Arnulfist banker Alberto Vallarino, former Vice President Guillermo Ford, and Senator Jesse Helms, among others.

The charge was leveled by PRD Legislator Miguel Bush who claimed to have intelligence reports as evidence.

Bush said that the "conspirators" met in Havana (Cuba), Miami (United States), and Panama to coordinate plans to destabilize the current government in view of failed negotiations to establish the Multilateral Counternarcotics Center (MCC).

He claimed that Alfredo Oranges and other "mid-level leaders" of the PRD are conspiring against the current government.

The legislator did not identify the son of former President George Bush, who is mentioned in the intelligence reports. The the former president's sons are George Jr, who is the governor of Texas, and Jeb, who is a businessman in Miami.

According to Miguel Bush, sectors of the US "establishment" are taking advantage of the atmosphere created by the referendum to "prepare a number of negative developments to undermine the republic's image," and especially by blowing clashes in Darien, the capital, and San Miguelito out of proportion.

He underscored that this destabilizing plan includes distorted polls and street disorders and violence should the Yes vote win during the referendum.

Bush did not exclude the Suntracs [Single National Union of Construction and Related Workers], Amoacss [Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Fund], the teachers, and the Justice and Peace Commission itself from this conspiracy.

In this regard, businessman Roberto Eisenmann, who was mentioned by Bush as one of the conspirators, said that it seems that Bush is still wearing the "helmet of the military men."

"I think that Bush either just returned from Disney World or is smoking something, because I have not heard a story as illusory as this one."

During the regime of Manuel Antonio Noriega, the PRD approved a resolution at the Legislative Assembly declaring a group of opposition members as "traitors."

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(endall)

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ACCT FBWA-EWDK

INFO: ///

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2--18 Aug Argentina Press Summaries

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6K

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19980819000855

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC, ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL, POLITICAL

SERIAL: WA1908150698

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2--18 Aug Argentina Press Summaries

SOURCE: Buenos Aires Clarin (Internet version) in Spanish 18
Aug 98

TEXT:

[FBIS Report]

1. S. Ambassador

Candidate's Senate Approval Doubtful (Un candidato con pocas chances de exito--Political Section). According to Clarin, President Clinton is likely to nominate Hassan Nemazee as U.S. ambassador to Argentina, but the Iranian banker's chances for Senate approval appear slim. U.S. sources tell Clarin that Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, probably will reject Nemazee because he contributed \$150,000 to Clinton's presidential campaigns. Clarin reports that Nemazee also attended White House gatherings currently under investigation by the U.S. Congress, in which business leaders met with Clinton and contributed up to \$10,000 toward campaign financing.

Clarin notes that if Nemazee is confirmed as U.S. ambassador to Argentina, then he will be the Clinton administration's first political appointee for the post; both Terence Todman and James Cheek were career diplomats. Clarin claims that Nemazee's Iranian origin has caused anxiety among Argentine Foreign Ministry officials. According to Clarin, Nemazee was born in Washington but lived in Iran until 1979, when the Islamic revolution took place and he moved to the U.S. He currently manages the Nemazee Capital Corporation, and lives on Park Avenue in New York City. Argentine Foreign Ministry sources confirm U.S. accounts that Nemazee is the top U.S. ambassadorial candidate at present.

La Nacion reports that Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has confirmed that Hassan Nemazee is the Clinton administration's top candidate to be the new U.S. ambassador to Argentina. Di Tella told La Nacion that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright telephoned him last week to say that Nemazee's nomination will be announced in the next few days. Di Tella added that "we were informed, and if they believe that he can represent the U.S. well, then he seems fine to us." However, Di Tella noted that Nemazee's Iranian origin is "a fact which is rather surprising."

La Nacion explains that Di Tella was referring to the ongoing investigation into the 1994 bombing of the Argentine-Jewish Mutual Association. Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano's suspicions that Iranian officials were responsible for the bombing reportedly are shared by U.S. security and intelligence organizations. Di Tella commented to La Nacion that although Nemazee's Iranian background "will lead to many conversations, serious conversations and ironic conversations," the Argentine government believes that he is "an American like any other." Di Tella also stated that Argentine officials have decided that the possibility that the Nemazee family might be involved in lawsuits against the Iranian government is immaterial to his nomination as U.S. ambassador. Di Tella concluded by noting that he told Albright: "If you are happy with him, then we are too." (Buenos Aires Clarin (Internet version) in Spanish 18 Aug 98; Buenos Aires La Nacion (Internet version) in Spanish 16 Aug 98)

Presidential Election

Television Viewers Rate Alliance Debate (Los televidentes creen que De la Rúa y Graciela empataron--Political Section). According to the results of a public opinion poll requested by Clarin, viewers of the televised debate between Alliance presidential candidates Fernando de la Rúa and Graciela Fernandez Meijide believe that neither candidate emerged a clear winner. Instead, poll respondents pick Fernandez Meijide as the victor by

a mere 1.6 percentage points. Almost half of those polled (43.5 percent) view the debate as a tie between the two candidates. Concerning their debating styles, Clarin reports that Fernandez Meijide spoke more directly and clearly to the people than did De la Rúa. Survey results show that viewers believe that she was more convincing, more honest, more believable and more intelligent in her responses than was De la Rúa.

Clarin reports that among the 1,420 residents of the Federal Capital and greater Buenos Aires who were interviewed by telephone on 17 August, only 295 actually saw the candidates' televised debate. Those at the Center for Public Opinion Studies, who conducted the survey, reportedly attribute the voters' indifference to an Alliance agreement that divisive issues should be avoided during the debate, in order to project an image of unity. Indeed, 27.4 percent of those polled believe that what they watched on Sunday was not really a debate, but rather a discussion of issues on which the candidates largely agreed. Clarin notes that De la Rúa and Fernandez Meijide focused their discussions on the themes of unemployment and corruption, two problems shown by opinion polls to be of great concern to Argentines. According to the survey, those who were most interested in the Alliance "debate" are middle-class voters over the age of 35. On the other hand, younger voters, including those who will be eligible to vote for the first time next year, largely ignored the two Alliance candidates. (Buenos Aires Clarin (Internet version) in Spanish 18 Aug 98)

Asian Financial Crisis

Banker Calls For Austerity Measures (Los empresarios le piden otro ajuste al Gobierno--Economic Section). During an interview with Clarin, banker Enrique Ruete Aguirre states that Argentina must "tighten its belt" in order to overcome the effects of the Asian financial crisis. Ruete Aguirre, head of the Argentine office of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank Corporation-Banco Roberts, adds that the government should take "preventive measures, including austerity and a reduction in public spending." He warns that it is better to pay a small price now than a much greater cost in the future. Ruete Aguirre claims that the international financial crisis will last a long time, and that Argentine interest rates will rise.

(more)

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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SUBJ: Granma Reports US Strikes in Sudan, Afghanistan
TEXT:
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WARNING: TOPIC: TERRORISM, POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL
SERIAL: PA2108144198
PASS: COPY TO GSG/TOT
COUNTRY: CUBA
SUBJ: Granma Reports US Strikes in Sudan, Afghanistan
SOURCE: Havana Granma (Internet Version) in Spanish 21 Aug 98
TEXT:

[FBIS Translated Text]

Washington, 20 Aug -- US President William Clinton today

reported that US military forces attacked alleged bases in Sudan and Afghanistan, on the grounds that they were operated by the terrorists responsible for the recent attacks against the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

According to AFP, a high-ranking Pentagon official said that the attacks were carried out with Cruise missiles launched from US Navy ships. These Cruise missiles -- between 75 and 100 -- were launched from ships that were reportedly in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

"Today I ordered our Armed Forces to attack terrorist installations in Afghanistan and Sudan because of the threat they represent to our national security," announced Clinton, cited by NTX news agency.

The US President reiterated that "convincing evidence was gathered" that the group led by Osamah Bin Laden, a fundamentalist and Saudi millionaire sheltered in Afghanistan, who promotes a Holy War against the United States, was the perpetrator of the attacks against the embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

Sudanese Information Minister Ghazi Salah Al-Din termed the bombing "a criminal act," while an EFE dispatch reported that the attack may have killed between five and six people and that the place bombed was a medicine factory, which sustained heavy damage.

In the meantime, ANSA underscored that the US attacks occurred at the most difficult moment in the term of William Clinton, tormented by the reports that he may have committed perjury and obstructed justice in the case of former intern Monica Lewinsky.

This same agency, in a dispatch datelined in Washington, explained that Osamah Bin Laden, Saudi sheik whose alleged bases the United States attacked, had been a protege of Washington's government. The US Government considered Osamah Bin Laden a hero in the eighties, when he fought against the Kabul government, which had allied itself with the Soviets.

The action -- according to another EFE dispatch -- occurred one day after the Taliban leadership refused to surrender Bin Laden, who, according to that movement sources, was not in the places bombed in Afghanistan.

According to DPA, the attacks in Afghanistan did not take the residents of the Pakistani border area by surprise. In Pakistan, official sources had speculated the United States would attack camps as a reprisal for the attacks to its embassies.

Meanwhile, security was beefed up in US facilities and residences in Pakistan. Early in the week, Washington ordered the departure of all nonessential diplomatic personnel.

The US Department of State -- according to AFP -- today warned all US citizens abroad to "be more careful than usual," following the attacks in Sudan and Afghanistan.

In Washington, some legislators approved of the attack, but others expressed their doubts on the effectiveness of such a measure and its timing.

For House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, the US President "did the right thing"; while Republican Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, also voiced his strong support for Clinton's decision, according to an NTX report.

Nonetheless, ANSA disclosed that Senator Arlen Specter of the Defense Subcommittee considered the bombings a "hasty action" and noted the image problems Clinton is presently suffering. In any case, Specter said he was ready, for now, to give Clinton "the

benefit of the doubt" on the reasons that made him order the attack.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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INFO: ////

SUBJ: Commentary Views Sudan, Afghanistan Action

TEXT:

UNCLAS 7H

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19980822000503

WARNING: FOR EMBASSY KHARTOUM OFFICE

WARNING: GENEVA: ARMS CONTROL

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM, POLITICAL

SERIAL: AU2208162098

PASS: COPY TO GSG/TOT

COUNTRY: AFGHANISTAN, GERMANY, SUDAN, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: Commentary Views Sudan, Afghanistan Action

SOURCE: Berlin Die Welt (Internet version) in German 22 Aug 98

TEXT:

[Commentary by Manfred Rowold: "Entirely The State's Man"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The temptation is great to see the U.S. military strikes against terrorist targets in Sudan and Afghanistan as a personal liberation strike by scandal-haunted Bill Clinton. A few senators succumbed to this temptation quickly, all too quickly. Yet the overwhelming majority of the political establishment in the United States suddenly stands as one behind the president, whose stature in the months of the Lewinsky affair was so demolished that he was suspected of no longer being able to play the role of leader of the only world power.

The Hollywood scenario of "Wag the Dog" offers cynics a welcome model for doubting the motivation of the act of revenge at this very time.

But the threat of international terrorism is simply too serious for mere cynicism. And: a man who in his personal sphere indisputably has moral deficits, can also be quite capable of acting responsibly and decisively as a politician. Bill Clinton is by no means the only example. How about John F. Kennedy and the Cuban crisis? If one removes the debate about Clinton's leadership capability from the pub-discussion level, one must admit in all honesty that the world heaves a sigh of relief, that the United States had only the choice between two evils: if he had not reacted--or had reacted too late--to the terrorist attacks in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, it would have been used against him as proof of his diminished capacity for action. Reacting as he did, he exposed himself to the suspicion of turning foreign policy into a plaything for his personal needs.

Fortunately, the leaders of the Republican Party--from the leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives to important senators like Jesse Helms, otherwise a notorious critic of Clinton's politics--have backed Clinton in a convincing manner, thereby also sending an important signal abroad: national interest and international responsibility, thank the Lord, are still more important than domestic, partisan trench warfare.

Bill Clinton's legal and political problems are certainly not over, despite this remarkable act of solidarizing with a deeply humiliated president. And yet, this day can be a lesson to all those who try to explain the world with overly simplistic ideas about politics.

Politics proceeded in Washington even during the months since the onset of the Lewinsky affair. Clinton has neither just invented the importance of fighting terrorism, nor has he alone decided the timing of these military counterstrikes. They followed largely the logic of intelligence gathering and military operational capability. Once again one can hear a sigh of relief in large parts of the world that the United States takes action. If one follows Clinton's announcements, then this is only the beginning of a large-scale offensive against international terrorism. Not only has a worldwide "holy war" been declared against the United States. For the United States and its allies, this is also a totally new form of permanent threat, difficult to come to grips with.

Washington has no illusions about further, dreadful losses through assassination attacks threatening in this war. There are also no illusions that the danger will only become greater if one does not fight it offensively.

The international world has become used to calling on the United States wherever its own possibilities are exhausted: it was like that in the civil war in Bosnia, in Northern Ireland, or in the case of the permanent trouble spot, the Middle East.

At times the world indulges in an all too naive way of seeing things by holding the alleged weakness of the United States--rather, the weakness of a U.S. president--responsible for a standstill or setback in these very complex peace efforts. But it is this very same world which, in the Security Council, is trying to hold back the United States when new tragedies as in Kosovo, and unexpected challenges as in Iraq, make the list of trouble spots even longer.

The United States has the military power to act against terrorism and genocide. It has the economic power to prevent collapses and to create stimuli for good political behavior. But it has no political magic power to resolve the notorious conflicts of this earth.

The U.S. avenging strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan are a dramatic comeback for Clinton, motivated by clearly defined national interests and the responsibility for U.S. citizens. There is no doubt that Clinton welcomed the actions at this hour. [But it is] remarkable that even his political opponents see them as the action of a statesman and not of a gambler who wants to wrap the rest of the world around his little finger.

If politicians and the American public--which in these scandal-ridden months has had an astonishingly stable opinion of Clinton, almost shaped by a reason of state--but above all: if the scandal-hungry media finally give him the chance to again be a statesman and not only a skirt chaser, then foreign countries will also feel better.

Clinton so far has succeeded better than feared in separating his personal inclinations from his political duties. This week brought him a dramatic comeback. Still, he will again have to deal with the depths of the everyday life of scandal, at the latest when special prosecutor Kenneth Starr will present his report to Congress. The question is whether Congress will take everything with a grain of salt.

The events of the past hours have again given greater weight to reasons of state than to the requirements of the law, which Kenneth Starr would like to see.

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SUBJ: Granma Publishes 3 Aug Albright's Letter to Helms

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6A

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19980830000125

WARNING: TOPIC: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: PA3008003598

COUNTRY: CUBA, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: Granma Publishes 3 Aug Albright's Letter to Helms

SOURCE: Havana Granma (Internet version) in Spanish 29 Aug 98

TEXT:

[Unattributed article: "Madeleine Albright's revealing letter to Jesse Helms"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

The immorality and the consequences for the rest of the world of the understanding between the United States and the European Union]

[subhead]

The understanding reached between the United States and the European Union last 16 May, which the Cuban Government has described as confusing, contradictory, and threatening for many countries, constitutes one more step in US attempts to internationalize the postulates of the Helms-Burton law, which they so barefacedly call "Freedom Act." If there were still senator by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright illustrates the official interpretation which the US Government makes of the understanding with the intention of imposing its hegemonic views as a norm of international law and with the intention of undermining the sovereign right of every state in developing its relations with Cuba according to internationally established practices.

The secretary of state's letter, the contents of which should deserve a more in-depth analysis, confirms US intentions -- already denounced by Cuba -- to resolve at our country's expense the differences created between the United States and the European Union as a result of the Helms-Burton law, which, as the Cuban Government already warned, would be an unthinkable dishonor for Europe.

The full text of the letter published on 7 August by the US the letter, follows: [passage omitted on text of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's letter to Senator Jesse Helms dated 3 August 1998]

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SUBJ: Panamanian Envoy Calls Report on Drug Links 'Absurd'

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6J

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19981122000654

WARNING: TOPIC: POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL, CRIME

SERIAL: PA2211192498

COUNTRY: PANAMA, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: Panamanian Envoy Calls Report on Drug Links 'Absurd'

REF: 1. pa2111035398 and add panama city la prensa in spanish
18 nov 98 -- report profiles castrillon case, part iii
2. pa2011012698 and adds panama city la prensa in
spanish 17 nov 98 -- report profiles castrillon case,
part ii
3. pa1911131898 and add panama city la prensa in spanish
16 nov 98 -- report profiles castrillon case, part i
4. pa1811233998 panama city la prensa in spanish 18 nov
98 -- la prensa reports on former us envoy's
performance

SOURCE: Panama City La Prensa (Internet version) in Spanish 22
Nov 98

TEXT:

[Report by Betty Brannan Jaen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Washington, DC -- The Washington Post published on Thursday [19 November] "an absurd accusation" regarding the alleged "narcocorruption" in the government of Ernesto Perez Balladares. This was asserted yesterday by Eloy Alfaro de Alba, Panamanian ambassador to the United States, in commenting on the charge that drug trafficker Jose Castrillon Henao bought the influence of people close to the Panamanian president in order to get out of jail.

"The proof of the pie is in the eating," he remarked in English using an old saying, and although he noted it is untranslatable in Spanish, the fact remains that Panama handed Castrillon Henao over to US authorities.

"Castrillon Henao was arrested in Panama by Panamanian authorities. He was held in Panama's jails for over two years and

was ultimately handed over to the United States, where to this day he is under arrest. I do not understand how this can be reconciled with what the report is trying to establish; namely, that the president was influenced by people close to him who had ties to Castrillon Henao, in order to prevent his arrest, avoid his extradition, and obtain his freedom," Alfaro stated yesterday during a telephone interview.

"That premise is totally absurd," the ambassador asserted and added that all of the Post's charges are based on "mere rumors." That is why, he felt, William Hughes, the US ambassador until recently, used "very sound judgement" in not including "rumors he could not corroborate" in his reports.

Alfaro also stressed that new US Ambassador Simon Ferro told the Senate (in a written statement responding to a questionnaire sent by Senator Jesse Helms) that "the US Government lacked precise information regarding the relation between Castrillon Henao and Enrique Pretelt Arauz."

In a lengthy front-page report published Thursday, the Washington Post charged that Pretelt (Perez Balladares' son-in-law) and Castrillon Henao had a long-standing friendship, and that in 1996 negotiated a partnership in a cold storage plant in Vacamonte. [passage omitted recapping the Washington Post's report]

In concluding the interview, Alfaro noted his intent was not to deny the power to corrupt that drug money may have in any country, "but I am maintaining that the Castrillon Henao case in Panama proved precisely the contrary."

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(endall)

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1117

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DIST:

SIT: NSC

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PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RATUZYUW RUCWAAA3358 3280203-UUUU--RHEHOND.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU
LINE3: R 240203Z NOV 98
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RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA
RUWMEGA/CDR 1-228 AVN REG FT KOBBE PM//R2//
RUWMEGA/CDR 1ST BDE 228TH AVN BN FT KOBBE
RUCMACC/CDR 4THPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AOCF-POG-SB//
RUCMACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUERFCP/CDR THEATER SPT BDE FT CLAYTON PM//SOTS-S2//
RUERFCP/CDR USARSO FT CLAYTON PM//SOCS-PA/SOCS-SGT//
RUERFCP/CDR USARSO FT CLAYTON PM//SOMP-MAB//
RUERFCP/CDR USARSO FT CLAYTON PM//TCC//
RUERFCP/CDR106THSIGBDE FT CLAYTON PM//ASQX-AJ//
RUERFCP/CDR536TH ENG BN FT CLAYTON PM//SOEB-SD//
RUERFCP/CDRMPC USARSO FT CLAYTON PM
RUERNUL/CDRUSACAC FT LEAVENWORTH KS//FBIS//
RUERFCP/CDRUSARSO FT CLAYTON PM//SOCS-PA//
RUDHSIC/CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//
RHFJJXP/CINCLANTFLT DET SO N2 FT RODMAN PM
RUCXGRD/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUDPHMS/COLMGTOFC82DABNDIV
RUDPTUT/COLMGTOFCXVIIIABNCORPS
RUWGTG/COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA//PI//
RUDPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
RUWMBPA/DAICC MARCH AFB CA//INT//
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHOND/DIR ONDCP//OR//
RUANJTF/DIRJIATF EAST//J2//
RUDHNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINSERV WASHINGTON DC
RUEJDCA/DISA ADNET IMHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//NARC//
RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//POL//
RUEABNE/EPIC EL PASO TX
RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC
RUCKMEA/II MEF MARFOR UNITAS//S-2//
RUWGTCH/JIATF WEST
RHHJJAA/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEOGHS/JWAC DAHLGREN VA

RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT QUANTICO VA
RUWMJAB/MARFORSOUTH LN ELEM PM//G-2//
RUCTFOA/MARINCEN MIAMI FL
RUETIAB/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RUEDAEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH
RULSADT/NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER JOHNSTOWN PA
RHFJFGI/NAVCRIMINVSERVFO MAYPORT FL//05MP//
RHFJJXS/NAVCRIMINVSERVRA RODMAN PM
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RUERFCP/PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION BALBOA PM
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/PAN//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/SC//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR//
RUEAIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
RUWHTW/US CUSTOMS SERVICE CORPUS CHRISTI TX
RHFJUSC/US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHINGTON DC
RUWMEGA/USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM//IN//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ2//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3-PSY//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCPA/SCJ2-IW//
RUERFCP/USCINCSO TREATY COROZAL PM
RHFJUSI/USCS AIU LONG BEACH CA
RHFJUSE/USCS AIU MIAMI FL
RUVUSA/USCS CNAC OKLAHOMA CITY OK//OPS/INTEL//
RHFJUSH/USCS ERIN BAY ST LOUIS MS
RUEHIA/USIA WASHINGTON DC//R//
ACCT FBWA-EWDK

INFO: .////

SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2--Article Views 'Two Faces' of US Diplomacy

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6J

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19981123001755

WARNING: ASUNCION PASS DEA/POLR

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL, LEADER, POLITICAL, NARCOTICS

SERIAL: WA2411020398

COUNTRY: PANAMA, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2--Article Views 'Two Faces' of US Diplomacy

REF: PA2311220798 Panama City La Prensa (Internet version) in Spanish 22 Nov 98 /// a drug trafficker.

SOURCE: Panama City La Prensa (Internet version) in Spanish 22 Nov 98

TEXT:

On 8 October, Ferro responded as follows: "The US Government has no definitive evidence that campaign officials who handled the money knew Castrillon. When he was arrested and spent more than two years behind bars, he did not involve any Panamanian official." However, the next day Ferro changed his response

dramatically. Without explanations, he sent the following written response to the same question: "We have looked in our files, and we found no evidence to prove or refute that the PRD campaign managers knew of Castrillon's drug-trafficking ties when they met with him. However, it seems rather unlikely that someone in the fund-raising department had not heard any rumors on the source of campaign contributions or had not checked with police sources."

In addition to these contradictions in his testimony, we must note that Ferro told the Committee [Senator Jesse] Helms chairs that "the US Government has no information confirming" a relation between Castrillon and Enrique Pretelt Arauz. However, unidentified officials told The Washington Post that Pretelt met with Castrillon several times when US undercover agents were watching the latter. Above all, these unidentified official sources also told The Washington Post that US authorities have "reliable reports" that Castrillon donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Perez Balladares' 1994 campaign.

All things considered, which US official should we trust? I am willing to believe anything about the PRD, but not because gringo officials are saying it -- I would not believe them even if they told the sun is rising tomorrow morning. I would rather follow my instinct, which since the beginning told me that something very weird with the Castrillon case was going on. There is something fishy in this mess, but I am still waiting for all of it to be disclosed.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3358

TOR: 981123211058 M3571461

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHSJA3279 3282059-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 242059Z NOV 98

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

OSRI: RUEHSJ

DTG: 242059Z NOV 98

ORIG: AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3917

INFO: ////

SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ TO SENATOR HELMS

TEXT:

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 003279

H PASS

ALSO FOR ARA/CEN COSTA RICA DESK OFFICER BRAD JOHNSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPDC, PREL, PHUM, CU, US, CS

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ TO SENATOR HELMS

1. ON 23 NOVEMBER, EMBASSY RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER IN ENGLISH TO SENATOR JESSE HELMS FROM COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ. ORIGINAL LETTER WILL BE SENT VIA PRIORITY MAIL TO H INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

NOVEMBER 19, 1998

DEAR SENATOR HELMS,

THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA HAS BEEN A LONGSTANDING PERSONAL PREOCCUPATION OF MINE AS WELL AS A PRIORITY IN MY GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA. THIS IS A CONCERN THAT I NOW (SIC) WE BOTH SHARE. AT THE RECENT IBERO-AMERICAN SUMMIT IN OPORTO, PORTUGAL, I ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED, ON MY OWN BEHALF AND THAT OF THE COSTA RICAN PEOPLE, OUR DEEP DISQUIET ABOUT THE PRECARIOUS STATE OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE'S BASIC LIBERTIES AND RIGHTS.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 12,000 CUBAN NATIONALS LIVING IN COSTA RICA. THESE RESIDENTS MUST BE FULLY IDENTIFIED AND DOCUMENTED SO THAT THEY CAN WORK LEGALLY IN COSTA RICA; THEY ALSO NEED TO PRESERVE THEIR TIES WITH RELATIVES LEFT BEHIND IN THE ISLAND, MANY OF WHICH ARE ALSO PLANNING TO GET OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FURTHERMORE, WE ARE CURRENTLY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CUBAN REFUGEES

GRANTED ASYLUM IN OUR COUNTRY. NATURALLY, THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND PAPERWORK PERTAINING TO THIS (SIC) REFUGEES MUST LIKEWISE BE PROPERLY VERIFIED AND COMPLETED.

DURING THE FIRST MONTHS OF OUR ADMINISTRATION, THE CUBAN CONSUL ACCREDITED IN MANAGUA CAME TO COSTA RICA ON SEVERAL OCCASION (SIC), ALLEGEDLY TO TEND TO THE NEEDS OF CUBAN CITIZENS LIVING IN COSTA RICA. THIS CUBAN DIPLOMAT OVERSTEPPED THE PROPER BOUNDARIES OF THIS JURISDICTION AND HAD TO BE FINALLY DECLARED "PERSONA NON GRATA." CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE STILL FACING THE PROBLEM OF NOT HAVING SUITABLE CHANNELS TO ADEQUATELY SERVE THE LEGAL AND MIGRATORY NECESSITIES OF OUR CUBAN RESIDENTS. SOME OF THESE RESIDENTS HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THEIR WISH THAT A COSTA RICAN CONSULAR OFFICER IN HAVANA TAKE CHARGE OF THE URGENT TASKS AT HAND. BECAUSE OF THESE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS, THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA IS THUS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTING A CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE IN HAVANA. IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT WE MUST HAVE A CONSULAR OFFICIAL OF OUR COMPLETE TRUST POSTED IN THAT CITY IN ORDER TO TEND TO THE NEEDS OF OUR CUBAN RESIDENTS, AFFLICTED AS THEY ARE BY THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF POLITICAL DISSENT WITH THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. FURTHERMORE, THIS APPOINTMENT WILL GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE SITUATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND OTHER RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN THE ISLAND.

AT THE PRESENT CONJUNCTURE, WE CANNOT HELP BUT REMEMBER THE VALUABLE ROLE PLAYED IN THE PAST BY CONSULAR OFFICIALS FROM DEMOCRATIC NATIONS SEEKING TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERINGS OF THE PERSECUTED UNDER TOTALITARIAN REGIMES.

THE AFOESAID DOES NOT MEAN IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER THAT COSTA RICA IS MOVING RELATIONS WITH THE CASTRO REGIME. ON THE CONTRARY, WE ABSOLUTELY MAINTAIN OUR CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL POSITION THAT NO SUCH NORMALIZATION IS AT ALL POSSIBLE BEFORE CLEAR AND SIGNIFICANT STEPS ARE TAKEN TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN CUBA, WITH RESPECT FOR THE FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS. AS WE EXPRESSED IT IN THE OPORTO COMMITTEE AND MANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS BEFORE AND SINCE, COSTA RICA FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT FULL DEMOCRATIZATION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA, FOR WHOSE PROMPT RETURN TO THE DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY OF THE AMERICAS WE PRAY AND KEEP AN UNWAVERING HOPE.

WITH MY BEST PERSONAL WISHES,
(SIGNED)
MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ ECHEVERRIA

THE HONORABLE
SENATOR JESSE HELMS
CHAIRMAN
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

END TEXT.

DODD

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3279

TOR: 981124172713 M3573304

DIST:

SIT: A-W ARMSTRONG DOBBINS FARRAR GALLUCCI MILLER ORFINI PICCONE RUDMAN
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHCAA8762 3451647-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

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TO: ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 0000

INFO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000

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RUEHSD/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 0000

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RUERFCP/CDR 193RD INFBDE (PAN) FT CLAYTON PN AFZU-PO

RUWMEGA/24TH WING HOWARD AFB PA

RHFJJXP/NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN/PAO

RUWSMXI/USCINCTrans INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL

RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL

RUCJAAA/USCINCSO MACDILL AFB FL //POLAD

SUBJ: ARA GUIDANCES, DECEMBER 10, 1998

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 228762

ALL POSTS PLEASE PASS PAO; ROME FOR VATICAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, DECEMBER 10, 1998

1. ARA PRESS GUIDANCE, DECEMBER 10, 1998:

GUATEMALA: HURRICANE MITCH RELIEF EFFORTS

MEXICO: FOREIGN SECRETARY GREEN TRAVEL TO U.S.
PARAGUAY: STATUS OF LINO OVIEDO
VENEZUELA: REACTION TO CHAVEZ

-- GUATEMALA: HURRICANE MITCH RELIEF EFFORTS --

CONTEXT: TODAY'S WASHINGTON TIMES REPORTED THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GUATEMALA DONALD PLANTY ANNOUNCED THAT 600 AMERICAN DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO HELP HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE MISSION OF 600 AMERICAN DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS GOING TO GUATEMALA?

A: THE 600 DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS ARE GOING TO GUATEMALA AS PART OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS. THEY ARE PART OF THE OVER 3,300 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO HELP THAT REGION RECOVER FROM THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY HURRICANE MITCH.

-- MEXICO: FOREIGN SECRETARY GREEN TRAVEL TO U.S. --

BACKGROUND: THE L.A. TIMES REPORTS FOREIGN SECRETARY ROSARIO GREEN'S TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK FOR THE MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL CONTACT GROUP ON DRUG CONTROL (HLCG). ONDCP DIRECTOR BARRY MCCAFFREY IS THE U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE HLCG; JANET RENO AND POSSIBLY TREASURY SECRETARY ROBERT RUBIN WILL ALSO ATTEND AT LEAST SOME OF THE MEETINGS. A DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE YET ABOUT A BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND GREEN.

Q: IS MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ROSARIO GREEN COMING TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF HER VISIT AND WITH WHOM WILL SHE MEET?

A: MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ROSARIO GREEN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK TO ATTEND THE 6TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE U.S.-MEXICO HIGH LEVEL CONTACT GROUP ON DRUG CONTROL (HLCG) ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY. SHE CO-CHAIRS THE HLCG WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL JORGE MADRAZO AND ONDCP DIRECTOR BARRY MCCAFFREY.

DURING THE COURSE OF HLCG MEETINGS AND EVENTS, SHE WILL MEET WITH DIRECTOR MCCAFFREY, ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO, AND OTHER SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS FROM THE STATE, TREASURY AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS.

(IF PRESSED) IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED WHETHER THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE WILL ALLOW A MEETING BETWEEN HER AND SECRETARY GREEN.

-- PARAGUAY: STATUS OF LINO OVIEDO --

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION IN THE CASE OF LINO OVIEDO PARAGUAY'S FORMER ARMY CHIEF AND COUP LEADER? SHOULD HE GO

BACK TO PRISON, AS THE COUNTRY'S SUPREME COURT HAS DIRECTED?

A: ON DECEMBER 2, PARAGUAY'S SUPREME COURT RULED THAT PRESIDENT CUBAS' AUGUST DECREE FREEING FORMER GENERAL LINO OVIEDO WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. ON DECEMBER 4, PRESIDENT CUBAS ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING AND SENT IT TO A MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION. THIS HAS LED TO CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY.

IT IS UP TO PARAGUAY'S CONSTITUTIONALLY-MANDATED INSTITUTIONS TO INTERPRET AND APPLY THE LAW. THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IS THE HIGHEST FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN PARAGUAY.

(IF ASKED) WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONGRESS HAD CANCELLED A SPECIAL SESSION IT HAD PLANNED FOR TODAY, CITING SECURITY CONCERNS. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF UNREST, ALTHOUGH OVIEDO SUPPORTERS PLAN TO DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE THE CONGRESS.

-- VENEZUELA: REACTION TO CHAVEZ --

CONTEXT: THE HEADLINE OF AN ARTICLE IN THIS MORNING'S EDITION OF THE WASHINGTON POST STATES THAT THE "U.S. WARNS INCOMING VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT." THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE INDICATES THAT USG OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A CHAVEZ PRESIDENCY. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS CAMPAIGN, CHAVEZ HAS MADE RADICAL STATEMENTS ABOUT HIS PLANS AS PRESIDENT. SINCE HIS ELECTION ON SUNDAY, HE HAS MODERATED HIS TONE AND MADE ENCOURAGING, CONCILIATORY STATEMENTS.

Q: IS THE U.S. CONCERNED ABOUT A HUGO CHAVEZ PRESIDENCY?

A: WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE CONCILIATORY STATEMENTS THAT MR. CHAVEZ HAS MADE SINCE HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT ON SUNDAY. WE WANT TO HAVE A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND HIS ADMINISTRATION, CONTINUING THE TRADITIONALLY STRONG TIES WE HAVE WITH VENEZUELA. WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL GOVERN AND INSTITUTE CHANGE CONSISTENT WITH VENEZUELA'S DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS AND AS REQUIRED BY THE VENEZUELAN CONSTITUTION.

Q: HAS THE U.S. "WARNED" HUGO CHAVEZ?

A: THE PRESIDENT SENT A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO MR. CHAVEZ THAT WAS DELIVERED BY OUR AMBASSADOR. IN THAT LETTER, THE PRESIDENT CONGRATULATED HIM ON HIS ELECTION VICTORY AND EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT MR. CHAVEZ WILL ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES FACING HIS ADMINISTRATION IN A DEMOCRATIC MANNER. PRESIDENT-ELECT CHAVEZ RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE LETTER AND SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO A SOLID, PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP. THE AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED HIS MEETING WITH MR. CHAVEZ AS POSITIVE AND UPBEAT.

-- CENTRAL AMERICA (HURRICANE MITCH) DEBT RELIEF --

BACKGROUND: HURRICANE MITCH WAS THE WORST NATURAL DISASTER TO HIT CENTRAL AMERICA IN GENERATIONS. HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA, THE NATIONS HARDEST HIT, WERE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE WITH THEIR LOW INCOME, WIDESPREAD POVERTY, WEAK INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND HIGH EXTERNAL DEBT. IT IS CRITICAL THAT SERVICING OFFICIAL DEBT DOES NOT BECOME AN OBSTACLE AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA AND THE OTHER AFFECTED COUNTRIES SEEK TO PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE SEGMENTS OF THEIR POPULATIONS AND TO ACCELERATE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. TO THAT END, THE FIRST LADY ON NOVEMBER 16 COMMITTED THE UNITED STATES TO A DEBT MORATORIUM ON PAYMENTS DUE FROM HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA THROUGH THE YEAR 2000.

ON DECEMBER 9, PARIS CLUB CREDITORS MEETING IN PARIS AGREED THAT NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO THEIR BILATERAL CREDITORS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. THE MEASURE REPRESENTS OVERALL DEBT RELIEF TO NICARAGUA OF OVER \$100 MILLION OVER THAT PERIOD. CREDITORS ALSO SAID THEY WOULD BE READY TO GRANT ADDITIONAL DEBT REDUCTION AS SOON AS NICARAGUA IS DECLARED ELIGIBLE FOR THE HEAVILY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES (HIPC) INITIATIVE. FOR HONDURAS, CREDITORS SAID THEY WOULD LIKEWISE BE READY TO GRANT ADDITIONAL DEBT REDUCTION AS SOON AS THAT COUNTRY OBTAINS A FUNDED PROGRAM WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF).

THE FRENCH AND OTHER CREDITORS REAPED A PUBLIC RELATIONS WINDFALL BY LOUDLY TRUMPETING THEIR FORGIVENESS OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) LOANS TO MITCH-AFFECTED COUNTRIES. IN FACT, THE U.S. FORGAVE ALL OF ITS ODA DEBT TO HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA (\$443 MILLION AND \$284 MILLION RESPECTIVELY) BACK IN 1991. THUS, WELCOME ODA RELIEF BY OTHER CREDITORS SIMPLY CATCHES THEM UP TO PREVIOUS USG FORGIVENESS.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT DEBT RELIEF FOR COUNTRIES DAMAGED BY HURRICANE MITCH?

A: THE U.S. IS MAKING A COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE MITCH, AND WE BELIEVE OUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN RAPID AND EFFECTIVE. TO DATE, THE UNITED STATES HAS COMMITTED A TOTAL OF OVER \$283 MILLION FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF EMERGENCY RELIEF, FROM DOD HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TO FOOD AID PROGRAMS TO FUNDS FOR AID OPERATIONS TO DEBT RELIEF.

ON NOVEMBER 16, THE FIRST LADY ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE YEAR 2000.

WE WERE VERY PLEASED TO SEE OTHER OFFICIAL BILATERAL CREDITORS AGREEING YESTERDAY TO DEBT RELIEF FOR NICARAGUA

AND HONDURAS ALONG THE LINES ANNOUNCED EARLIER BY THE FIRST LADY. PARIS CLUB CREDITORS MEETING IN PARIS AGREED THAT NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO THEIR BILATERAL CREDITORS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

THE UNITED STATES ALONG WITH OTHER PARIS CLUB CREDITORS IS READY TO SUPPORT EXPANDED DEBT REDUCTION FOR BOTH NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS:

FOR NICARAGUA, THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT ADDITIONAL DEBT REDUCTION ONCE NICARAGUA IS DECLARED ELIGIBLE FOR THE HEAVILY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES (HIPC) INITIATIVE.

FOR HONDURAS, THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT ADDITIONAL DEBT REDUCTION AS SOON AS THAT COUNTRY OBTAINS A FUNDED IMF PROGRAM.

Q: WHY IS THE UNITED STATES SO FAR BEHIND FRANCE AND OTHER NATIONS IN WRITING OFF THE DEBTS OF THESE COUNTRIES?

A: OUR PRESENT ACTIONS COMPLEMENT DEEP DEBT REDUCTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES EARLIER IN THE DECADE. IN 1991, THE UNITED STATES FORGAVE ALL OF ITS BILATERAL OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) LOANS TO HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA. ODA REDUCTIONS FOR THOSE TWO COUNTRIES TOTALED \$443 MILLION AND \$284 MILLION, RESPECTIVELY. SINCE 1991, ALL UNITED STATES ODA ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN IN THE FORM OF GRANTS, LEAVING NO FURTHER ODA DEBT FOR THE U.S. TO FORGIVE.

WE WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS BY FRANCE AND OTHER CREDITORS IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE MITCH TO EXTEND SIMILAR FORGIVENESS OF THEIR OWN ODA LOANS, AND WE ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL CREDITORS TO DO THE SAME.

3. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, DECEMBER 10, 1998:

-- COLOMBIA: CUSTOMS AGENTS BUSTING A COLOMBIAN HEROIN RING OUT OF PUERTO RICO --

Q: DO WE HAVE ANY DETAILS ON ARRESTS IN PUERTO RICO OF 25 PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE COLOMBIAN HEROIN RING?

A: WE APPLAUD THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE IN DISMANTLING THE ONE OF THE LARGEST COLOMBIAN HEROIN RINGS WORKING OUT OF PUERTO RICO. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE CUSTOMS AGENTS SEIZED 400 POUNDS OF HEROIN AND 20 MILLION DOLLARS OF LAUNDERED DRUG PROFITS FROM BANKS IN NINE COUNTRIES. THE 25 SUSPECTS INVOLVED IN THE RING WERE MEMBERS OF THE SAENZ DRUG CARTEL OPERATING OUT OF PUERTO RICO, BUT BASED IN COLOMBIA, LED BY A 33 YEAR OLD MIAMI RESIDENT AND COLOMBIAN NATIVE JESUS SAENZ BLANCO.

THIS IS PROOF THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO STOP THE FLOW OF DRUGS TO THE U.S. AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

IS WORKING.

MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE HEROIN SEIZED IN THE U.S. IN 1997 CAME FROM COLOMBIA. THIS IS A MARKED SHIFT IN STRATEGY FOR THE DRUG CARTELS. IN 1991, MOST OF THE U.S. SEIZED HEROIN ORIGINATED IN ASIA.

4. S/WCI PRESS GUIDANCE, DECEMBER 10, 1998:

-- PINOCHET - REACTION TO HELMS OPED --

Q. ANY REACTION TO SEN. HELMS' OPED ON THE PINOCHET CASE?

A. WE HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR SENATOR HELMS' VIEWS.

SENATOR HELMS IS CONCERNED THAT THE PINOCHET CASE WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON OTHER, POTENTIAL CASES, PAST AND FUTURE. THIS IS ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS, AS WELL.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, HOWEVER, OUR POSITION CONTINUES TO BE THAT WE WILL NOT SIGN THE ROME TREATY IN ITS PRESENT FORM, AND THAT WE BELIEVE THE PROPER COURSE IS TO CORRECT THE FLAWS IN THE TREATY.

5. L PRESS GUIDANCE, DECEMBER 10, 1998:

-- CHILE: PINOCHET --

CONTEXT: WITH RESPECT TO SPANISH REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG (E.G., FOR DOCUMENTS, OR FOR TESTIMONY - SUCH AS THE QUERY ABOUT MICHAEL TOWNLEY IN YESTERDAY'S BRIEFING) - ANY SUCH REQUESTS WOULD USUALLY BE DIRECTED BY SPAIN TO THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RATHER THAN STATE. ANY PRESS QUESTIONS ON SUCH MATTERS SHOULD THEREFORE BE REFERRED TO DOJ. FYI, MICHAEL TOWNLEY IS AN AMCIT WHO WAS ONE OF THREE INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE CONVICTED IN THE U.S. FOR THE LETELIER-MOFFITT MURDERS.

Q: WOULD YOU AGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS THAT THIS CASE HAS ALREADY SET A PRECEDENT IN THE ARE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW?

THE ISSUES UNDER DELIBERATION ARE HIGHLY COMPLEX, AND THE CASE IS STILL ONGOING. THE SIGNIFICANCE AND MEANING OF THE CASE ARE LIKELY TO BE DEBATED, AND IT IS NOT YET CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE CASE WILL BE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE CALL BY SPANISH JUDGE GARZON FOR A WORLDWIDE FREEZE OF PINOCHET'S ASSETS? COULD THE U.S. FREEZE ANY PINOCHET ASSETS IN THE U.S.?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF THE PRESS REPORTS BUT WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT ANY FORMAL REQUEST OF THAT NATURE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED

TO THE USG. THE ISSUE OF ASSET-FREEZING IS NOT TREATED UNIFORMLY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, GIVE THE DIFFERENCES IN LEGAL SYSTEMS. WE NOTE THAT, IN THE U.S., LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR ASSET-FREEZING WOULD EXIST ONLY IN A LIMITED CATEGORY OF SITUATIONS, TYPICALLY IN CONNECTION WITH A U.S. CIVIL OR CRIMINAL CASE, OR IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING FURTHER ABOUT ANY ADDITIONAL REQUESTS BY SPAIN OR U.S. DOCUMENTS, OR FOR THE TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY?

A: THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RECEIVE SUCH REQUEST, BUT WE ALSO REFER YOU TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR A RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION.

Q: WILL THE U.S. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE UK EXTRADITION PROCESS?

AL WE BELIEVE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE DOCUMENT REVIEW IN THE U.S. WOULD HAVE ANY BEARING ON THE UK PROCEEDINGS. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE EXTRADITION PROCESS IN THE U.K., UNDER THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON EXTRADITION REQUEST ONLY A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE, WHICH SPAIN WOULD ALREADY HAVE AS THE BASIS FOR ITS INDICTMENTS AND EXTRADITION REQUEST. ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8762

TOR: 981211124254 M3598857

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	re: The Secretary's Lunch with EU Ambassadors. (5 pages)	12/12/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 ([Jesse Helms or Senator Helms])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[07/17/1998-12/28/1998]

2006-1363-F
vz5591

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Cable

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RUQVKEW/AFIWC KELLY AFB TX//OSKC//
RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
RUDKDA/BUDAPESTBETA
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RHEHOND/DIR ONDCP//OR//
RUDHNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINSERV WASHINGTON DC
RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//POL//
RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC
RUESFB/FBIS ASUNCION PA
RUDKNKB/FBIS LONDON UK//BBC RUCWAAA//
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RUETIAB/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
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RHFJFGI/NAVCRIMINSERVFO MAYPORT FL//05MP//
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR//
RUEAII/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
RUWMEGA/USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM//IN//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ2//
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3-PSY//
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SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2--US Role in Pinochet Case Analyzed

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6N

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19981218000720

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL, POLITICAL

SERIAL: WA1812143198

COUNTRY: CHILE, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2--US Role in Pinochet Case Analyzed

REF: WA1812143198 Santiago El Mercurio in Spanish 13 Dec 98 page D-9, 10Article D-9, 10 /// in other nations.

SOURCE: Santiago El Mercurio in Spanish 13 Dec 98 page D-9, 10Article D-9, 10

TEXT:

In an article published by the Washington Post on Thursday, 10 December, the Republican senator and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms, said that during the conference held in Rome, in July, to establish the International Penal Court, he had warned that its proceedings would lead to arbitrariness and abuse of the sovereignty of democratic nations. Helms added that many delegates at the conference, as well as human rights activists, belittled his concerns, stating that the new system would not harm processes of reconciliation, but would only affect dictatorships. In Senator Helms' opinion, the treatment of former President Pinochet has confirmed his warning. "Today, a self-important Spanish judge is using international law to trample on Chilean sovereignty and to override its judicial system, its democratically elected government and the decision of its people to choose national reconciliation over revenge," Helms emphasized. If all of these arguments finally prevented the US from joining the Internater whose regime the KGB may have committed various crimes. Also taken into account are the good relations that the US wants to maintain with other countries that are undergoing transition processes similar to Chile's, such as South Africa. And, finally, there is what is called US "complicity" in the military coup of 1973.

This latter element is one of the most sensitive because, how could it be possible for the US to go against the person who managed to carry out the wish (and perhaps the plan) of Nixon's US, that consisted of removing Salvador Allende from the government?

This is another big muddle. Pinochet's adversaries have not obtained a statement from Clinton in favor of extradition, but perhaps as a consolation prize they have demanded that the US collaborate with Garzon's proceedings by declassifying secret files of the intelligence organizations that would incriminate the general.

Garzon knows that these documents contain information that directly links the Nixon administration with the planning of the military uprising. Perhaps for that reason, messages from circles close to the judge have appeared in the Spanish press, stating

that he is not interested in US foreign policy of a particular period, but only evidence that would incriminate Pinochet.

In any event, it will certainly not be easy to "sanitize" the files, leaving out the US, because those that have been made known so far (see chart [not included]), rather than link Pinochet with any crimes, reveal the systematic efforts of the US to provoke a coup d'etat in Chile, and even its direct participation in several of the events under investigation.

Not for nothing did the former US ambassador in Chile of that period, Edward Korry, confirm that President had authorized the CIA to promote a military coup to overthrow Allende, at the same time that a former agent of the same intelligence agency, Ralph McGhee, who had worked in Chile, said a few days ago on British television that Pinochet was a creation of the CIA.

The secret files also disclose that the US was fully abreast of what was happening in Chile in 1973, of the deaths of Chileans and also of US citizens, despite which it maintained a policy of political, military and economic support of the government junta, at least until the arrival in office of Democratic [sic] President Henry [sic] Ford.

This is why there is resistance in Clinton's cabinet to allowing access to all of the documentation. It is speculated that, there is a fear that along with Pinochet, prosecutions might be initiated against important former figures of US politics, such as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, himself, for example.

Analysts agree that Clinton would prefer to stay out of it, in order not to talk about certain things.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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RUERFCP/CDRUSARSO FT CLAYTON PM//SOCS-PA//
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RUDPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
RUWMBPA/DAICC MARCH AFB CA//INT//
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHOND/DIR ONDCP//OR//
RUANJTF/DIRJIATF EAST//J2//
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RUEJDCA/DISA ADNET IMHS WASHINGTON DC
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INFO: ////

SUBJ: Envoy Says US Congressmen's Request 'Sheer Speculation

TEXT:

UNCLAS 6J

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS19981223001233

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL, NARCOTICS, MILITARY, POLITICAL

SERIAL: PA2312230098

COUNTRY: PANAMA, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: Envoy Says US Congressmen's Request 'Sheer Speculation

REF: pa2312010298 panama city telemetro television network in
spanish 22 dec 98 -- ministry not to comment on us
lawmakers' request

SOURCE: Panama City La Prensa in Spanish 23 Dec 98 p 2A

TEXT:

[Report by Lastenia Murillo Munoz and Gionela Jordan V.]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Panamanian Ambassador to Washington Eloy Alfaro yesterday said that the letter two congressmen allegedly forwarded to the White House asking for a postponement of the dismantling of Howard Base next year is "sheer speculation," because the contents of the letter are unknown. According to the ambassador, it is not

strange for some US sectors to still have the intention of making certain efforts to maintain in Panama a center that could help eradicate drugs.

Alfaro explained to La Prensa over the telephone that Benjamin Gilman, one of such congressmen, had made similar proposals before, even though the news a local daily reported, in a speculative manner, regarding the possibility of readdressing the issue of establishing a center to fight drugs in Panama surprised him. The diplomat stressed that this is a "speculative" issue, because people are talking about a letter that has not been made public yet and whose contents remain unknown.

The envoy abstained himself from saying if the United States has the intention to renegotiate with the new government the opening of a Multilateral Counternarcotics Center (MCC), because, according to what he said, he does not have information to comment on such a possibility. "During the negotiations, we always had the impression that this country (United States) was in a hurry to determine if the Howard installations were going to be used to open an MCC, because, otherwise, it was necessary for them to start preparing (the dismantling) to meet the 31 December 1999 deadline the treaties stipulate, he pointed out.

The report stated that sources close to Representative Gilman, House International Relations Committee chairman, and to ultrarightist Jesse Helms still believe that an agreement could be reached with Panama.

On the same issue, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry issued a communique stating that it "would not react" officially to local media reports, according to which US congressmen ask that military officers remain in Panama beyond the year 2000. According to the Foreign Ministry, it is not its policy "to react to statements that have not been made through official diplomatic channels."

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3491

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RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY
SUBJ: NEA PRESS GUIDANCE - 12/24&28/98

THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR POST'S INFORMATION:

TEXT:

////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////

UNCLAS STATE 237024

INFORM CONSULS-PASS PAOS-MILITARY ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XF, IS

SUBJECT: NEA PRESS GUIDANCE - 12/24&28/98

THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR POST'S INFORMATION:

SYRIA: ATTACK ON EMBASSY

IRAQ: NO-FLY ZONES

MEPP: SHEIKH YASSIN

IRAQ: OIL FOR FOOD

SYRIA: ATTACK ON EMBASSY

BACKGROUND: ON DECEMBER 19, DEMONSTRATIONS BY CROWDS ESTIMATED AT OVER 2000 RESULTED IN HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN DAMASCUS, SYRIA, AS WELL AS MODERATE BUT EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE CHANCERY, USIS, AND THE AMERICAN SCHOOL. AMBASSADOR CROCKER IN DAMASCUS AND UNDERSECRETARY PICKERING IN WASHINGTON HAVE LODGED FORMAL PROTESTS WITH THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR, RESPECTIVELY. WE HAVE DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION, A FORMAL APOLOGY, AND REPARATIONS FROM THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE TO FULFILL ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT

DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. WE HAVE ALSO INFORMED THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THIS INCIDENT AND THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO IT WILL HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

Q: WHAT HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT DONE IN RESPONSE TO THE ATTACK ON OUR EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS BY SYRIAN MOBS?

A. -- ON DECEMBER 19, SYRIAN DEMONSTRATORS IN DAMASCUS CAUSED HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND MODERATE DAMAGE TO THE CHANCERY, CONSULAR AND USIS BUILDINGS OF THE EMBASSY.

-- AS THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE, ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, OUR AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA, RYAN CROCKER, FORMALLY PROTESTED TO SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAROUK AL SHARAA. IN WASHINGTON, ON THE SAME DAY, UNDERSECRETARY PICKERING ALSO DELIVERED A VERY STRONG PROTEST TO SYRIAN AMBASSADOR WALID AL MOUALLEM. WE HAVE FOLLOWED UP THESE ACTIONS WITH FORMAL VERY STRONGLY-WORDED DIPLOMATIC NOTES OF PROTEST DELIVERED IN BOTH DAMASCUS AND WASHINGTON.

-- OUR MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA HAS BEEN CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS. THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA HAS FAILED TO FULFILL ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HOLDS THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FAILURE.

-- THE UNITED STATES EXPECTS THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA TO FORMALLY APOLOGIZE FOR THIS INCIDENT AND TO EXPLAIN HOW IT OCCURRED. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DEMANDS AND EXPECTS PROMPT AND FULL COMPENSATION FOR ALL DAMAGES.

Q: ARE YOU CONSIDERING ANY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THIS ATTACK? ARE WE GOING TO RECALL OUR AMBASSADOR?

A. -- THIS INCIDENT, AND THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO IT, WILL INEVITABLY HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

-- AT THIS POINT, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO SPECIFICS, BUT CLEARLY IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO SAY THAT IT IS

"BUSINESS AS USUAL" IN U.S. -SYRIAN RELATIONS.

Q: IN YOUR VIEW, DID THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ACTIVELY PROVOKE, ORGANIZE OR OTHERWISE ASSIST THESE DEMONSTRATIONS"

A. -- THERE WERE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT SYRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE INVOLVED WITH THE DEMONSTRATIONS. THERE WAS AN INEXCUSABLE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO OUR EMBASSY'S URGENT

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AND THE REMOVAL OF THE ATTACKERS FROM OUR PREMISES.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND THE DAMAGE CAUSED

A. -- THE DEMONSTRATIONS INVOLVED OVER 2,000 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, AS WELL AS MEN OF VARYING AGES FROM THE POPULATION AT LARGE. SYRIAN SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE ALSO PRESENT AMONG THE DEMONSTRATORS. THE STUDENTS WERE ORGANIZED AND DISMISSED FROM SCHOOL BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF THIS DEMONSTRATION.

-- THE DEMONSTRATIONS LASTED FROM 10:00AM TO 3:00PM, DURING WHICH TIME THE CROWD MOVED BACK AND FORTH AMONG THE CHANCERY, THE AMBASSADORS' RESIDENCE AND THE USIS CULTURAL CENTER, ALL OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN PROXIMITY. THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, WHICH WAS THOROUGHLY RANSACKED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS, SUSTAINED THE HEAVIEST DAMAGE.

-- THE CROWDS ALSO THREW STONES AND ASSAULTED THE EMBASSY COMPOUND, AS WELL AS TO THE OFFICES OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE. THESE ATTACKS CAUSED HEAVY DAMAGE TO EMBASSY VEHICLES, WINDOWS, AND EQUIPMENT, AND MODERATE DAMAGE TO THE BUILDINGS THEMSELVES.

Q: WAS ANYONE HURT IN THESE DEMONSTRATIONS? DID U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL RESPOND IN ANY WAY?

A. -- FORTUNATELY, NO AMERICAN PERSONNEL WAS INJURED.

-- WHEN CROWDS ASSAULTED AND CLIMBED OVER THE WALLS OF THE EMBASSY COMPOUND, MEMBERS OF THE MARINE SECURITY DETACHMENT USED RIOT-CONTROL GAS IN SELF DEFENSE.

-- TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO DEMONSTRATORS WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF OUR ACTIONS.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF COMMENTS BY SENATOR HELMS THAT HE PLANS TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THE EMBASSY BREAK-IN?

A. -- WE REMAIN AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SENATOR HELMS AND SENATE COMMITTEES IN ANY WAY THAT WE CAN.

IRAQ: NO-FLY ZONES

Q: WHAT IS THE LATEST ON MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE NO-FLY ZONES?

A. -- ON DECEMBER 28, AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30PM., IRAQI TIME COALITION AIRCRAFT CONDUCTING ROUTINE ENFORCEMENT OF THE NORTHERN NO-FLY ZONE WERE ATTACKED BY IRAQI SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES FIRED FROM A SITE IN NORTHERN IRAQ, NORTH OF THE TOWN OF MOSUL. THE AIRCREWS ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE AND RESPONDED WITH HARM MISSILES AND PRECISION-GUIDED MUNITIONS. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO COALITION AIRCRAFT, AND ALL AIRCREWS RETURNED SAFELY TO BASE. DAMAGE TO IRAQI FORCES IS CURRENTLY UNDER ASSESSMENT.

(IF PRESSED) I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE NO-FLY ZONE.

Q: IRAQ HAS SAID THAT IT WILL FIRE ON U.S. AND BRITISH PLANES ENFORCING THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN NO-FLY ZONES. DO YOU SEE THIS AS AN INDICATION THAT IRAQ IS PREPARING TO BREAK OUT OF THE BOX WHICH YOU'VE SAID SADDAM IS CONTAINED IN? WHAT WILL BE THE U.S. RESPONSE?

A. -- THE PRESIDENT MADE IT CLEAR AT THE CONCLUSION OF OPERATION DESERT FOX, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENFORCE THE NO-FLY ZONES, BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH.

-- AS ALWAYS, OUR PILOTS WILL ACT IN SELF-DEFENSE IF THEY ARE THREATENED.

-- IRAQ SHOULD KNOW THAT WE WILL TAKE ANY THREATS TO COALITION AIRCRAFT VERY SERIOUSLY.

Q: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SADDAM HAS EMERGED FROM THE U.S. STRIKES STRONGER, MORE DEFIANT AND LESS WILLING TO WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAN EVER. DOES THIS GIVE YOU CAUSE TO REASSESS THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION?

A. -- NOT AT ALL, AS A RESULT OF OUR STRIKES AGAINST IRAQ SADDAM IS WEAKER, THE REGION IS SAFER, DETERRENCE IS STRONGER, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONTAIN SADDAM HUSSEIN UNTIL HE COMPLIES WITH ALL RELEVANT UNSC RESOLUTIONS.

MEPP: SHEIKH YASSIN

Q: SHEIKH YASSIN IS QUOTED AS CALLING ON PALESTINIANS TO WAGE "HOLY WAR" AGAINST THE ISRAELIS. DOESN'T THIS STRIKE YOU AS INCITEMENT, IN VIOLATION OF THE WYE MEMORANDUM? WE ARE YOU ASKING THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY TO DO ABOUT IT?

A. -- WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS OF THESE STATEMENTS BY SHEIKH

YASSIN.

-- AS WE HAVE SAID, THERE IS NO PLACE IN THIS PROCESS FOR VIOLENCE OR FOR THOSE WHO CALL FOR VIOLENCE.

-- CHAIRMAN ARAFAT HAS ALSO STATED ON BEHALF OF THE PALESTINIANS THAT THERE WILL BE NO RETURN TO VIOLENCE, NO RETURN TO CONFRONTATION.

-- WE EXPECT BOTH SIDES TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE WYE MEMORANDUM, INCLUDING PREVENTING INCITEMENT.

Q: SHEIKH YASSIN SAID THAT THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY RELEASED HIM FROM HOUSE ARREST IN RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S SUSPENSION OF WYE IMPLEMENTATION. DO YOU SEE THIS AS A SIGN THAT NOW NEITHER SIDE IS PREPARED TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS?

A. -- BOTH PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO IMPLEMENTING WYE, AND WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT THEM TO FULFILL THOSE COMMITMENTS.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD DO ABOUT SHEIKH YASSIN?

A. -- IN FULFILLMENT OF THEIR COMMITMENTS UNDER THE WYE RIVER MEMORANDUM, WE WOULD EXPECT THE PALESTINIANS TO TAKE THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES AGAINST THOSE WHO CALL FOR VIOLENCE.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THEY SHOULD ARREST HIM?

A. -- COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE WYE RIVER MEMORANDUM SHOULD BE FULFILLED.

IRAQ: OIL FOR FOOD

BACKGROUND: EARLIER PRESS REPORTS QUOTED THE IRAQI TRADE MINISTER AS SAYING OIL-FOR-FOOD WOULD BE SHUT DOWN. HE IS NOW CLAIMING HE WAS MISQUOTED.

Q: WHAT ARE THE FACTS AND OUR COMMENT ON IRAQI STATEMENTS THAT IT WILL REJECT ANY EXTENSION OF A UN-MONITORED FOOD PROGRAM AND WILL REQUIRE THE MONITORS TO LEAVE?

A. -- THE OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM, WHICH SUPPLIES NEEDED HUMANITARIAN ITEMS SUCH AS FOOD AND MEDICINE TO THE IRAQI

PEOPLE, CONTINUES UNINTERRUPTED. IN LATE NOVEMBER THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVED A NEW SIX-MONTH PHASE OF THE PROGRAM. THE U.S. STRONGLY SUPPORTS OIL-FOR-FOOD.

(IF ASKED: WE ARE AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS QUOTING AN IRAQ

OFFICIAL AS SAYING THE PROGRAM WOULD BE ENDED AND WE UNDERSTAND THE OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT HE WAS MISQUOTED. THE OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM CONTINUES TO OPERATE.)

SHERMAN

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 STATE 237024

INFORM CONSULS-PASS PAOS-MILITARY ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XF, IS

SUBJECT: NEA PRESS GUIDANCE - 12/24&28/98

A. -- THERE WERE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT SYRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE INVOLVED WITH THE DEMONSTRATIONS. THERE WAS AN INEXCUSABLE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO OUR EMBASSY'S URGENT

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Q: IRAQ HAS SAID THAT IT WILL FIRE ON U.S. AND BRITISH PLANES ENFORCING THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN NO-FLY ZONES. DO YOU SEE THIS AS AN INDICATION THAT IRAQ IS PREPARING TO UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 STATE 237024

INFORM CONSULS-PASS PAOS-MILITARY ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XF, IS

SUBJECT: NEA PRESS GUIDANCE - 12/24&28/98

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A. -- COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE WYE RIVER MEMORANDUM SHOULD BE FULFILLED.

IRAQ: OIL FOR FOOD

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 STATE 237024

INFORM CONSULS-PASS PAOS-MILITARY ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XF, IS

SUBJECT: NEA PRESS GUIDANCE - 12/24&28/98

BACKGROUND: EARLIER PRESS REPORTS QUOTED THE IRAQI TRADE MINISTER AS SAYING OIL-FOR-FOOD WOULD BE SHUT DOWN. HE IS NOW CLAIMING HE WAS MISQUOTED.

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(IF ASKED: WE ARE AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS QUOTING AN IRAQI OFFICIAL AS SAYING THE PROGRAM WOULD BE ENDED AND WE UNDERSTAND THE OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT HE WAS MISQUOTED. THE OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM CONTINUES TO OPERATE.)
SHERMAN

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